

## PharmaBuddy.ie - Ireland's pharmacist only online Resource

### Introduction

Pharmacists in Ireland typically work in isolation of their professional peers with no ability to get a pharmacist's second opinion. Useful information, knowledge and expertise can often remain siloed away in individual pharmacies with no way to exchange this information with your peers. The profession is quite administrative heavy with pharmacists needing to store many forms, lists and letters in the dispensary and pharmacists spend a lot of time searching for various resources they need in their day to day work.

PharmaBuddy.ie is a new, pharmacist-exclusive online platform for all things pharmacy related in Ireland. It facilitates better communication and knowledge sharing between pharmacists and makes it far easier for us to operate more efficiently and realise our full professional potential. PharmaBuddy.ie enables pharmacists to support each other in an informal. social setting that values professional integrity,

friendliness and openness. Professional accreditation is required to register with PharmaBuddy.ie and since our launch on May 1st, over 1,300 pharmacists have registered for PharmaBuddy.ie.



PharmaBuddy.ie has four main features:

# **Communications Section**

Many pharmacists have often commented that "Dear Pharmacist" letters sent by the HSE and pharmaceutical companies rarely get to their intended target. These letters arrive via post in paper format and are often disposed of before all the staff in the pharmacy get a chance to read them. What's more locum pharmacists miss the messages entirely due varying shifts and working in different pharmacies.

We are solving this issue with our "Communications Section" that transforms these paper based messages into digital form. This communication section displays and archives the "Dear Pharmacist" letters sent to pharmacies nationwide. This enables pharmacists to access this important information at any time and review the archive retrospectively. Now

pharmacists never have to miss a "Dear Pharmacist" letter and pharmaceutical companies and the HSE can rest assured that their message gets maximum reach.

### **Resources Section**

Work as a pharmacist can be very demanding with pharmacists dealing with varying drug reimbursement schemes and varying medication information queries. PharmaBuddy.ie contains a repository of useful reference resources and forms in our "Resource Section". Having these all in the one place makes it easier for pharmacists to find what they're looking for and saves pharmacists a lot of time in locating resources that are needed as part of their everyday work.

### Forum

PharmaBuddy.ie has a private pharmacist only online forum. Pharmacists can communicate with their peers in a quick and easy fashion. The PharmaBuddy forum also

allows for better transfer of knowledge between pharmacists.

#### **CPD**

One of the key areas of focus for PharmaBuddy.ie is continuous professional development (CPD). We believe in the pharmacists' ability to educate each other and the huge amount of knowledge we have within the Irish pharmacy community. Since the beginning of 2016, CPD has become mandatory for pharmacists in Ireland which has caused some ambiguity as to how pharmacists are graded and what is considered CPD. PharmaBuddy.ie makes it easier for pharmacists to understand what is expected of them by seeing examples of other pharmacists CPD work.



