



news

/Newsletter/May 2010/

Welcome

This issue sees the introduction of our new e-newsletter. You will find navigation arrows at the top right of each page, together with links to websites for more information.

Like many organisations, we increasingly rely on IT to communicate with our clients and, to date, 96% of pharmacists in Northern Ireland use the NICPLD website on a regular basis.

However, electronic communication depends on us having the correct email address for you. If you change your email address could we ask you to update this under 'My Account' on the NICPLD website. It only takes a few minutes and will ensure that you continue to receive up-to-date information from NICPLD.

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www.nicpld.org



Interprofessional Learning

While the health professions regularly communicate with each other, they often learn in their professional silos when it comes to postgraduate training. That is why eight years ago we started the Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) workshops, in which GPs and pharmacists could learn together.

These workshops have been very successful and we are now inundated with applications from GPs to attend the workshops.

To meet these needs and expand the availability of interprofessional education we are changing the format of the ACP works. Starting in September each workshop will take place in three venues (Antrim, Portadown and Cookstown). The new half-day format will run twice on each day to enable more people to attend at each venue. For the first time, we will also invite practice nurses and nurse prescribers to attend.

Full details of the new ACP workshop format will be given in the course brochure that you will receive in early August.

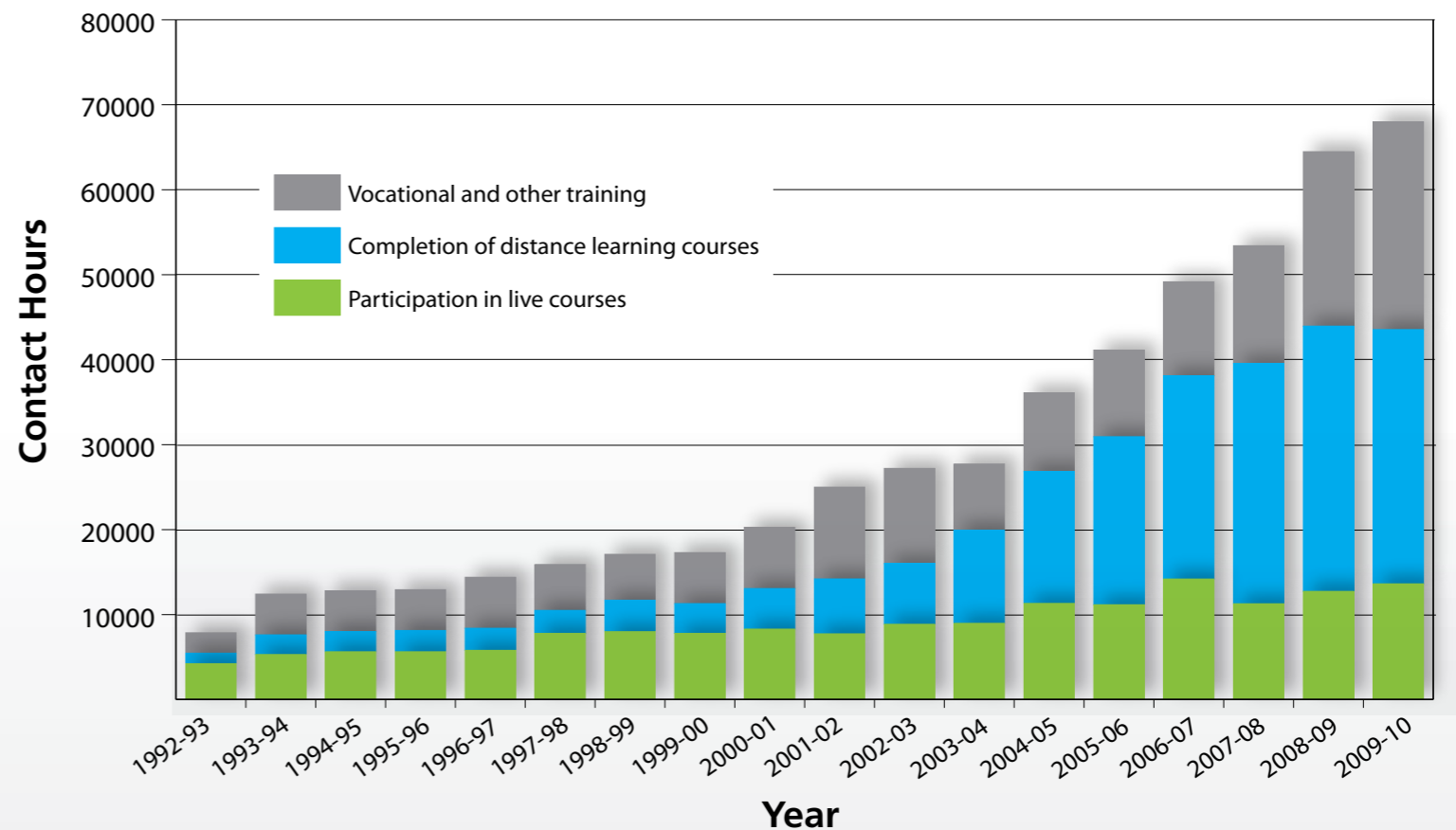


Overview of 2009/10

Each year NICPLD is funded by DHSSPS to provide professional development opportunities to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in Northern Ireland. Our core activities include the live and distance learning programmes and these continue to be extensively used by pharmacists as part of their professional development.

