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.
To date, over 200 pharmacists have qualified as supplementary or independent prescribers in Northern Ireland. We are now starting to recruit for the next intake. The closing date for applications, 30th November 2012, may seem a long way off, but there are a number of arrangements you will need to make prior to applying for the course.
Pharmacist Prescribing

How do I become an pharmacist prescriber?
Pharmacists who wish to become independent prescribers must undertake an accredited training course. The course must follow the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI) outline curriculum and consist of a minimum of 27 days training (approx. 9 day workshops and 18 days distance learning) plus a minimum of 12 days in-practice training.

Full eligibility criteria can be downloaded from the non-medical prescribing section of the NICPLD website, however in summary, all entrants to the course must:

- be registered with PSNI as a practising pharmacist in Northern Ireland
- have at least two years post-registration experience in patient orientated practice in hospital, community or primary care
- identify a clinical area in which to practise as a prescriber
- have up-to-date clinical knowledge in the area they wish to prescribe.

What does the course involve?
NICPLD provides the course on independent prescribing free of charge to pharmacists in Northern Ireland. On successful completion of the course, pharmacists are awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Independent Prescribing from Queen’s University, Belfast and this allows pharmacists’ names to be added to the PSNI annotated register of prescribers.

The curriculum consists of six modules that will be delivered by eLearning, print-based distance learning and live workshops, over a six-month period. There is continuous assessment throughout the course, but no final examination.

How does in-practice training work?
Completion of training is dependent upon a minimum period of 12 x 7.5 hour days mentorship by a designated medical practitioner (GP or hospital consultant). This need not be completed in one block of time, but you must maintain a portfolio of your activities during the in-practice training.

The closing date for applications is Friday 30th November 2012.

Click here for more information and downloadable application forms
Accredited pharmacy technician programmes

Pharmacy technicians at the Western Health and Social Care Trust have been getting involved in technician-led medication history-taking.

This new service, which is being implemented across NHS hospitals, helps to improve the safety and effectiveness of medicines. Jayne Black (pictured), who recently completed her medication history-taking training, feels that this new role will add to her job satisfaction and allow her greater opportunities for involvement with patients and their care.

By complementing the role of the clinical pharmacist this new service allows better team-working between pharmacists and technicians, while helping the trust meet its targets for medicines reconciliation.

ACPT final tests will be held at NICPLD on the following dates:

• Wed 12th September 2012
• Wed 16th January 2013
• Wed 7th November 2012
• Wed 13th March 2013

If you anticipate completing your ACPT training in the near future contact Julie Jordan to confirm your place on one of these dates.
Workshops
September – December

The new course brochure will be mailed to you in early August 2012, at which time you will be able to register for the following workshops on the NICPLD website:

- Advanced clinical practice: mental health in older patients (4 venues)
- Core training for medicines management technicians
- Developing a communication strategy to promote pharmacy services
- Drug history taking programme for pharmacy technicians
- Effective delegation
- Excel with confidence
- Managing absence from work
- Managing symptoms of the lower GI tract
- Medicines management: bacterial infections in older patients
- Medicines management: medication review
- Mentor programme – drug history taking
- Nutrition and incontinence – common issues in care homes
- Palliative care
- Quality management systems for hospital pharmacy managers
- Substitution treatment
- The community pharmacist and drug users (4 venues)

The regional programme is entitled *Managing long-term conditions in the community setting* and will run in nine different venues. An evening programme on *Cardiovascular risk* will run in five venues from September – December 2012 and in four venues from January – March 2013.
Abstract format

Abstracts from the Republic of Ireland should be emailed to info@iccpe.ie, and those from Northern Ireland should be emailed to nicpld@qub.ac.uk.

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 3 August 2012 and authors will be notified regarding acceptance by Monday 3 September 2012.

Conference costs

The cost of the conference dinner on Monday 12 November 2012 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 €75 sharing. The conference costs for the main presenter of each oral presentation will be covered by NICPLD/ICCPE. For those presenting posters, the day delegate fee only will be covered.

Application forms will be available after Monday 3 September 2012.
New distance learning course

Evidence-based management of neurological disease

Aim
To examine the more commonly encountered neurological diseases, emphasising a cost-effective and rational approach to therapy with a view to improving patient care.

Learning outcomes
Having completed this course you should be able to:

- describe the pathophysiology of epilepsy, Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, and myasthenia gravis.
- evaluate the drug therapy available to treat these conditions and indicate the principles of rational drug choice in individual patients.
- identify the advice and information needs of patients and their families that would enable them to manage their conditions and medications more effectively.
- offer guidelines for monitoring patient progress by identifying symptoms indicative of an improving or worsening clinical state.

This new course provides 14 hours of learning and can be requested via the NICPLD website.
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 30 pharmacists received a CPD grant. Not all of these were for formal university courses. Pharmacists also received funding to attend short courses and conferences. 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.

In addition, specific funding is available to enable community pharmacists in Northern Ireland to study for a postgraduate degree in Community Pharmacy at The School of Pharmacy, Queen’s University. Full details of this course can be found on the School of Pharmacy’s website.

Application forms for CPD grants can be downloaded from the NICPLD website. The CPD Grant Committee will next meet to review applications in September 2012.