



August 2019

Communique

Introduction

The World Pharmacy Council held a Members' Meeting on 17 August 2019 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Participants included representatives from member organisations in nine countries.

The two principal items on the agenda were: to agree a strategy for the Council for the five years 2020 to 2025, and to consider and review the 2019 Sector Analysis produced by the Council's Chief Economist.

The Strategy was agreed and ratified by the Board, with the Vision that:

By 2025 the World Pharmacy Council is established and acknowledged as an informed and respected data driven expert on the actual and potential role of community pharmacy in patient care and public health, and the OECD advocates services of community pharmacists using the full scope of practice as part of integrated care of patients with acute or chronic conditions, and as providers of public health services.

The meeting discussed how the Council can best contribute constructively to the work of Business at OECD (BIAC) as a member of the Associate Expert Groups on Health and Consumer Affairs. It also considered the results of the survey collating elements of clinical governance in the countries of its member organisations and noted significant commonalities.

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GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

The 2019 Sector Analysis, which offers a detailed report of data relating to the sector, was debated and a number of concerns common to members were discussed, and action agreed. One action is to collate data on the scope of practice of community pharmacists in member countries. The Council will also undertake a limited study of product shortages, and collate data on product integrity measures in the countries of its member organisations.

One important issue agreed on is the desirability of standardising key measures for research and terminology. At its previous meeting at the Gold Coast, Australia in March 2019, which focussed on adherence services, a preferred measurement of adherence was agreed, and the Council will engage further with the International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM) to develop a structured approach to data and outcomes.

Member organisations debated an increasing trend for specialty and biologic medicine to be distributed bypassing the community pharmacy. This compromises patient care, if the pharmacy has an incomplete profile of the patient's medication and the meeting agreed to address this.

Representatives of the Council will attend the OECD Health Forum in October 2019 in Paris, and the Council will hold a Members' meeting in 2020 on a date to be agreed. The Council is keen to increase its membership and invite all eligible countries to join.

Sue Sharpe
Secretary General