



NI Centre for  
**Pharmacy Learning  
& Development**

# news

/Newsletter/February 2016/

## Technician programmes

NICPLD offers a range of accredited post-qualification courses for pharmacy technicians, namely the:

- Accredited Checking Pharmacy Technician programme (ACPT)
- Medicines Management Accredited Programme (MMAP)
- Pre- and In-Process (PIP) Checking Accredited Programme

Pharmacy technicians accredited in any of these programmes are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure currency of their accreditation. All three programmes have been developed in line with national curricula. Thus, there is no allowance for lapsed accreditations and practising outside of a current accreditation will result in the individual being

in breach of their job description and professional responsibilities. If an accreditation does expire, the individual will be required to undertake additional work to demonstrate their ongoing competence prior to being reaccredited.

For ACPT technicians, reminders of accreditation are emailed 6 weeks and 2 weeks before the accreditation expiry date. If technicians do not reaccredit they receive another email informing them that their accreditation has expired.

When reaccrediting, the relevant reaccreditation documentation should be forwarded to NICPLD at least two weeks before the accreditation expiry date to ensure that the accreditation is processed before the accreditation expires and that the pharmacy technician can work in their accredited role without interruption.

[www.nicpld.org](http://www.nicpld.org)



# Elearning Minor ailments

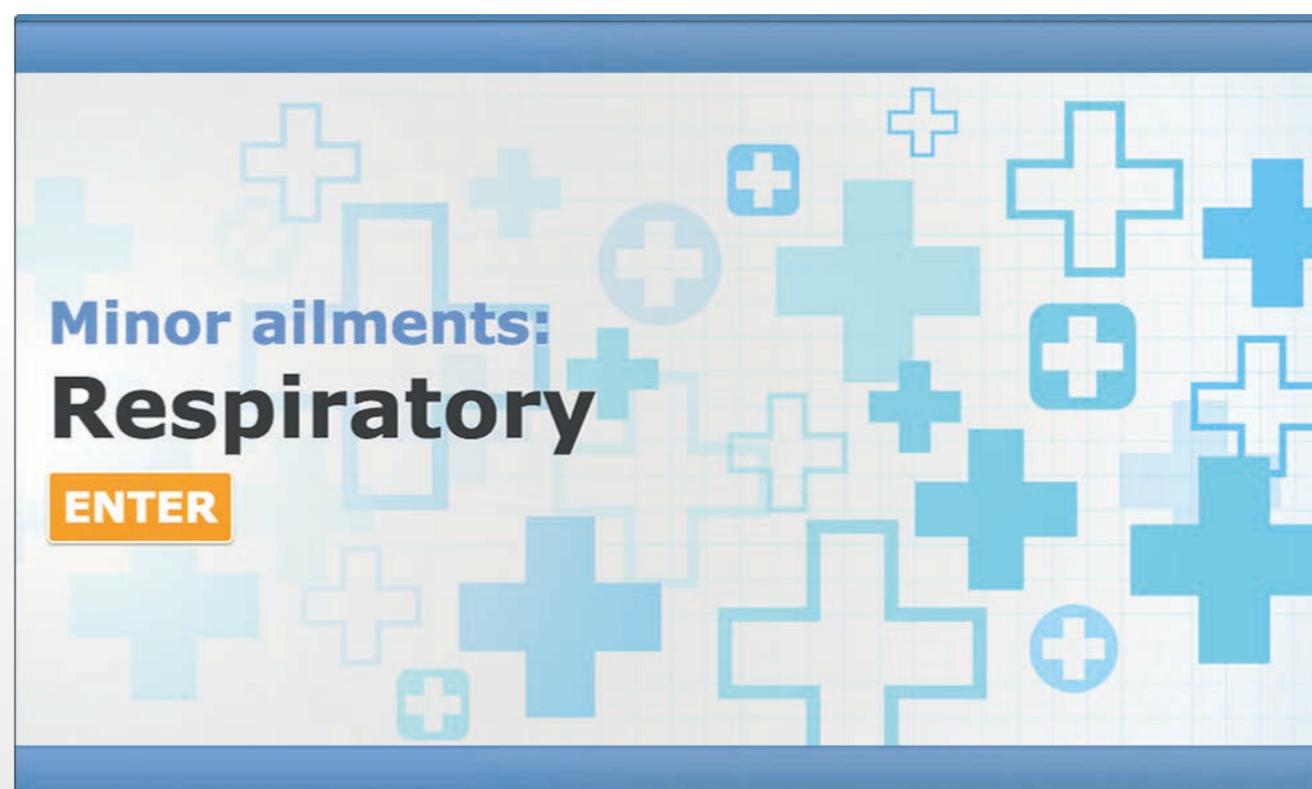
Since first published, NICPLD's print-based distance learning course on Minor Ailments has been completed by over 1,900 pharmacists, reflecting the importance of this aspect of practice in community pharmacy.

