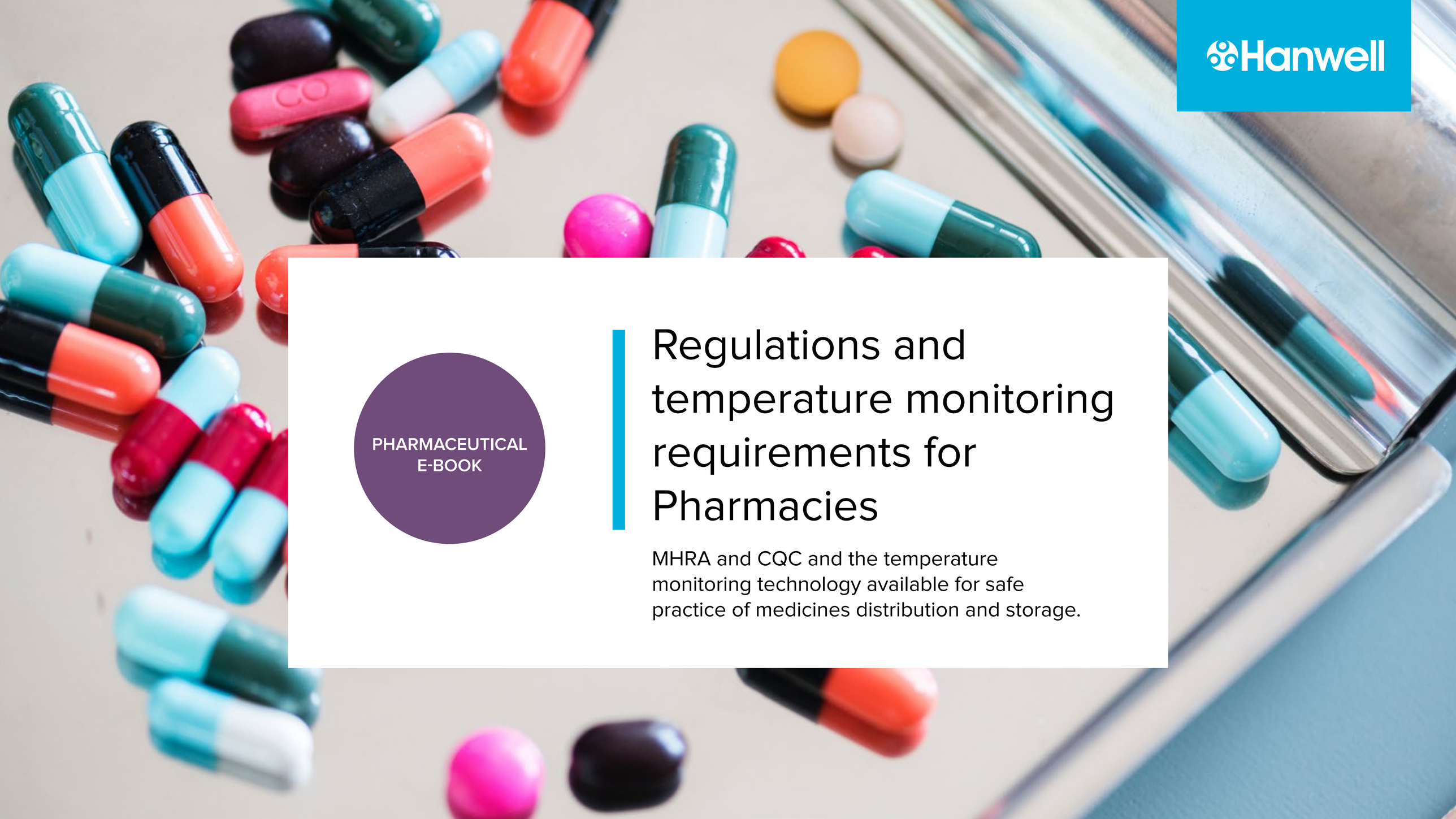

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PHARMACEUTICAL E-BOOK

# Regulations and temperature monitoring requirements for Pharmacies

MHRA and CQC and the temperature monitoring technology available for safe practice of medicines distribution and storage.

# Critical environments for medication

Medicines that are kept out of optimal environments may be irreversibly degraded and will not work in the same way that they were intended, causing potential risk to health and wellbeing.

## Medical Storage

Chilled storage conditions 2-8°C for most medicines

Dry storage should not exceed 25°C

Cold chain storage conditions 2-8°C for most medicines

# MHRA, GPhC and CQC

**Regulations are in place to ensure decisions are made to promote the safety of the public and that processes are accurate, effective and efficient. With MHRA signing memorandums of understanding between both GPhC and CQC, information gathered during each inspection has become more transparent than ever.**

GPhC released a 2013-18 report revealing that more than 600 pharmacy inspections by GPhC resulted in ‘poor’ ratings. Improvements to the inspection model will be considered, so pharmacies need to consider how to use modern technology to improve safety standards.

Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

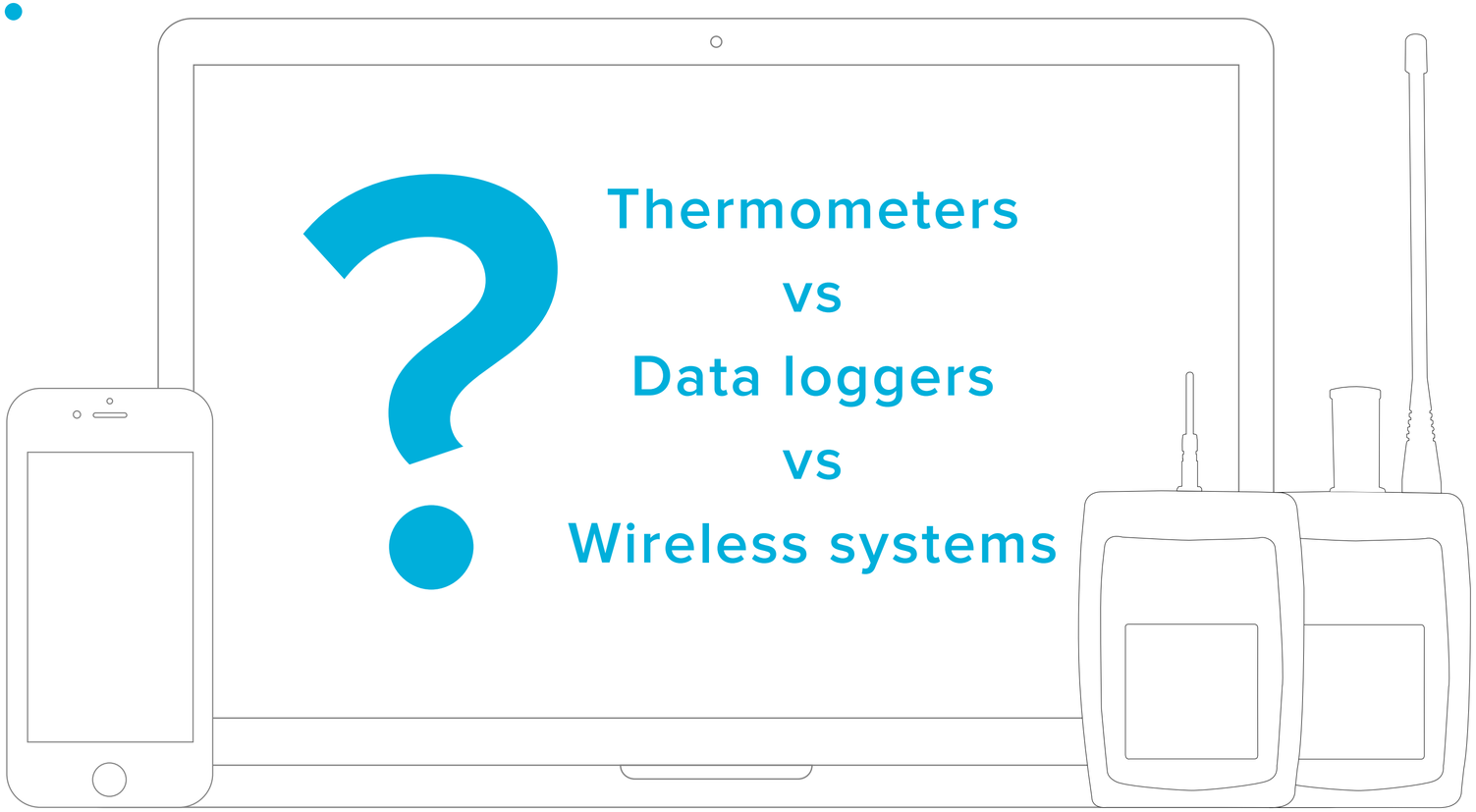
General Pharmaceutical Council

Care Quality Commission

# Reduce the burden of regulations

Preparing early for the next inspection is critical, especially when historical data is required. Inspectors are not obliged to give notice, although most will give a few weeks.

# So, how should I record temperature?



What's the best technology for the job?

# Thermometers

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## Pros

### Cost

They are are potentially the cheapest option available

## Cons

### Power failures

can mean that temperatures could be breached. If the power is then restored and temperatures come back to a stable level just before a reading is taken, pharmacists are none the wiser to a potentially dangerous scenario

### Manual process

daily checks are not only time consuming for staff, but also open to human error and illegibility of writing

### Out of working hours

during holiday seasons checks may not be made for days

What's the best technology for the job?

# Data loggers

## Pros

### 24/7 data trail

### Cost

They are cheaper if your monitoring requirements are minimal (1-2 fridges/ freezers)

## Cons

### Retrospective View

The damage is already done so doesn't prevent the loss of stock

### Manual download

The memory capacity limitations cause the need for regular manual download and analysis

What's the best technology for the job?

# WiFi systems

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## Pros

### 24/7 data trail

### Real-time alerts and easy access to historical data

Typically available online

### Cost

they are cheaper if you're monitoring small areas (typically up to 100 meters for WiFi)

## Cons

### Often require repeaters

multiple repeaters can cause poorer quality transmission and data gaps

### Data security

Cloud-based sites can mean you are tied into a contract or that your data isn't yours, should you wish to change supplier at a later date

### Data loss

If the WiFi goes down (average business experiences at least 1-2 major outage per year), you need to ensure that the transmitters log in order back fill data or it will create gaps in data.

What's the best technology for the job?

# Radio systems

## Pros

### Radio frequencies can be unique

So not to interfere with other wireless/WiFi equipment

### Real-time alerts and historical data

Available online, networked to other sites or standalone, depending on business requirements

Usually, these independent wireless systems will

### Not be affected by power failures

Radio technology

### Can reach up to 300 meters

ideal for up to 30 sensors. (Higher spec systems are available for pharmacy chains that need multi-site and networked access)


## Cons

### Cost

the most expensive option, but the latest technology usually is. Although the initial cost for the system is higher than alternatives, once the system is running, there are minimal ongoing cost implications

# Ultimate peace of mind

Adhere to regulations

Improve patient safety

Prevent damage to medical supplies



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