Over the years we have added to this provision with the independent and supplementary prescribing course, the vocational training programme, the clinical postgraduate course for hospital pharmacists and CPD grants.

Taking all of these learning formats together, NICPLD provided 1,885 hours of learning opportunity to pharmacists in 2009/10. During the year, over 1,700 pharmacists participated in our programmes on 9,755 occasions. This equated to 71,125 contact hours and represents a 9% increase in contact hours in comparison to last year.



The uptake of courses by pharmacists over the last 18 years is shown in the chart above. Overall, pharmacists are engaging in more CPD than ever before. To meet this increase in demand using existing resources we have made some economies. For example, we now hold more daytime workshops at NICPLD, which is significantly less expensive than using hotels.

If there are other ways in which NICPLD can support your CPD do not hesitate to contact us.

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 25 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 16 June 2010.



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

Beyond the VT Programme

In 2008 NICPLD introduced the vocational training (VT) programme for newly qualified pharmacists working in hospital practice.

However, it was envisaged that this programme would be the first step in the career development for hospital pharmacists. NICPLD and the School of Pharmacy are currently developing a follow-on programme that will enable those completing the VT programme to train to become an advanced practitioner, in-line with the Knowledge and Skills Framework (KSF).

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 who complete 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.

We anticipate this two-year programme will start in September 2010 and that those completing it will be awarded an MSc in Advanced Practice.

NICPLD and the School of Pharmacy will write to the Heads of Pharmacy in each Trust once final QUB accreditation has been granted.



Distance Learning

Evidence-based management of diabetes

(16 hours of learning)

Aim

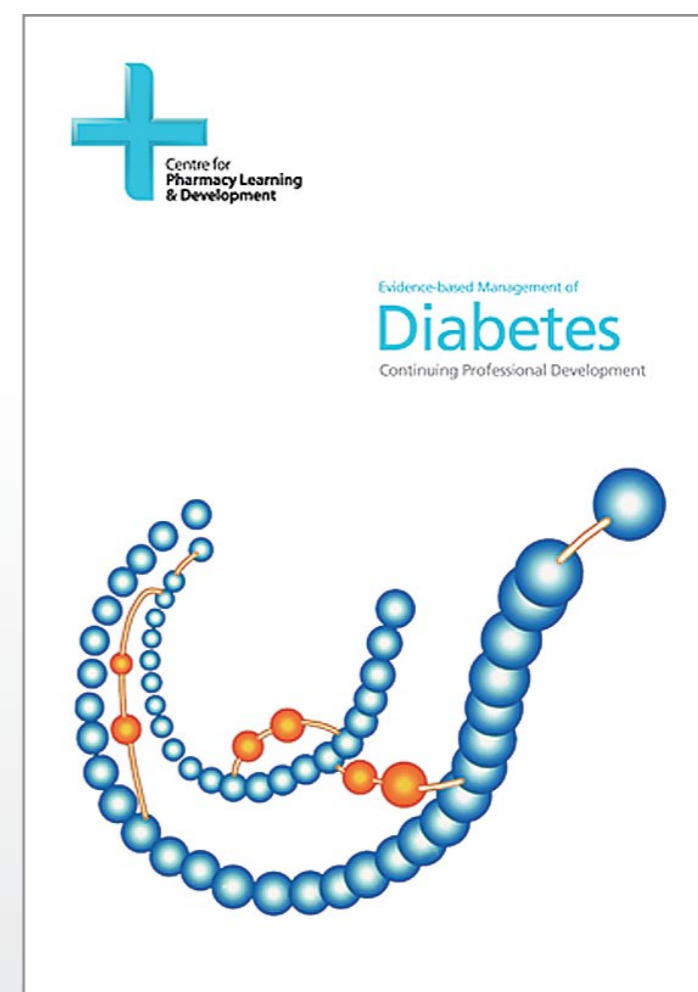
To enable pharmacists to provide effective care for people with diabetes mellitus.

Intended learning outcomes

Having completed this course you should be able to:

- identify risk factors associated with developing diabetes
- distinguish between type 1 and type 2 diabetes
- describe best practice in managing patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes
- understand and monitor the various parameters that are used to judge metabolic control
- make recommendations to prevent the complications of diabetes or manage them should they occur
- provide guidance on monitoring diabetes in special cases, such as pregnancy
- enhance the contribution you make to the care of people with diabetes.

This new print-based distance learning course, which outlines current best practice in managing diabetes, is now available and can be requested through the NICPLD website.



[Click here to apply for course](#)