This course has been extensively revised and published in elearning format as a suite of seven courses:

- CNS
- Eyes, ears and oral health
- Gastrointestinal
- Infections and infestations
- Respiratory
- Skin
- Urogenital

These courses support the minor ailments scheme and provide guidance on danger symptoms, conditions to consider when carrying out a differential diagnosis, together with GP comments.

Each course has its own assessment allowing you to study only the subjects that meet your learning needs.





# Working in general practice

NICPLD is running a programme to support pharmacists who anticipate working in general medical practices. Initially, this programme was open to pharmacist prescribers with some experience of general practice, but later this year we will open the course to all pharmacists, regardless of experience.

It will be useful for practice-based pharmacists to be independent prescribers and almost 80 pharmacists have enrolled in the independent prescribing course that starts in April 2016. The majority of these trainee prescribers are from a primary care/community pharmacy background and envisage working in general practice.

Recruitment for the 2017 independent prescribing course will not open until Autumn 2016. However, if you are considering joining this intake you may wish to discuss your application now with one of your GPs, who must act as a medical mentor and provide in-practice training opportunities.

Full details of the independent prescribing course, eligibility criteria and application process can be found [HERE](#).





# Elearning Mental health

One in five people in Northern Ireland will experience problems that affect their mental health, yet very few are willing to talk about the subject openly.

People with mental health problems often face stigma and discrimination, and fear of these can prevent people from getting help and hinder their recovery.

To support pharmacists in providing services to people with mental health problems NICPLD has developed a new suite of elearning covering the following areas:

- anxiety disorders
- depression
- bipolar affective disorder
- schizophrenia



For pharmacists with learning needs in this area, a live workshop 'Mental Health First aid' will run on 4th and 5th April and will soon open for enrolment.



# Accredited training

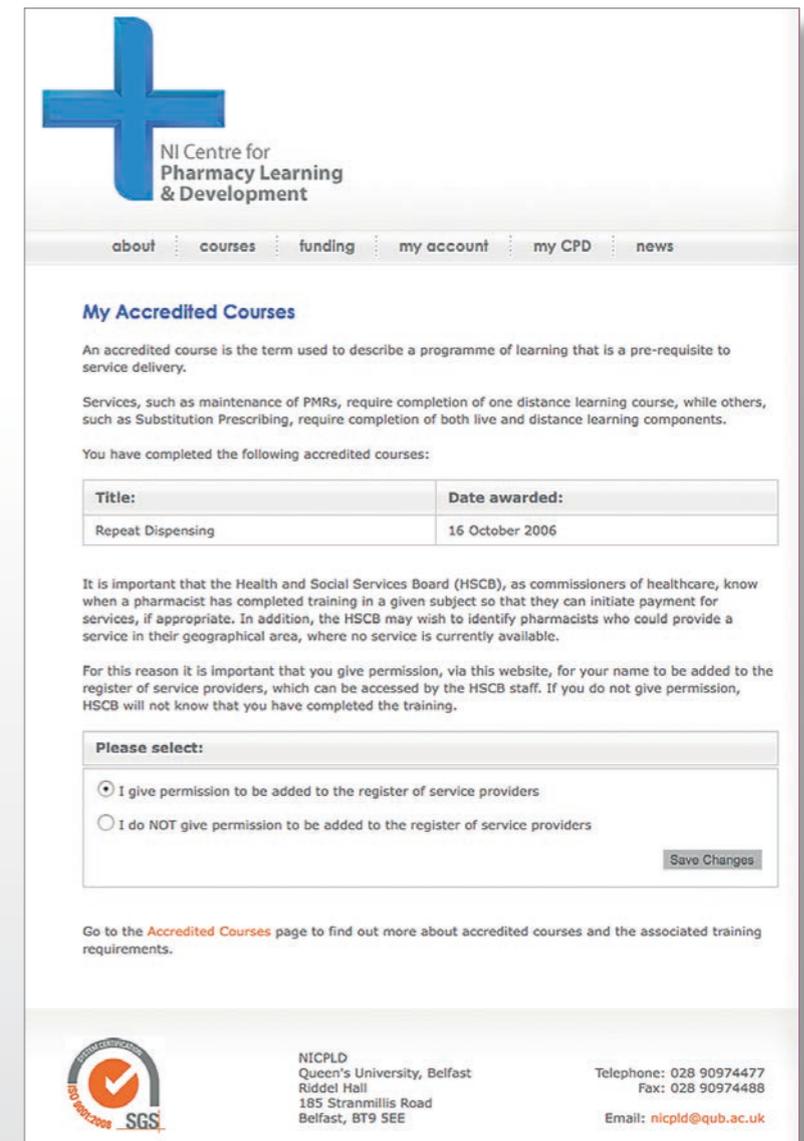
NICPLD provides accredited training, which is a pre-requisite for the following community pharmacy services:

