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/Newsletter/November 2016/

Pharmacist career development



In June 2016 NICPLD was accredited by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society as an RPS Pharmacy Foundation School. This recognises NICPLD in meeting the national standard to engage with employers to provide foundation training, tutor development and final assessment.

Foundation (work-based) training is now considered the most effective way to ensure newly qualified pharmacists develop their extended patient care (clinical) skills. Indeed, such frameworks generally are viewed as effective roadmaps for pharmacist career development. For example, almost 400 pharmacists in NI will have qualified as prescribers by

February 2017, with a further 90 expected to start their training in April 2017. At the same time 47 pharmacists are currently engaged in advanced practice training, with 77 undertaking the 20-month foundation programme.

While the majority of participants have been from the hospital and primary care sectors, we are seeing more community pharmacists take part in structured work-based programmes. This is an increasingly important direction of travel for the community sector, particularly if pharmacists are to realise their potential as set out in the Health Minister's response to the Bengoa Report.

The first cohort of community foundation pharmacists will start their training in November 2016. Pharmacists who would like to join this group should contact NICPLD as soon as possible.



New Lead for Technician Training joins NICPLD

Following the retirement of Julie Jordan from NICPLD, Jo Sutton has been appointed Lead for Technician Training and Development.

Jo qualified as a Pharmacy Technician in 1996 and worked in a rotational capacity in Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) until 2003. From there she was appointed as a ward-based pharmacy technician, which was the first post of its kind in Northern Ireland.

In this post Jo created a role for a pharmacy technician in a clinical setting, working initially on Patients Own Drugs (PODs), before

implementing other medicines management initiatives within BHSCT.

When the Integrated Medicines Management (IMM) service was introduced across Northern Ireland, all of the Health and Social Care Trusts have been working together in developing the clinical role of the pharmacy technician. This has led to the development of the Medicines Management Accredited Program (MMAP) which meets National Standards.

The anticipated rebalancing legislation is expected to bring further developments in the patient-facing role of pharmacy technicians, which could impact significantly on community pharmacy services.



Technician update

Information for accredited technicians and those acting as Educational Supervisors

ACPT – The ACPT Nationally Recognised Competency Framework was revised in 2013 and resulted in changes to the NICPLD programme. These have been outlined previously but here is a refresher for all involved with the ACPT programme.

ACPT accreditation is valid for a period of 2 years. You will be emailed by NICPLD, 3 months, 6 weeks and 2 weeks before your accreditation is due to expire to remind you to reaccredit.

To reaccredit you must:

- Maintain an ongoing log of any errors **you have made** using the Log of Errors post-Accreditation form (please note these are errors you have made, **NOT** errors of others that you have detected)
- Reflect on any errors you have made using the Error Report Form for Reaccreditation
- Have a Reaccreditation Interview with your Educational Supervisor and provide evidence of such (Reaccreditation Interview form).

When submitting documentation for reaccreditation, please do so **AT LEAST** 10 working days before the expiry of your accreditation. Documentation should be submitted by email attachment to nicpldtechs@qub.ac.uk with the names of the forms attached and the name of the candidate stated in the body of the email.

If an ACPT lets their accreditation expire, or if they are absent from the role for a period of time, they must undertake a quantity of accuracy checks which are all double checked as outlined in the table.

Period of absence/lapse	Required number of accreditation double checks
<6 months	Log of 100 items
6-12 months	Log of 200 items
13-24 months	Log of 500 items
>24 months	Must re-start accreditation process

More detailed information relating to the ACPT programme can be found on the website.

Technician update

Information for accredited technicians and those acting as Educational Supervisors

Medicines Management Accredited Programme (MMAP)

The MMAP launched in April 2015 to develop the skills necessary for pharmacy technicians to deliver a comprehensive medicines management service within the hospital sector.

The MMAP is a work-based programme with individuals undertaking a range of in-practice activities and assessments, coupled with the on-going development of a portfolio to evidence competence. Candidates can undertake one or more of the following modules at any time:

Module 1 – The supply of medication to individual patients

Module 2 – The assessment of patients' own drugs (PODs)

Module 3 – Medicines reconciliation 1 (Drug history).

All five local Trusts have engaged with this new accredited programme and to date a total of 19 individuals have completed one or more modules of the MMAP. A further 24 are working towards completion of an MMAP module whilst those previously accredited have been grandparented across and now reaccredit in accordance with the MMAP criteria.

Accreditation is valid for a period of 2 years and it is the individual's responsibility to reaccredit within this period. Reaccreditation is a similar process to that associated with ACPT and full details can be found in the MMAP programme which can be downloaded from the website.

