

Infusions and Special Medicines Board Expert Panel

Working Group: Standardised Product Specifications

Introduction

- 1.1 The Infusions and Special Medicines Board was established following the publication of the Autumn 2020 Department of Health and Social Care report, *'Transforming NHS pharmacy aseptic services in England'* to deliver on the six identified workstreams, which would increase the NHS's aseptic compounding network and portfolio.
- 1.2 The standardisation workstream aims to deliver unified practice across NHS aseptic facilities starting with standard product specifications and progressing to standardised contracting and practice development.
- 1.3 The first round of funding from the government was confirmed in May 2022 and allocation of the funding has begun to identified pathfinder sites as a proof of concept. The work done on these sites will form the basis for ongoing funding requests to continue the growth of the workstream.
- 1.4 To ensure stability of supply for aseptically produced medicines the NHS must move towards using a standardised presentation of these medicines to allow for bulk production, procurement, and utilisation of these products. This should utilise existing medicine data management tools such as dm+d coding to ensure they are easy to implement in practice.

Objectives of the expert panel working group

- 1.5 The working group will:
 - Review the specifications prior to them being released for public consultation.
 - Actively review and guide the authoring process, providing subject matter expertise for problems that may be faced in implementation.
 - Develop the governance process to ensure the specifications are kept up to date and new products receive specifications on commissioning.
 - Lend its expertise in influencing key stakeholders for adopting the specifications into use. Including changing procurement practices and supporting (with guidance) NHS units to make the changes needed to utilise them.

Description of roles

- 1.6 To ensure a wide range of skills, experience and opinions are considered the chair would like to recruit several members to this group. Each member should have a current working knowledge of the area they are in – with extensive experience of bringing new products into use in a production environment, the challenges that may be faced from a new way of working and the ability to think critically about the potential solutions to those challenges.
- 1.7 We are therefore seeking the following members.
 - **Three NHS aseptic service specialists** – currently working in an NHS aseptic compounding units (may be MHRA authorised units or operating under section 10 exemption) with demonstrable experience of managing product alterations, introducing new ways of working and We are looking to recruit pharmacists and technicians for these posts.

- **One NHS aseptic compounding specialist** – currently working in an NHS aseptic compounding unit as an aseptic operator. Extensive experience of compounding aseptic medicines is required, with an in-depth knowledge of how changing product preparation requirements will impact working practices inside the aseptic unit. We are looking to recruit an ATO/SATO/Technician with suitable experience.
- **One clinical pharmacist** – currently working in an NHS clinical environment supporting cancer services through clinical pharmacy input and/or independent prescribing roles. A knowledge of both aseptic services and building e-prescribing regimes is preferred.
- **One aseptic commercial sector specialist** – currently working for a commercial company specialising in aseptic compounding with recent, demonstrable recent experience of implementing change controls for new or revised products, adapting service provision and production to accommodate new processes.
- **Two quality assurance specialists** – currently working in the NHS aseptic compounding sector with demonstrable expertise in delivering process changes with the associated change controls, product development and implementation of new practices.
- **One NHS medicines procurement specialist** – currently working in an NHS procurement role with extensive experience of using the existing product specifications to procure and/or tender for medicines for an NHS acute trust from the commercial sector.
- **One nurse specialist** – currently working in the NHS administering chemotherapy products to patients, with extensive experience of using a range of products (syringes, bags, minibags, elastomeric devices etc) across a range of medicines.
- **One specialised commissioner** – currently working in a specialised commissioning role, with a key understanding of how adjusting product portfolios impacts funding streams, commissioning of services and reimbursement of NHS trusts for medicines used.
- **One commercial medicines unit representative** – currently working on CMU tendering aspects, with a core understanding of how medicines are procured on CMU frameworks and how these specifications can be implemented.
- **One member from each of Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland** – Must be a specialist listed above, working in the NHS, with a special interest in aseptic compounding, who has the network to be able to input on behalf of their home nation. While this is an NHSE project, we recognise that there are benefits for all 4 nations from this work, as well as wealth of learned experience from projects developed and run in those nations and would like to involve everyone in this process.

1.8 The time commitment for the posts will include:

- 1 group meeting as an introduction. This meeting will be up to 2 hours. It is our ambition that the initial work will be completed 6 months from its initiation. Meetings will be virtual using Microsoft Teams.
- Ad hoc involvement in reviewing the product specifications and providing feedback prior to the initial public consultation on them.
- Following the approval, public consultation and launch of the specifications there will be an on-going development cycle, however, time commitments for this will be discussed closer to implementation date for this piece of work.

1.9 Application (and if additional information is required) will be through submission of the expression of interest form in Appendix A to via the Forms link here; [Expression of Interest](#)

- 1.10 Any questions regarding this group, please contact Matt Greening, Senior Pharmacy Professional Advisor, Pharmacy Medicines Optimisation Team. Phone: 07872 812484 Email: matthew.greening@nhs.net
- 1.11 Full list of roles in the group are listed in Appendix B

Application Information

- 1.12 Closing date for expressions of interest: Wednesday 25 November 2022. Successful expressions of interest will be followed up by Wednesday 02 December 2022.
- 1.13 Please note, the process of selection will be appointed by a panel comprising of Sue Ladds, Hospital Pharmacy Modernisation Lead, Liz Fidler, Senior Pharmacy Professional Advisor and Naheed Phul, Chief Pharmacist Moorfields Eye Hospital

NHS England, through the Office of the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, using an open and inclusive process, actively encourages applications from a diverse range of candidates, including people from protected characteristic groups as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

Appendix A: Candidate expression of interest form

Expression of interest in being a member of the Inclusive Pharmacy Practice Advisory Board

Please note the closing date for all expressions of interest is: **17.00 on Wednesday 12 Oct 2022.**

About you

Full name:

Job title:

Organisation:

GPhC registration number (if applicable):

Contact telephone number:

Work email address:

Role you are interested in:

Aseptic specialist/Commercial sector specialist/Cleanroom build specialist/Quality assurance specialist
(delete as applicable)

Do you have any additional needs or need particular support from NHS England to enable you to participate?

Yes / No (delete as applicable). If yes please explain.

Expression of interest – *refer to paragraph 1.7 for details of the experience and skills we are looking for*

Please tell us why you would like to apply for this role (up to 200 words).

Please tell us your main experience, qualifications and skills which support your application (up to 400 words).

Appendix B: Current Expert Panel Membership

Name	Role	Organisation
TBC	Chair	NHSE
TBC	Aseptic Specialist (Pharmacist/Technician)	
TBC	Aseptic Compounding Specialist	
TBC	Commercial Sector Specialist	
TBC	Quality Assurance Specialist	
TBC	Quality Assurance Specialist	
TBC	Commercial Medicines Unit representative	CMU
TBC	Procurement Specialist	
TBC	MHRA Link via Hospital Pharmacy Modernisation Team	MHRA