

Chair of the Code of Practice Appeal Board

The Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority (PMCPA) was established by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) to operate the ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry independently of the ABPI itself. In particular, the PMCPA adjudicates upon complaints about pharmaceutical companies made under the Code. The ABPI represents innovative research-based biopharmaceutical companies; its members supply more than 80% of the value of branded medicines used by the NHS.

The aim of the ABPI Code is to ensure that the promotion of prescription medicines is carried out in a responsible, ethical and professional manner to support high quality patient care. The Code also covers interactions with health professionals and health care organisations as well as the provision of information to the public about prescription only medicines and relationships with patient organisations.

The PMCPA is responsible for the administration of the ABPI Code including the provision of advice, guidance and training on the Code. The Director of the PMCPA reports to the Code of Practice Appeal Board for guidance on the interpretation of the Code and the operation of the complaints procedure and to the President of the ABPI for administrative purposes.

The main roles of the Code of Practice Appeal Board are to hear appeals against the decisions made by the Code of Practice Panel and to supervise the activities of the Panel. The Appeal Board Chair is independent and legally qualified. In addition there are eight independent members and eight members from pharmaceutical companies. Independent members, including the Chair, must be in a majority when appeals are heard.

As a result of the current Chair completing his term of service we are seeking to appoint a new Chair to commence in January 2021. Candidates must have experience as a QC or senior barrister and to ensure that there are no actual or perceived conflicts of interest, they must not have acted for or represented pharmaceutical companies. Experience in a regulatory or similar role and/or as a recorder would be an advantage.

The appointment will be made by the ABPI Board following consultation with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

Meetings of the Code of Practice Appeal Board are held approximately every 4 - 5 weeks in central London. An annual honorarium is paid plus a meeting attendance fee and associated travel expenses. Additional time will be required for training.

Information about the ABPI Code, the PMCPA and this appointment are available on our website (www.pmcpa.org.uk). Applications including a CV should be submitted via the website by 8 September. Interviews will be held in September/October.

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