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# The wait is over

## RCSI awarded contract to operate new Irish Institute of Pharmacy

THE Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI) has been awarded a four year contract to establish and operate the long awaited, new Irish Institute of Pharmacy on behalf of the PSI.

The new Irish Institute of Pharmacy, which was expected to be formally launched by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny on February 2, is tasked with overseeing the management and delivery of continuing professional development (CPD) for pharmacists in Ireland, which is now mandatory under the Pharmacy Act 2007.

It is envisaged that the Institute will provide a platform for the future development of the pharmacy profession as well as ensuring that developments and expansions in pharmacy practice and services in Ireland are underpinned by appropriate CPD, training and the international evidence base. It will also support the evolving requirements of the Irish health service and will ensure patient needs drive practice development.

Speaking ahead of the launch, a spokesperson for the PSI, said that the work of the Institute should not only result in higher quality services for patients, but provide a springboard for development of specialisation in pharmacy. "It will facilitate formal recognition of professional development and applied competencies held by pharmacists as well as building the broader profile

and reputation of pharmacy in Ireland. It should also support the building of closer links with other healthcare professions and more effective, integrated healthcare delivery, and provide a leadership role for the pharmacy profession into the future," the spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, IPU President, Mr Darragh O'Loughlin said that he was hopeful that the expected launch of the Institute would shed some light on what the future of compulsory professional development will mean for pharmacists. He said that pharmacists are concerned about what the practical implications of CPD will mean for them and that it is vitally important that the move will not take pharmacists time away from patients.

Coinciding with the launch of the new Institute, An Taoiseach was also expected to officially launch the National Forum (of Pharmacy Education and Accreditation) on February 2. The Forum is tasked with overseeing the development and ongoing delivery of the new integrated programme of pharmacy education, training and assessment.



RCSI, Dublin