



NI Centre for
**Pharmacy Learning
& Development**

news

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/Newsletter/June 2011/

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
- substitution prescribing
- smoking cessation.

You can view the accredited training you have completed by clicking on *my accredited courses* in *my account*. As the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) commissions pharmacy services it is important that it knows who is accredited to provide specific services. While NICPLD cannot automatically give this information to the HSCB, 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 link is found on the NICPLD website under *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 current and future accredited training.

www.nicpld.org





We are moving...

NICPLD moved to our current location at the School of Pharmacy in 2001, and 10 years later we are relocating once again. While we will remain part of the School of Pharmacy, NICPLD is moving to the Postgraduate Executive Education Centre, situated in Riddel Hall on the Stranmillis Road.

In 1915 the original Riddel Hall was endowed by Eliza and Isabella Riddel as a residence for female students at Queen's University. In recent years Riddel Hall was the site of staff training facilities and also served as temporary accommodation for university staff whose offices were being refurbished.

Four years ago the university decided to invest £14 million to refurbish and develop the Riddel Hall site. The plan was to create a landmark building and a high quality environment to support postgraduate, executive and CPD course delivery across all subject areas. It will also provide a new location for the Queen's University Management School.

NICPLD will move to Riddel Hall in August 2011, with the first courses taking place in October 2011. Riddel Hall will give us access to a wider range of training facilities and, importantly, will provide onsite car parking for course participants. In addition, there will be onsite catering and free Wi-Fi for visitors.

NICPLD is one of the few organizations to be invited to move to Riddel Hall, which reflects the high quality of education provided by the Centre to the health professions in Northern Ireland.





Applying for courses

As we announced in previous newsletters, the process of applying for workshops and print-based distance learning courses will be online-only and starting from August 2011:

1. When you apply online for a workshop, your place will be confirmed by email, rather than by letter. If the course is oversubscribed, you will receive an email informing you that you are on the waiting list.
2. For those with confirmed places, you will also receive email reminders two weeks and then five days before the course, much as airlines do when you book flights online. You do not need to respond to these.
3. If you have a confirmed place or are on the waiting list and find that you are unable to attend, you should un-enroll online – it only takes the click of the mouse.





Applying for courses...

Currently, when you login to the NICPLD website you can use either a username or your email address, in addition to your password. From August 2011, this will change to using your email address only and password for login to the NICPLD website.

To ensure that this switch to online-only registration is smooth, please ensure that you are registered to use the NICPLD website and that the e-mail address we hold for you is correct.

Later in the year we hope to introduce a text reminder service for those who prefer to use their mobile devices.

None of these changes will apply to the regional evening programmes, which will remain open access. However, there will be one change to the regional programme. We have received numerous requests to start evening courses earlier and therefore from September 2011 the regional programme will start at **7.30pm**, rather than 8.00pm, and finish at **9.30pm**.


Requests for print-based distance learning courses will also be online-only. The process has only one change to the current system.

When you apply online, you will be asked to confirm that the address shown is correct. You can:

- change your address at this point, or
- confirm that the address is correct.


When you confirm that your address is correct you will receive an email confirming your request and the print-based course will be posted to you.

Because more services are available online we have been able to reduce the size and cost of the course brochure. The new format brochure will provide an overview of all live and distance learning courses, but if you want to know more detail you will be directed to our website. The new brochure is less expensive to produce and post, resulting in significant cost savings, which will enable us to maintain our level of course provision to you.



NI Centre for
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Live and Distance Learning
Programme
September – December 2011





Developing hospital pharmacists

To date, 60 pharmacists are undertaking, or have completed the vocational training (VT) programme for newly qualified hospital pharmacists.

Trainees joining the VT programme will maintain a portfolio and undertake practice activities in the workplace, which will help them to develop and demonstrate their competence in the four rotational areas:

- dispensary
- technical services
- clinical/medicines management
- clinical effectiveness.

Trainees will be supported by a workplace mentor, while local trainers facilitate learning in each of the rotations. Workplace learning will be complemented by workshops and online resources.

The VT programme is two years in duration, but may be completed in a shorter time for those with additional experience.

Recruitment is underway for the next intake to the VT programme. If you are interested in participating, please speak to your line manager. Full details can also be found [here](#).

Pharmacists completing the VT programme are eligible to undertake the MSc in Advanced Pharmacy Practice, which is two years in duration.

Like the VT programme, pharmacists will engage in workplace learning in four therapeutic areas and will also train as independent prescribers in those areas. Thus, pharmacists completing the course will prescribe across a number of areas, but will still have the opportunity to specialise in one area of their choice by undertaking a research project and maintaining a practice portfolio in that area.

The VT programme is the pre-requisite for this course, but applicants with comparable experience may be considered.

Recruitment is underway for the next intake to the MSc in Advanced Pharmacy Practice. If you are interested in participating, please speak to your line manager. Full details can also be found [here](#).



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 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 on 29 June 2011.



[Click here for details of the QUB community pharmacy programme](#)

New eLearning courses

Two new eLearning courses are now available on the NICPLD website: pharmacy services to care homes and management of atrial fibrillation in primary care. Both interactive courses bring a blend of expert content, exercises, audiovisual presentations and downloadable resources that can be used for training others.

Pharmacy services to care homes

12 hours of learning

Aim

To equip pharmacists with the knowledge and skills to provide pharmaceutical services to all types of care home.

Learning outcomes

Having completed this course you should be able to:

- describe the different types of accommodation
- list the different resident groups within homes
- offer advice on the use and control of medicines, including medicines management, record keeping, medicines storage and administration
- identify and address the training, advice and information needs of home staff, including specialist advice needs such as management of diabetes
- describe the legislation governing care home services.



[Click here to apply for course](#)

Management of atrial fibrillation in primary care

8 hours of learning

Aim

This course outlines the background to, and drug treatment of, atrial fibrillation (AF) in primary care, highlighting the relevance to prescribing where appropriate.

Learning outcomes

Having completed this course you should be able to:

- define AF
- discuss its prevalence, symptoms and complications
- outline the management objectives of AF
- detail the treatment of permanent, persistent and paroxysmal AF
- discuss drugs used in rate- and rhythm-control strategies
- review the choice of antithrombotic therapy in AF, including special considerations when prescribing.



[Click here to apply for course](#)