



Our Members, Our Number One Priority



The IPU provides expert professional and business advice to members to support and assist you in running your pharmacy and successfully delivering a vital healthcare service to your patients.

As part of your membership package, we support your professional and service development through education and training courses to enhance your knowledge as a pharmacist and by advocating for extended professional roles for community pharmacy. In addition, we will support you in dealing with PSI inspections, Fitness to Practise, HSE PCRS queries and any other issues that arise.

We make ongoing representations to the Department of Health, HPRA, HSE/PCRS, PSI and other bodies, seeking to minimise the legislative and administrative burden on pharmacies and presenting constructive proposals on an efficient, cost-effective and patient-friendly approach to pharmacy regulation.

Membership of the IPU provides you with the information and resources you need for an efficient, patient-centred pharmacy.

Membership Benefits

Membership of the IPU provides you with a voice in influencing policies and strategies that affect your profession. The IPU supports members in numerous ways. Valuable resources are provided to assist with the running of your pharmacy including:

- The IPU Product File, an indispensable resource to run your pharmacy efficiently; and
- SOPs, Guidelines and Protocols to assist you in complying with the Pharmacy Act 2007.

Support and Advice

- Support with Fitness to Practise (FTP) proceedings;
- Up-to-date information on all contractual negotiations and changes;
- HR advice, including a mediation and dispute resolution service, to ensure that you are complying with Employment Law;
- Individual assistance on claiming/payment issues with the HSE PCRS, including a copy of the *IPU Pharmacy Claims Guide*;
- A business intelligence service (hmR Ireland) to improve your pharmacy performance;
- Business advice and support on issues such as business regulations, retailing, data protection, insurance and much more;
- Confidential counselling, provided by Vhi Corporate Solutions; and
- Networking opportunities to meet your peers, exchange ideas and renew contacts face-to-face at IPU events.

Real Savings

- Real savings on a range of services, e.g. energy bills, insurance, medical devices etc.;
- Free membership to IPU Academy, which is a cost-effective way of keeping your skills and education up to date;
- Reduced rates on IPU training courses and events, to assist you in growing your pharmacy skill level;
- Assistance in promoting and developing your retail offering, with discounted rates on the IPU Retail Review service;
- Financial advice and assistance on issues such as VAT returns, insurance and pension schemes; and
- Savings and discounts by using the IPU Membership/Countdown card.

The IPU exists to:

- **Advocate, advance and protect the role of the pharmacist at the centre of primary healthcare;**
- **Value and demonstrate the contribution pharmacy makes to our patients and communities;**
- **Promote, challenge and support our profession to embrace opportunity;**
- **Cherish our heritage and traditions; and**
- **Mentor the next generation of pharmacists.**



Developing the Role of the Pharmacist

Developing the role of the pharmacist is important to everyone in community pharmacy and is a high priority for the IPU. We are your partners in delivering the best healthcare services to patients, by supporting you with the services you provide and additional services that will be introduced in the future. The IPU continuously promotes the professional role of the pharmacist amongst consumers, patients, policymakers and other key audiences, with real professional and financial benefits for members.

These include:

- Advocating on behalf of community pharmacy to government and opposition politicians, patient and consumer groups, HSE, HIQA, FIP, PGEU, and other relevant bodies;
- Working with relevant organisations to further develop community pharmacy, including the delivery of additional services to patients;
- Promoting and enhancing the role of the pharmacist through the media;
- Making submissions to Government and other relevant institutions on behalf of members;
- Challenging the implementation of excessive regulation and the imposition of disproportionate or burdensome administrative requirements on pharmacies; and
- Promoting the “*Ask your pharmacist first*” message to patients and members of the public via national marketing and advertising campaigns on TV, radio, in-store and through social media.



Ongoing Support

The IPU provides a wide range of services and supports to all its members. Communication with members is a key priority and we keep members up-to-date with vital information through regular communications.

Internal communication channels include:

- IPU News – weekly newsletter sent to your IPUMail account;
- GM – monthly mailing and email;
- IPU Review – monthly magazine;
- IPU Yearbook & Diary;
- SMS service – texts are sent for important updates and deadlines;
- www.ipu.ie – a great source of information for members; and
- Social media – regular updates on the IPU Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn pages.

The IPU exists to serve your interests and needs. If there is anything we can help you with, please let us know. IPU staff are available to assist you with any queries you may have.



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