



news

inside

- + Working in general practice
- + CPD grants
- + Consultation skills
- + All Ireland Pharmacy Conference
- + Return to practice

/Newsletter/February 2017/

Pharmacy technicians

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.

All three programmes have been developed in-line with national curricula. Forthcoming dates relevant to these programmes are:

**ACPT OSCE assessment for current cohort:
22 March 2017**

**ACPT 2-day workshop for new ACPT cohort:
11/12 April 2017**

**ACPT Educational supervisor workshops:
11 April 2017**

MMAP workshop: 8 May 2017.

Pharmacy technicians accredited in any of these programmes are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure currency of their accreditation. If an accreditation does expire, the individual will be required to undertake additional work to demonstrate their ongoing competence prior to being reaccredited.

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.



For further information on these programmes please contact the NICPLD Lead for Technician Training, Jo Sutton





Working in general practice

The third wave of practice pharmacist recruitment begins soon and it is envisaged that these pharmacists will start in general practice in May/June 2017.

Further recruitment of pharmacists to primary care will be undertaken during 2018. In preparation for this NICPLD will continue to run a programme to support pharmacists who are working or anticipate working in general medical practices. The next programme will start in May 2017.

Seventy-four pharmacists will qualify as independent prescribers in February 2017, bringing the total number of pharmacist prescribers in Northern Ireland to 377. However, it is unclear when they will be able to register as prescribers, given the oversight in amending the Regulations to enable their annotation by PSNI. The target date to amend the Regulations of late February/early March is no longer feasible following the collapse of the Assembly and pending election.

In April of this year 105 pharmacists start to train as independent prescribers, sixty-eight of whom are from general practice.

Recruitment for the 2018 independent prescribing course will not open until Autumn 2017. However, if you are working in general practice and are considering joining this intake you should discuss your application now with one of your GPs. Currently, a medical practitioner must act as your mentor and provide in-practice training opportunities.



Advanced practice development

This programme supports pharmacists to develop the competencies of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Faculty at Stage II. The module, which starts in April 2017 and finishes in March 2018, 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 (26 April 2017)

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

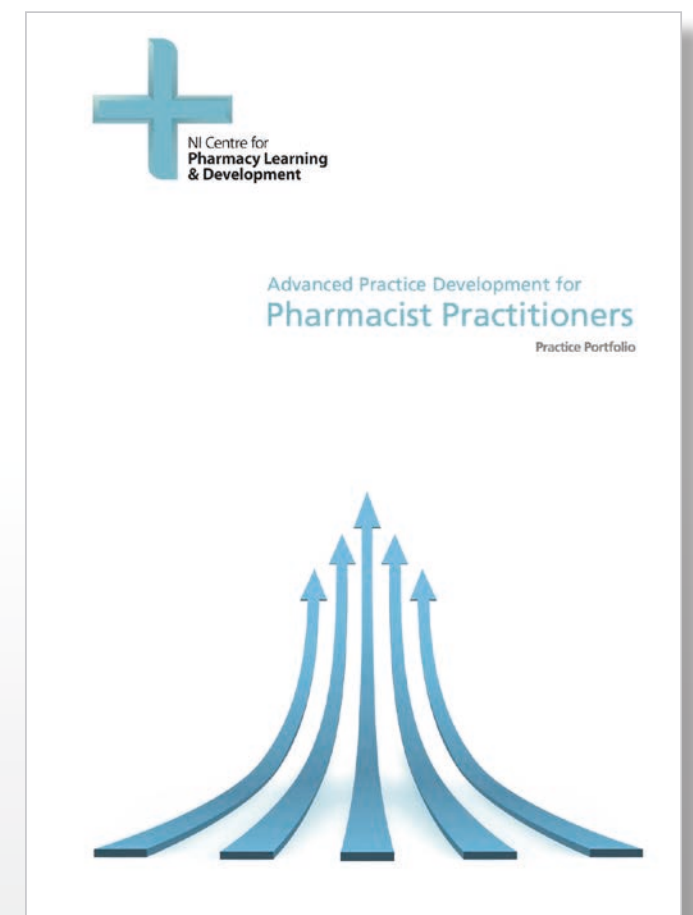
2. Education, training and development of others (11 May and 15 June 2017)

- 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 5 October 2017)

- 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 2018).



