

Pharmacy Council

Structure, Functions and Responsibilities

The Pharmacy Council is established under Art 15 of the Health Care Professions Act:

“There shall be a Council to be called the Pharmacy Council, and which shall consist of the following members:

- (a) a President appointed by the Prime Minister, from amongst legal practitioners;
- (b) one licensed pharmacist appointed by the Prime Minister;
- (c) one licensed pharmacist appointed by the University of Malta;
- (d) five licensed pharmacists elected from amongst and by all licensed pharmacists;
- (e) one registered pharmacy technician elected from amongst all registered pharmacy technicians;
- (f) two registered qualified persons, one elected from amongst all registered qualified persons and one appointed by the Prime Minister, and who shall only be required to attend Council sittings when the matter under discussion relates to their profession;
- (g) two persons from amongst the general public, who are not health care professionals, appointed by the Prime Minister:

Provided that, when the Pharmacy Council is discussing pharmacy technicians or deciding on any matter relating to a pharmacy technician, there shall also sit on the Pharmacy Council two other pharmacy technicians, one of whom being elected from amongst and by all pharmacy technicians and the other appointed by the Prime Minister.

The functions and responsibilities of the Pharmacy Council are established under Art 16 of the Health Care Professions Act:

16. (1) The functions of the Pharmacy Council shall be:

- (a) to recommend to the President of Malta the granting of licences to pharmacists to practise their profession;
- (b) to recommend to the President of Malta the withdrawal of licences in respect of any pharmacist in accordance with article 38;
- (c) to keep, publish and update registers in respect of the pharmaceutical profession, and specialist registers of the pharmaceutical profession as may be prescribed, as well as registers for special areas of practice, as may be determined by the Pharmacy Council;
- (d) to prescribe and maintain professional and ethical standards for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians and qualified persons;
- (e) to inform the member State of origin or the Member State from which a foreign national comes, of any serious matter which occurred outside their territory, prior to the establishment of that person in Malta, and which is likely to effect the taking up of the activity of any of the professions regulated by it in Malta;
- (f) to verify the accuracy of the facts communicated to it by other Member States, determine the nature and extent of any investigation to be made pursuant thereof and inform such Member State of any action taken with regard to the certificates or documents issued by them;
- (g) to ensure the confidentiality of information forwarded to other Member States;
- (h) to forward to any Member State concerned all the information regarding measures taken in respect of a healthcare professional as well as regarding any criminal penalties imposed on such professional;
- (i) to levy such fees, from registered pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, for initial registration and yearly retention fees thereafter, as may be prescribed in consultation with such associations as appropriate;

(j) at the request of the Minister or otherwise, to advise the Minister on any matter affecting the pharmaceutical profession, either on its own accord or as referred to it by the Minister.

(2) The Pharmacy Council may set up committees for the purposes of enforcing professional and ethical standards applicable to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, and generally in order to better perform its functions.

(3) Subject to any rules made for it by the Pharmacy Council or to any rule that may be prescribed, any committee established under sub-article (2) may regulate its own procedure.

(4) The Pharmacy Council shall publish an annual activity report, not later than the end of the first quarter of the year reported upon, containing a statement of the activities carried out or pursued by the Council during the year.

General Description of the Categories of Documents Held

Description of all manuals and similar types of documents which contain policies, principles or rules or guidelines in accordance with which decisions or recommendations are made in respect of members of the Public:

- Health Care Professions Act (Cap 464 of the Laws of Malta)
 - Pharmacy Council (Standing Orders) Regulations
 - Pharmacy Council Disciplinary Action Procedures Regulations
 - Pharmacy Council (Elections) Regulations
 - Pharmacy Council (Fees) Regulations
- Code of Ethics for the Pharmaceutical Profession
 - Guidelines on the Interpretation of the Code of Ethics
- Manual on the Standard Operating Procedures with regards to the Registration Process with the Pharmacy Council
- Registers held by the Pharmacy Council
- Annual Reports of the Pharmacy Council

Addressing requests in terms of the Freedom of Information Act

Members of the public requesting documents through the FOI Act are to forward such requests to foi.healthregulation@gov.mt