

# Pharmacists: Join the independent trade union that is representing pharmacists at *Boots*

Since 1849

The PDA Union is the only independent trade union exclusively for pharmacists in the UK and exists to represent, defend and support the interests of members either individually or collectively in respect of their terms & conditions in dealing with employers and/or outside organisations.

With more than 32,000 members, the PDA Union is now the largest UK membership organisation in pharmacy. Membership is available to pharmacists, trainee pharmacists and pharmacy undergraduates. **Trainee pharmacists and pharmacy students also benefit from FREE membership.**

We are there when our members need us. Our team represents members in disciplinary/grievance hearings at work and in other employment disputes/issues. At Boots we negotiate your pay and speak for all store pharmacists.

The PDA Union represents store and relief pharmacists at Boots. If you are employed in any of these roles at Boots, then we are already working hard on your behalf:

- Store-based Pharmacists;
- Relief Pharmacist;
- Care Services Pharmacist;
- Advanced Practitioner Pharmacist;
- Specialist Practitioner;
- Trainee Pharmacist; and
- Pharmacist Store Manager.

Join us now to support our activities and have your say on our priorities. You can call on our support when you need it. To join, visit: [www.the-pda.org/join](http://www.the-pda.org/join) or call us on 0121 694 7000.



## Let's stay connected

Follow us on social media! Find us by entering the words '**Pharmacists' Defence Association**' into the search bar on the following sites:



Register now at: [www.the-pda.org/join](http://www.the-pda.org/join)

# Supporting you on y

**The PDA and the PDA Union are not-for-profit membership organisations with over 32,000 members. We are run by experienced pharmacists, a legal team, and office support staff that are all working to look after the interests of individual pharmacists, pharmacy students and trainees.**

The PDA Union represents pharmacists at Boots. We negotiate your pay, hours and holiday, help individuals resolve issues at work and discuss issues that matter to pharmacists with the company so that the voice of pharmacists is heard.

If this isn't reason enough to join us, below are some of the key reasons we recommend you take advantage of PDA membership today!

## Key PDA member benefits

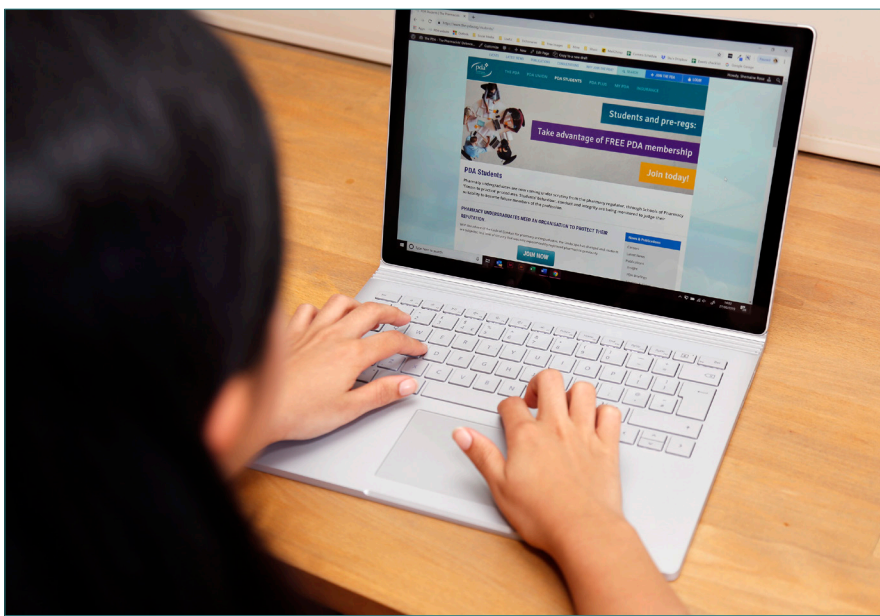
### 1. Professional indemnity insurance

PDA members are entitled to up to £10,000,000\* worth of indemnity protection in the event of medical malpractice (when someone is harmed through an error that results in bodily or mental injury, sickness, disease or death). This is designed to provide our members with:

- The cost of legal representation
- The payment of any compensation awards made against the member in respect of:
  - Committing an act of negligence, error or omission
  - Providing wrongful advice
  - Breaching confidentiality
  - Committing libel or slander.

### 2. Professional advice

Our experienced pharmacists and legal team offer members professional advice on matters of pharmacy law, ethics and professional dilemmas. It is an exciting time for the profession and as the landscape of pharmacy practice changes, our experienced advisors are on hand to help and



provide professional guidance and support.

This may be about providing support in the following situations:

- Handling the practicalities in the event of a dispensing error, including how to respond to the investigation of the error
- Providing advice about pharmacists' responsibilities related to patient confidentiality
- What to do in the event that an issue emerges related to safeguarding
- Responding to an employer's potentially unacceptable demands being placed upon a healthcare professional
- Maintaining professional autonomy and upholding legal and ethical considerations
- Providing guidance in the event of an episode which could call into question your fitness to practice.