CPD grants

NICPLD facilitates other opportunities for CPD by contributing towards fees (up to 50%) to enable pharmacists to participate in courses, workshops or conferences related to their professional development.

Last year 24 pharmacists received a CPD grant. The pharmacists funded were drawn from all areas of practice – community, hospital, primary care, education and administration.

Funding provided through the CPD grant scheme covers course/conference fees, but does not cover travel and subsistence.

From April 2017 CPD grant applications must be submitted online via the NICPLD website. Applications will be reviewed at the June meeting of the Committee for Postgraduate Pharmacy Education.



Consultation skills

As an independent practitioner when was the last time you received feedback on your consultation skills?

To support pharmacist prescribers in developing and improving their consultation skills, NICPLD uses the same approach as trainee GPs. Having been in practice for a period of time pharmacists complete the online course on consultation skills and then participate in a live assessment of their consultation skills. This involves undertaking a series of consultations with real patient volunteers with an assessor. Participants are provided with individualised feedback by the assessor and patient on areas in where they performed particularly well and how they can improve their skills.

The feedback to this approach has been so positive that we felt it important to make it available to community pharmacists. The live assessment lasts 2.5 hours during which pharmacists will consult with three different patients and undertake an MUR and will take place on Tuesday 2nd May 2017. Application can be made via the NICPLD website when enrolment opens on 25th February.

Prior to attending the session, participants must have completed the elearning course on consultation skills and completed a review of three MUR patients.



This course provides 4 hours of learning



8th All Ireland Pharmacy Conference



The Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk is the venue for the 8th All Ireland Pharmacy Conference on 16th and 17th October 2017.

The Conference is jointly organized and funded by a number of pharmacy organisations. Its focus is to share good practice in pharmaceutical care and practice development across the primary and secondary care sectors. Pharmacists, technicians and

qualified assistants will be encouraged to exchange ideas for pharmaceutical service development in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland.

On the evening of Monday 16th October 2017 the conference dinner will take place at 8.00pm and provides an opportunity to network with colleagues. The main conference proceedings will start at 9.30am on Tuesday 17th October 2017 with a keynote address by Professor Rose-Marie Parr (CPO, Scotland) entitled *Building Capacity in Healthcare*. The remainder of the conference will involve parallel oral sessions and poster presentations.

Continued over



Call for abstracts

Abstracts are invited that deal with a broad range of pharmacy practice, including (but not limited to) the following areas:

- Research into practice
- Policy into practice
- Medicines optimisation
- Empowering patients: helping patients help themselves
- Developing the pharmacy workforce.

Abstract format

This year, conference abstracts should be submitted online, via the Irish Institute of Pharmacy website. Click **HERE** to view the online submission site.

Applicants should clearly indicate the corresponding and presenting author(s) and whether they wish their abstract to be considered for poster or oral presentation (10 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions).

The closing date for receipt of abstracts is Friday 5th May 2017 and authors will be notified regarding acceptance by Friday 16th June 2017.



