

Written evidence submitted by the General Pharmaceutical Council (RTR0160)

Dear Dr Luke,

Prescribing annotation on the GPhC Register

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) regulates pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies in Great Britain. Our main role is to protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of members of the public by upholding standards and public trust in pharmacy.

We have a number of ways in which we do this including:

- registering and listing publicly the pharmacy professionals and pharmacies that provide care to patients and the public;
- setting and promoting the standards needed to enter and stay on our register;
- receiving assurances, in several ways, that pharmacy professionals and pharmacies continue to uphold our standards and acting appropriately when they do not;
- sharing with others what we learn through our work; and
- investigating concerns about the people or pharmacies we register and taking proportionate action to protect the public and promote our standards

The GPhC maintains a comprehensive, fully up-to-date, pharmacy register of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies. On the register, we include information about whether pharmacists are annotated as an independent or supplementary prescriber.

At present, 21% of pharmacists registered in England have a prescribing annotation. As shown in the table below, 'independent' was the most common type of prescribing annotation, held by 21% of pharmacists (20% independent prescriber only and 1% both supplementary and independent prescriber).

Prescribers in England	Number of Registrants in England on 22 June 2022	Percentage as a total of Registrants with the 'Prescriber' Annotation in England on 22 June 22	Percentage as a total of all registrants in England on 22 June 2022
Independent only	10,351	92.99%	20%
Supplementary only	160	1.44%	0.3%
Both independent and supplementary	620	5.57%	1.2%
Total Prescribers	11,131	100.00%	
Total Pharmacists	51,354		21.5%

We hope this information is helpful for the Health and Social Care Committee's inquiry into 'Workforce: Recruitment, training, and retention in health and social care'.

Yours sincerely,



Duncan Rudkin
Chief Executive and Registrar

June 2022