### 3. Membership of the PDA Union

A trade union is an organisation which employees (or self-employed workers) join to gain greater security at work. Union membership can provide a greater influence collectively with employers, and more widely within the profession, than workers have as separate individuals.

PDA Union membership includes rights of representation in disputes with employers and certain collective bargaining rights. This means that in serious job-threatening situations, PDA Union officials are able to accompany you to disciplinary meetings with your employer.

### 4. Training and Development

We provide training and education to support the development of your

# our career journey...

professional competencies. Courses include those for trainee pharmacists, risk management training, and clinical sessions with our training partner MORPh. Our national conference features a range of UK based and international speakers with a focus on working together to involve you in shaping the pharmacy sector and your profession. Together with the GFTU we provide trade union training to help you help other PDA members in your workplace.



## 5. PDA donates £1 per member to Pharmacist Support

Each year, the PDA donates £1 from the membership fee of every single member to the profession's charity Pharmacist Support.

The PDA is committed to making this contribution to support the work of the charity in assisting pharmacists and their families, former pharmacists, trainees and pharmacy students through any challenging times they may face. The charity provides confidential advice and support with issues relating to stress, welfare, addiction and finance.

## 6. Pro-actively lobbying on your behalf

Defending the reputation and supporting the interests of individual pharmacists involves much more than providing a defence if something goes wrong.

A core aim of the PDA is to proactively seek to influence the professional, ethical and employment agenda to support the interests of individual pharmacists. We are actively involved in lobbying the relevant bodies both within and outside pharmacy to put forward the interests of pharmacists.



## 7. PDA Plus

Being a PDA member gives you unlimited access to the many PDA Plus discounts on offer when and wherever you need them. Significant savings can be made by accessing a range of deals on items such as days out, nights out, city breaks, car break down cover and a wide array of shopping discounts too. So, whether you are looking to purchase weekly groceries or fancy the latest bit of tech, it is worth checking out the offers available through our PDA Plus platform.

Brands include names such as:

- Vision Express Opticians
- Apple
- Virgin Active
- Argos
- Totum Pro (powered by NUS Extra)
- Tesco
- EE

- Odeon

\*T&Cs apply. More information can be found on the PDA Plus platform.

\*The insurance included with PDA membership is arranged and administered by The Pharmacy Insurance Agency Ltd (PIA) who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (Register No 307063).

## Would you like to become a PDA rep?

Are you interested in getting more involved in helping to give more pharmacists a voice at work? Join the PDA today and find out how you can become a PDA Union rep, by emailing us at: [recruitment@the-pda.org](mailto:recruitment@the-pda.org)

PDA membership is free for pharmacy students, trainees and priced on risk for pharmacists.

**Join the PDA today at:**  
[www.the-pda.org/join](http://www.the-pda.org/join)



## PDA Member Networks



**JOIN A PDA EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NETWORK TODAY!**

**#PDAnawp - #PDAbame - #PDAlgbt - #PDAability**

A significant way that pharmacists can get involved or engage with our work is through our four member Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Networks. For more information, visit: [www.the-pda.org/get-involved/networks](http://www.the-pda.org/get-involved/networks)

## Campaigning

### **ZERO TOLERANCE OF ABUSE IN PHARMACIES**

**Due to the rise in reported violent and unacceptable behaviour by patients, the PDA has issued a 'zero tolerance' poster for display in community pharmacies.**

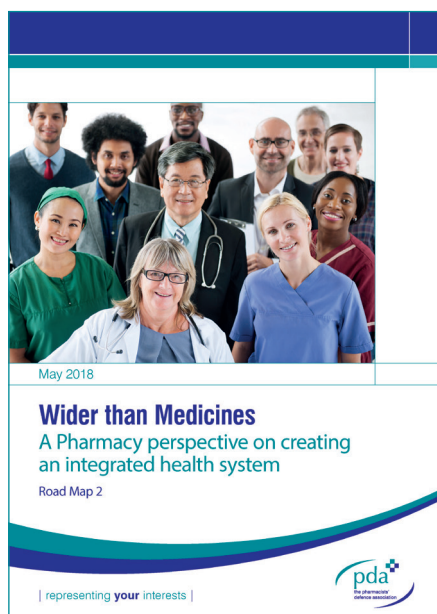
**DOWNLOAD YOUR POSTER TODAY.**



**#ENDviolenceinpharmacy**

The PDA's long-running campaign to end violence in pharmacies has significantly increased the profile of the subject. There have been articles in national broadcast and print media. The union also secured commitments from employer organisations towards zero tolerance of violence and had campaign endorsements from politicians and the police. Read more: [www.the-pda.org/violence-in-pharmacy](http://www.the-pda.org/violence-in-pharmacy)

## Policy & Lobbying



Wider than Medicines is the PDA's long-term strategy for the pharmacy sector. It was launched at the Clinical Pharmacy Congress in April 2018 and outlines the steps needed to create an intelligent system that focuses on joined-up patient care.

Read more: [www.the-pda.org/widerthanmedicines](http://www.the-pda.org/widerthanmedicines)