Conference costs

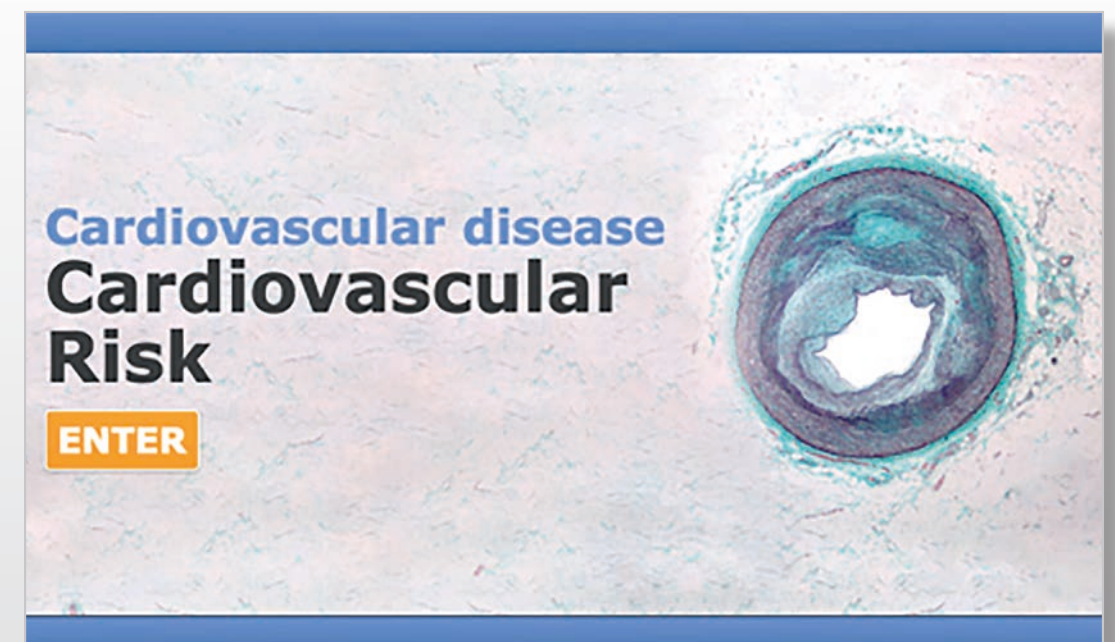
The cost of the conference dinner on Monday 16th October 2017 will be covered by sponsorship. The day delegate rate for the conference is £40 (€50) and the cost of overnight accommodation, if required, is €90 single and €77.50 sharing. The conference costs (including accommodation) for the main presenter of each oral presentation will be covered by the organising bodies. For those presenting posters, the day delegate fee only will be covered.

New elearning

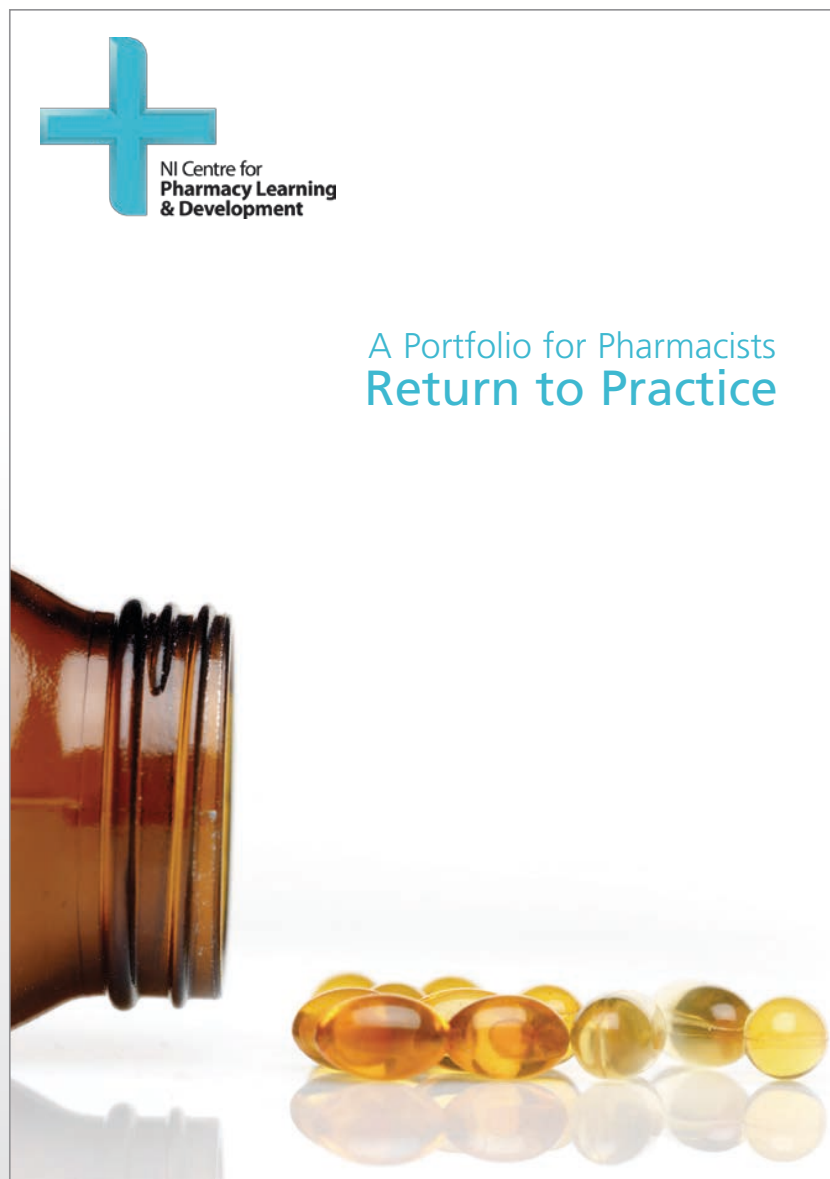
In February NICPLD will launch two new versions of elearning courses on asthma and cardiovascular risk