- managing your medicines
- patient medication records
- pharmaceutical services to care homes
- repeat dispensing
- smoking cessation
- substitution prescribing.

Your completed accredited training is found under *my accredited courses* in *my account* on the NICPLD website.

NICPLD cannot automatically give this information to the HSCB, but you can give permission for your name to be added to the register of those accredited to provide services, which can be viewed by the HSCB. Again, this can be found in *my accredited courses*.

You need only give permission once for your name to be added to the register of each pharmacy service and this covers your current and future accredited training.



The screenshot shows the NICPLD website interface. At the top is the NICPLD logo and a navigation menu with links for 'about', 'courses', 'funding', 'my account', 'my CPD', and 'news'. The main heading is 'My Accredited Courses'. Below this, there is explanatory text about accredited courses and a table showing completed courses. The table has two columns: 'Title' and 'Date awarded'. One course is listed: 'Repeat Dispensing' awarded on '16 October 2006'. Below the table, there is a section for giving permission to be added to the HSCB register, with two radio button options: 'I give permission to be added to the register of service providers' (selected) and 'I do NOT give permission to be added to the register of service providers'. A 'Save Changes' button is present. At the bottom, there is contact information for NICPLD and a logo for SGS.

**NI Centre for Pharmacy Learning & Development**

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### My Accredited Courses

An accredited course is the term used to describe a programme of learning that is a pre-requisite to service delivery.

Services, such as maintenance of PMRs, require completion of one distance learning course, while others, such as Substitution Prescribing, require completion of both live and distance learning components.

You have completed the following accredited courses:

| Title:            | Date awarded:   |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Repeat Dispensing | 16 October 2006 |

It is important that the Health and Social Services Board (HSCB), as commissioners of healthcare, know when a pharmacist has completed training in a given subject so that they can initiate payment for services, if appropriate. In addition, the HSCB may wish to identify pharmacists who could provide a service in their geographical area, where no service is currently available.

For this reason it is important that you give permission, via this website, for your name to be added to the register of service providers, which can be accessed by the HSCB staff. If you do not give permission, HSCB will not know that you have completed the training.

**Please select:**

I give permission to be added to the register of service providers

I do NOT give permission to be added to the register of service providers

Save Changes

Go to the [Accredited Courses](#) page to find out more about accredited courses and the associated training requirements.

