

Accreditation of Oncology Pharmacists

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What defines an “Oncology” Pharmacist,
rather than a pharmacist with a special
interest in oncology?

- Is it only a clinical pharmacist on a ward or clinic spending 100% of their time providing pharmaceutical care to patients receiving chemotherapy?

- Technical services pharmacists
- Clinical trials
- Medicines information
- Pharmacy managers
- Cancer network pharmacists
- Academic pharmacists
- Industry

With increased professional responsibility comes increased accountability:

- Consultant pharmacists
- Supplementary / independent prescribers

The issues of validation and revalidation of the knowledge and skills used in providing pharmaceutical care for patients with cancer are set to challenge us all

How do you gain the title of “oncology pharmacist” in the UK?

- Call yourself it!
- Apply for job being advertised with that title
- No current means of being accredited with title

BOPA has recognised the need for looking at means of accreditation

- Several MSc courses in Clinical Oncology
- Several diplomas
- BCOP exam (6 in UK)

- All clinical degrees
- None recognised by professional bodies

Professional competence issues for pharmacy

- The reputation of all the main healthcare professionals are increasing suffering from the poor performance of a minority of their members

Professional competence issues for pharmacy

- The days are long gone since the practice of pharmacy could be considered broadly similar. Single competency frameworks are unlikely to cover all aspects of current practice

Professional competence issues for pharmacy

- We need to develop professional standards through development of core and specialist competency frameworks, linked to robust system of professional development, lifelong learning, reaccreditation and self-regulation

What is aim of accreditation?

- Kudos / ego?
- To improve the standard of pharmaceutical care for patients with cancer
- If standard is raised it is hoped that employers will seek it desirable to employ suitable accredited pharmacists

At BOPA AGM 2007, members voted
unanimously in favour of forming a
College / Faculty system

BOPA thinks the benefits of such a system
are:

- Recognition that comes with membership of a prestigious specialty body
- Additional recognition for high-level achievement (eg fellowship /merit awards)
- A focus for developing and delivering professional views plus input into national initiatives and policy development
- A professional network for peer support, peer review and peer pressure, linking into new clinical governance agenda
- Accredited commissioning and / or delivery of education and training targeted at specialist needs
- **IMPROVING PATIENT CARE!**

The Faculty of Cancer Care will be launched on 31st January 2008

- Full details of College and accreditation process can be viewed on the College of Pharmacy Practice website at:

www.collpharm.org