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INTRODUCTION

- The importance of inter-professional collaboration is recognised in the core competency framework for pharmacists (Fig 2). It is also included in the pharmacists’ code of conduct. Increasingly, pharmacists are working as part of multidisciplinary teams, both in hospital and community settings, and contributing to improvements in patient safety and patient care.
- The Irish Institute of Pharmacy was established by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland in August 2013 to establish and manage a new CPD system for pharmacists which will, among other things, recognise and encourage inter-professional practice. Here we outline the key aspects of the pharmacy CPD system which supports such collaboration.

AIMS

- To develop a CPD system for pharmacists which recognises and supports inter-professional collaboration in the interests of delivering patient-centred care.

METHOD

- The Irish Institute of Pharmacy has established a CPD system which incorporates the following features:
  - An online self-assessment tool which enables pharmacists to reflect on the extent to which they are currently engaging in inter-professional collaboration (Fig 1 & 2)
  - An on-line ePortfolio which enables pharmacists to focus on enhancing patient outcomes through inter-professional collaboration
  - Accredited training programmes which align with the work of the Integrated Care Programmes, and which are approved by the Director of Clinical Strategy and Programmes
  - Networks of pharmacists with special interests to facilitate the development of communities of practice (Fig 4)

RESULTS

- The new CPD system for pharmacists has been developed to encourage and support inter-professional collaboration. Pharmacists can use the system to reflect on their current practices and can plan and document how they collaborate and communicate with other healthcare professionals in the interests of enhancing patient care.

CONCLUSIONS

- The new CPD system for pharmacists includes a number of provisions which encourage and support inter-professional collaboration. Both at an individual level, and at a profession wide level, there are now structures which can facilitate greater collaboration with the Integrated Care Programmes. Over the coming years, the Irish Institute of Pharmacy will continue to build on the work to date. The Institute can further the implementation of the integrated care strategy by facilitating inter-professional training initiatives with other professional bodies and by facilitating communication between the pharmacy profession and the Integrated Care Programmes.