
Information for you about Pharmacy applications

The Pharmaceutical Regulations which came into force in 1995 described the process that the Health Board should use to determine applications for new community pharmacies and for major relocations of existing pharmacies.

These Pharmaceutical Regulations were amended with effect from 1 July 2009, and state that the Health Board must now consult with the public on such applications.

The Health Board must establish a Pharmacy Practices Committee which has full delegated powers to determine an application.

The role of the Pharmacy Practices Committee

The role of a Pharmacy Practices Committee is to consider and determine an application for new community pharmacies and for major relocations of existing pharmacies.

An application can be granted by the Pharmacy Practices Committee, only if it is satisfied that the provision of Pharmaceutical Services at the premises named in the application is **necessary or desirable** in order to secure adequate provision of Pharmaceutical Services in the neighbourhood in which the premises are located'.

The points which the Pharmacy Practices Committee considers are:

- a) In what neighbourhood (the local area) would the premises be located?
- b) What pharmaceutical services are currently provided in that neighbourhood by persons whose names are included in the pharmaceutical list?
- c) Do these pharmaceutical services offer enough of a service or not?
- d) Is it necessary to grant the application in order to ensure that there are enough pharmaceutical services to the neighbourhood?
- e) Should an application be granted to ensure that there are enough pharmaceutical services in the neighbourhood?

The general 'rule of thumb' is that if pharmaceutical services in a neighbourhood are considered to be inadequate (unable to provide enough services) then it would be necessary to grant the application. If pharmaceutical services being provided were adequate (able to provide enough services) then the Pharmacy Practices Committee would consider whether it was desirable to grant the application.

When looking at the neighbourhood the Pharmacy Practices Committee takes into account:

- ❖ The area where the pharmacy would be situated
- ❖ How many members of the public could travel to the pharmacy on foot?
- ❖ How many would have to travel by car?

- ❖ How else could people travel?
- ❖ What needs do they have?
- ❖ How are their needs met at present?
- ❖ What services are provided during what hours?
- ❖ Whether family doctor (GP) surgeries are close by?