



Accredited Checking Pharmacy Technician Programme

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

What is the purpose of the ACPT programme?

The ACPT programme offered by NICPLD conforms to a national framework and the accreditation is recognised across the United Kingdom in both primary and secondary care sectors.

It provides pharmacy technicians with the skills and knowledge to confirm the dispensing accuracy of any prescription that has been clinically screened/approved by a registered pharmacist. It also develops the technician's professional awareness of pharmacy practice, communication skills and professional interactions thereby supporting appropriate skill-mix within pharmacy departments.

What are the benefits of the ACPT programme to individuals?

During the course of the programme individuals will develop a range of skills including:

- the ability to accurately check a dispensed item
- the ability to focus on the task of final accuracy checking
- the ability to work within local SOPs
- effective communication skills
- effective interpersonal skills
- effective time management skills
- effective team building skills.

What are the benefits of the ACPT programme within the practice setting?

The ACPT programme supports the role of the pharmacist by allowing pharmacy technicians to take over the final accuracy check, thereby allowing the pharmacist more time to focus on their clinical role. It creates a career structure for pharmacy technicians in the community and hospital settings and motivates others to aspire to the checking role of the qualified pharmacy technician.

Who can enrol on the ACPT programme?

Pharmacy technicians in N. Ireland may apply to enrol on this programme if they meet the following criteria:

- candidate is a qualified pharmacy technician, with at least two years' post-qualification experience
- candidate must be registered with NICPLD
- candidate has a minimum of six months dispensing experience in their current dispensary within the twelve months prior to commencing this programme
- candidate must have demonstrated their ability to dispense accurately according to locally agreed SOPs
- candidate has identified an appropriate educational supervisor who supports their application.



Accredited Checking Pharmacy Technician Programme

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

How long will it take to complete the ACPT programme?

This will depend on the individual pharmacy technician. The minimum completion period is three months (twelve weeks) as individuals need to demonstrate that they can consistently work within the procedures at their work-base and the ACPT framework. The programme must be completed within a twelve month time frame which begins on day one of the induction workshop.

How do I apply?

To apply you should register online to attend the induction workshop. You will then receive pre-course information which details all of the activities that you must complete prior to attending the induction workshop. This includes completing a dispensing accuracy log, completing the learning contract, reviewing your local SOPs and providing an up-to-date CV and job description.

What does the ACPT programme entail?

For information regarding the ACPT Programme, the programme can be downloaded at http://www.nicpld.org/courses/techAccred/acpt/docs_index.asp.

What happens when I complete the programme?

Successful candidates will receive a certificate of completion which will list the competency areas in which the pharmacy technician may accuracy check. You are then accredited for a period of two years.