 **SGS**

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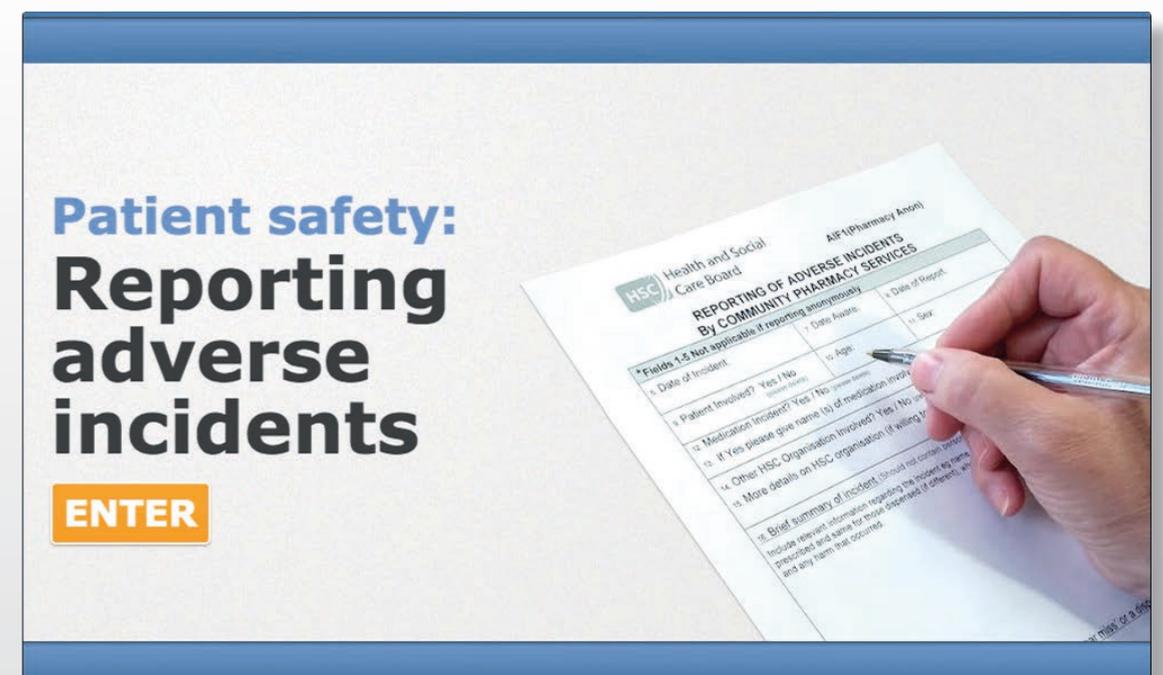
# Elearning

# Reporting adverse incidents

The number of items dispensed annually in Northern Ireland has increased from 25.5 million in 2003 to 40 million in 2014. With the resultant increased workload, it is not surprising that dispensing errors occasionally occur. In healthcare it is recognised that disseminating the lessons learnt from errors can prevent the same error occurring elsewhere.

This course provides an overview of the adverse incident reporting and learning system for community pharmacists in Northern Ireland and will enable you to:

- describe the adverse incident reporting and learning system for community pharmacists
- list the types of error that have been reported
- find appropriate advice relating to learning around incidents that have been reported by colleagues and other learning-related resources
- document and submit an adverse incident report to HSCB using the Adverse Incident Reporting Form or Medicines Governance online facility
- encourage reporting of adverse incidents in your pharmacy.





# Advanced practice development

This programme will support pharmacists to develop the competencies of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Faculty at Stage II. The module, which starts in April 2016 and finishes in March 2017, is divided into the following three parts: workshops, self-directed learning and practice activities. An outline of the content and dates of associated workshops is given below:

## 1. Developing as an Advanced Pharmacist Practitioner (27 April 2016)

- Expert professional practice
- Building working relationships
- Managing patients in a multidisciplinary environment
- Developing an individualised Personal Development Plan (PDP)
- Developing a portfolio of evidence

## 2. Education, training and development of others (12 May and 9 June 2016)

- Promoting a learning culture
- Designing effective learning programmes
- Evaluating the effectiveness of learning programmes
- Supporting individual learners
- Assessing the performance of learners using a range of methods

## 3. Leadership and management (6/7 September and 6 October 2016)

- Leading and managing an advanced / specialist pharmacy service
- Contextual considerations – local, national and international
- Developing a vision for the service
- Managing change
- Leading and managing a team
- Managing risk

Following each workshop, pharmacists will undertake self-directed learning to meet their individual learning needs, and practice activities to apply their knowledge and skills. Individuals will develop a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate their competence at Stage II of the RPS Faculty. To successfully complete the module, pharmacists must pass a Practice Portfolio assessment and a *viva voce* interview (March 2017).

