Relocation...

After 10 years at the MBC site on the Lisburn Road, NICPLD had now moved to Riddel Hall on the Stranmillis Road, which will provide a wider range of training facilities. Our new contact details are:

NICPLD
Queen’s University Belfast
Riddel Hall
185 Stranmillis Road
Belfast BT9 5EE
Northern Ireland
Tel: 028 9097 4477
Fax: 028 9097 4488
Email: nicpld@qub.ac.uk

Our freepost address (Freepost NICPLD) remains unchanged.

On-site parking is available for those attending workshops at Riddel Hall and you can download a map of how to get there by clicking HERE.

www.nicpld.org
Workshops

The workshop on Medicine Management: Medication Review (19 September 2011) has been heavily oversubscribed and therefore a second workshop has been arranged for Monday 16th January 2012 in Riddel Hall. This workshop is now for available for applications on the NICPLD website.

Places are still available on the following workshops:
- Dilemmas in Practice (12 October and 10 November)
- ACP: Pain (20 October – Cookstown morning)
- ACP: Pain (20 October – Cookstown afternoon)
- Enhancing Customer care (14 November)
- Medicines Management: Stable Angina (22 November)
- Haematology study day (2 December)

A final reminder that from August 2011 you must login to the NICPLD website using your email address as your username. If you need to change your email address you should login using your old email address and then amend your email address in the My Account link.

Later in the year we hope to also introduce a text reminder service for those who prefer to use their mobile devices. You can add your mobile telephone number to your portfolio using the My Account link.
Reaccreditation of pharmacy technicians

A national review of accredited frameworks for pharmacy technicians (Accredited Checking for Pharmacy Technicians – ACPT and Patient’s Own Drugs – PODs) has led to changes for those already accredited through NIPCLD, with effect from 1st October 2011.

Thus, ACPT reaccreditation no longer requires an evidence log of 100 items that has been double-checked by another ACPT or pharmacist. Instead, the new requirements for reaccreditation focus on a reflective approach by the senior manager, mentor and candidate in reviewing the ACPT candidate’s performance over the previous two years. Candidates are required to meet the following criteria for reaccreditation.

1. Has the candidate been working over the last two years on a regular basis (a minimum of two hours per week) as an ACPT?
2. Has the candidate always worked within the ACPT framework?
3. Has the candidate only checked items listed in their competency range as stated on their certificate?
4. Does the list of competencies still match the range of work checked in their role as an ACPT?

5. Has the candidate continued to work within their SOPs, ensuring they have been updated as required?

6. Has the candidate produced 10 reflections on errors found over the last two years that have been discussed with the in-house panel?

7. Has the candidate’s error rate been assessed and confirmed to be in-line with the acceptable range of the dispensary or ward team?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, then further information should be provided. The senior manager and the ACPT candidate are required to provide a summary of the ACPT’s performance over the last two years.

Similarly, for the POD accreditation, POD technicians are no longer required to maintain a 50-item log as evidence of their competence. Candidates must meet the following criteria for reaccreditation.

1. Has the candidate been checking PODs on a regular basis over the last two years?

2. Does the candidate work consistently to a high level when checking PODs?

3. Has the candidate developed a professional approach whilst checking PODs?

4. Has the candidate made any errors over the last two years? (If yes, details should be provided of a review of errors with the mentor and any action taken).

5. Has the candidate always worked within the Trust’s POD SOPs?

6. Has the candidate maintained the competence to check PODs by working at least two hours per week in this capacity?

7. Has the candidate continued to work within the remit of their role and ensured they were updated as required and fit for practice?

With the exception of question 4, if the answer to any of these questions is no, then further information should be provided. The senior manager and the POD candidate are required to provide a summary of the POD Checker’s performance over the last two years.

For both accredited programmes it is the responsibility of the pharmacy technician seeking reaccreditation to contact NICPLD prior to the expiry date of their accreditation. NICPLD will then send documentation to record the review which, when completed, should be returned to NICPLD.
The regional programme online

The regional course on Heart Failure, which ran between April and June 2011, is now available online.

To access the course you must login to the NICPLD website and go to the Online Lectures link. The course follows the same structure as our online courses and is accompanied by a series of MCQs that you must successfully complete to be credited with 2 hours of learning. You may also download the handouts and other useful resources.

The lectures are viewed using Flash, which is installed on most computers and is also freely available from www.adobe.com

The online lecture on Repeat Dispensing has been updated and is now available via the Online Lectures link. This course provides 2 hours of learning.
Indepndent Prescribing

Recruitment starts for the next intake

The next independent and supplementary prescribing course for pharmacists will start in April 2012. The closing date for applications is 25th November 2011 and there are some arrangements that you will need to make prior to starting the course.

Continued over
How do I become an independent 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?

In Northern Ireland NICPLD provides the course on independent prescribing, which is free of charge to pharmacists. 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 25th November 2011.
Community vocational training

In 2008 NICPLD introduced a vocational training (VT) programme for junior hospital pharmacists based on the General Level Framework (GLF – see www.codeg.org).

This was designed to support pharmacists in the early years of their independent practice by helping them to acquire the practical knowledge and skills needed to develop as a hospital pharmacist practitioner. To date, over 60 hospital pharmacists have participated in this 20-month programme, with managers reporting that those completing it are more rounded and better-trained pharmacists.

Building on this success, NICPLD intends to introduce a VT programme for community pharmacists in the latter half of 2012. Like the hospital VT programme, this will be based on the competencies of the GLF, covering four areas:

1. delivery of patient care
2. personal (organisation/communication)
3. management
4. problem solving.

Vocational training in the workplace involves maintaining a portfolio of activities undertaken in practice that helps demonstrate your competence. The programme will be also be supported by mentors, workshops and practical sessions (e.g. medication review).

To successfully complete the community VT programme, pharmacists will be asked to submit their portfolio to NICPLD for verification and to attend a final assessment. While the VT programme will be non-award bearing, pharmacists successfully completing it will be exempt from the first year of a postgraduate diploma or MSc.

More details of this programme will be made available as development continues.