



**IRISH
PHARMACY
UNION**

The voice of
community pharmacy

IPU MEMBERS OUR NO. 1 PRIORITY

You're not alone.
We're with you.
We're on your side.

www.ipu.ie



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



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April 2021

What do we provide?

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

As part of your membership package, we support your professional 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 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 practical approach to pharmacy regulation.



What's in it for you?

As a membership organisation, the IPU has you, our members, as our number one priority. Our aim is to assist you in delivering the best possible service to your patients. The IPU is governed by the Executive Committee which, along with three other national IPU committees, is made up of members just like you and voted by you to set IPU policy and represent your interests. The Employee Pharmacists' Committee (EPC) actively promotes the professional and economic interests of employee pharmacists.

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.



Top 10 membership benefits

1. **A voice in influencing policies and strategies** that affect your profession;
2. Free **membership to IPU Academy**, which is a cost-effective way of keeping your skills and education up-to-date;
3. **Reduced rates on IPU training courses and events**, including the Diploma in Leadership and Management;
4. **Professional advice and support** on ethical decisions and interpretation of medicines and pharmacy regulations;
5. HR advice, including a **mediation** and dispute resolution **service**;
6. **Career opportunities** through the monthly Situations Vacant List, Locum List and IPU Pharmacist Link;
7. **Networking opportunities** to meet your peers, exchange ideas and renew contacts face-to-face at IPU events, including the IPU National Pharmacy Conference;
8. **Information and support on business issues** in your pharmacy;
9. **Confidential counselling**, provided by Vhi Corporate Solutions; and
10. **Real savings** on a range of services, e.g. energy bills, insurance etc.



How do we help develop 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. 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, Department of Health, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, HSE, HIQA, patient and consumer groups and other relevant bodies;
- Preparing effective public affairs campaigns to engage with all political parties and ensure issues affecting community pharmacy are in the public eye;
- Working with relevant organisations to further develop community pharmacy, including additional services to patients;
- Promoting and advocating for 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;
- Promoting the “*Think Pharmacy*” message to patients and members of the public via national marketing and advertising campaigns on TV, radio, in-store and through social media; and
- Running health promotions/campaigns in conjunction with patient groups or the HSE.

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



Want to talk to a member of our IPU staff?

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NOTES

A series of 20 horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.



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