If an MMAP accredited technician lets their accreditation expire, or if they are absent from the role for a period of time, they must undertake additional portfolio work to demonstrate competence prior to working unsupervised again. For further details please refer to the MMAP programme.



Pharmacist independent prescribing

In anticipation of pharmacist recruitment to general practice, NICPLD has increased the number of training places available on the Independent Prescribing course which will start in April 2017.

There are a number of arrangements you will need to make prior to starting the course. These include obtaining a medical mentor to supervise your in-practice experience and selecting the clinical skills and therapeutic areas in which you wish to practice.

To support pharmacists recently appointed to general practice in applying for the Independent Prescribing course NICPLD will be running two orientation evenings:

Tuesday 22nd November 2016: Riddel Hall, Belfast 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Tuesday 29th November 2016: Seagoe Hotel, Portadown 7.30pm – 9.00pm



Places can be reserved via r.gormley@qub.ac.uk

Practice-based pharmacists

Recruitment of wave 2 practice pharmacists is almost complete, with wave 3 recruitment expected in early 2017. Examples of the type of work practice pharmacists will undertake include:

- develop, implement and manage the repeat prescribing system within GP Practices
- review medication requests, repeat prescriptions and hospital discharge summaries
- improve prescribing quality through implementation of and compliance with the NI Formulary
- facilitate implementation, monitoring and evaluation of disease management guidelines and related prescribing policies
- create care plans for patients with long-term conditions
- reduce levels of prescribing expenditure as appropriate in accordance with targets
- produce regular detailed reports on practice progress on reducing prescribing cost
- undertake regular clinical audit
- contribute to incident reporting and participate in risk management systems.

NICPLD and the HSCB will be supporting the ongoing development of pharmacists working in general practice once initial recruitment has been completed. Further programme details will be available in early 2017.



The next practice pharmacist training programme will begin in February 2017. Full details will be available towards the end of this year. Further recruitment of practice pharmacists is expected to begin in the latter half of 2018 and NICPLD will continue to offer this programme to support pharmacists new to this area of practice.

Elearning

Evidence-based management of diabetes

One of the health priorities outlined by the Health Minister in her response to the Bengoa Report was to move forward with the implementation of the new diabetes strategy framework. This announcement follows the major revision of NICE guidelines on best practice in managing diabetes. These changes have been recently included in the NICPLD elearning for diabetes, which will support pharmacists providing services to people with diabetes.

Aim

To provide health professionals with the knowledge to deliver evidence-based care to patients with diabetes.

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 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 course provides 16 hours of learning
and be accessed [HERE](#)**

Elearning

Brief Interventions (coming soon)

This course will focus on the provision of opportunistic brief advice relating to smoking, alcohol and physical activity. Using video and case examples, this course will focus on the array of communication skills necessary for effective delivery of brief interventions.

Aim

To equip healthcare professionals (HCPs) with the knowledge and skills necessary to deliver effective brief interventions in practice.

Learning outcomes

Following completion of this course you should be able to:

- define what is meant by a brief intervention
- apply the model of behaviour change to your practice
- outline the principles of effective communication
- raise the subjects of smoking, alcohol consumption or physical inactivity with patients in routine practice and record intervention in patient notes
- assess patient/clients for risk and their motivation to change
- advise on the risks to health posed by smoking, alcohol and physical inactivity
- assist patients/clients by signposting and providing information sources.



This course provides 2 hours of learning

NI Regional Spirometry Course



This 12-week course was developed by the Respiratory Forum NI, of which NICPLD is a member. The rationale for this course is to promote wider use of spirometry in primary care, thereby ensuring accurate diagnosis and ongoing monitoring of people with respiratory disease. Thus, the course is intended for all healthcare professionals with an interest in respiratory disease and is run by the Royal College of Nursing.

Aim

To ensure that spirometry is undertaken safely and thereby facilitate accurate diagnosis and management of patients with respiratory conditions.

Learning outcomes

Having completed this course participants will be able to:

- demonstrate person centred care when carrying out spirometry testing with their patients
- understand the principles of safe and accurate practice when carrying out spirometry testing
- develop the knowledge and skills required to produce consistent high quality spirometry readings
- analyse spirometry readings
- demonstrate their skills in accurately interpreting and reporting spirometry readings
- evaluate how they can accurately report and record abnormal findings in relation to the patient's history and symptoms.

The course will be run again in 2017 and costs £600 per participant. For more information please contact Katherine Donnelly at the Royal College of Nursing (telephone 028 9038 4600 or email CST@rcn.org.uk)