

Review of Hospital Pharmacy - National Ballot

Negotiations on a new career structure for hospital pharmacists have been on-going for 18 years.

In 2011 the 'Report on the Review of Hospital Pharmacy' was agreed by all parties. This outlines a new 6 tier career structure, recognising Advanced Specialist Pharmacist positions and an appropriate management structure within hospital pharmacy. An additional composite report was agreed on hospital pharmacy in 2017.

In 2018 the negotiations were referred to the Work Place Relations Commission (WRC) as negotiations with the employer side on implementation of the new structure had stalled.

In March 2020 the employer side presented an implementation plan on the new structure for acute hospitals only. The union representing hospital pharmacists were due to ballot members on this proposal at the end of March. The ballot was postponed due to the COVID -19 pandemic and is now planned for September 2020.

Education

The HPAI Annual Educational Conference for 2020 was due to take place from April 3rd – 5th but was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID. A new date is planned for 2021. The future delivery of virtual education sessions is being considered.

COVID Response

Across Ireland hospital pharmacists have been at the forefront in the response to COVID . Some of the key areas they have been involved include,

- Co-ordination of the supply chain
- Involvement in national treatment guidelines.
- Resilience planning for cancer treatments .