The suite of courses on respiratory disease has been updated and, in particular, the course on asthma provides details of the 2016 BTS/SIGN guidelines, including the 10 steps to follow when initiating treatment in patients with suspected asthma, prior to a confirmed diagnosis. Additionally, the new guidelines recommend the use of low-dose inhaled steroids as the first therapeutic option in asthma.

The new course on cardiovascular risk will be of particular interest to health promoting pharmacies and Health Plus pharmacies. In addition to describing best practice in managing hypertension and hypercholesterolaemia, this course considers risk factors for cardiovascular disease such as alcohol consumption, obesity, nutrition, physical activity, salt intake and smoking.



Return to practice



The return to practice programme is aimed primarily at community pharmacists and comprises a two-day workshop, involving a practical component run in the dispensary within the School of Pharmacy.

This is followed by up to three days of learning in practice, supported by a mentor and development of a practice portfolio. During programme development it was felt strongly by those who had returned to practice after a career break that their greatest concern was lack of confidence rather than lack of knowledge.

The number of pharmacists attending the return to practice programme is small and we therefore only offer the programme once per year when there is sufficient demand.

To help us determine the viability of running the course in September 2017, please contact the NICPLD office to register your interest by 31 March 2017.

**Full details of the return to practice programme
can be found on the NICPLD website**



The RPS Faculty

Are you interested in finding out about the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Faculty Advanced Practice Framework?

If so, then come along to the NICPLD Faculty Information evening from 7-9pm at Riddel Hall on Thursday 23rd March 2017. This evening is open to all pharmacists.

The RPS Faculty APF came from the original Advanced to Consultant Level (ACLF) framework, and increasingly is being adopted as the international standard against which pharmacists should be developing themselves. Topics that will be covered on the evening are:

- background to the Faculty

- how it supports pharmacy workforce development
- how to become a Faculty member
- Faculty assessments
 - advanced practice portfolio and framework
 - peer assessment
 - developing your CV
 - practice assessment – for pharmacists registered for 2-10 years
- portfolio of support tools available from the RPS

If, at the end of the evening, you decide that you would be interested in submitting to the Faculty, or in developing yourself further as an Advanced Pharmacist Practitioner, NICPLD will be offering the following two options to support pharmacists, starting at the end of April 2017:

OPTION 1

NICPLD will be running **Faculty submission support evenings from April to June 2017** for pharmacists who already have experience in the APF and would like to make a Faculty submission in 2017.

OPTION 2

Pharmacists who would like to develop further experience in the APF can undertake NICPLD's **Advanced Practice Development (APD)** module before deciding on Faculty submission at a later date.

Application forms will be available for both options at the NICPLD Faculty Information evening.