

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

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1.0 Forward

The Northern Ireland Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development (NICPLD) was established in 1989 under Article 44 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 to provide continuing professional development for pharmacists in Northern Ireland.

The centre is commissioned annually by the Department of Health to deliver a programme of work. The scope and breadth of responsibility have widened considerably in recent years, in part due to the implementation of the 2021 [standards](#) for the initial education and training of pharmacists. These new standards from the pharmacy regulators, the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), embed key changes including the provision of experiential learning during the MPharm degree, the accreditation of the Foundation Training Year by the regulators and the ability for new pharmacists to prescribe at the point of registration from 2026. These changes understandably have a knock on impact on post registration education and training.

In addition to this widened scope and responsibility, NICPLD continues to provide education and professional development opportunities for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in NI through the development, delivery and quality management of education programmes, and through the provision of professional development courses and resources. Our overall aim is to enable the pharmacy team to enhance clinical care and improve the health and wellbeing of people in NI.

We are firmly committed to improving learning opportunities for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and the wider healthcare team and have continued to work across Northern Ireland and UK-wide throughout this Commission. We endeavor to work in partnership with others to create effective programmes and promote a learning culture at all times.

This Commission has brought change and challenge as we continue to work with our stakeholders in delivering the 2021 [standards](#) for the initial education and training of pharmacists alongside our other programmes. This Annual Report provides an overview

of NICPLD's performance during the April 2024 to March 2025 Commission across programmes demonstrating the commitment and expertise of the staff team at NICPLD. The Annual report provides information on each programme outlined in Table 1 as well as a summary of communications, feedback from learners, quality management systems, educational research activity and finances.

Table 1: NICPLD Programmes 2024/25 Commission

Workforce Development programmes	Professional Development Programmes
Experiential Learning	Live programme
Foundation Training Year	Open Learning
Post Registration Foundation	Other Specific Funding Arrangements
Independent Prescribing	
Advanced Practice	
Pharmacy Technicians	

I would like to thank the staff team at NICPLD and all those who collaborate regularly with us for their contributions throughout this Commission. I am grateful to the staff at NICPLD for their dedication, support and excellent achievements throughout this Commission.



Lisa Smith

Postgraduate Pharmacy Dean

2.0 Communications, collaborations and education research

2.1 Social media communications

NICPLD use a range of social media platforms shown in Figure 1 to engage with the pharmacy professions.

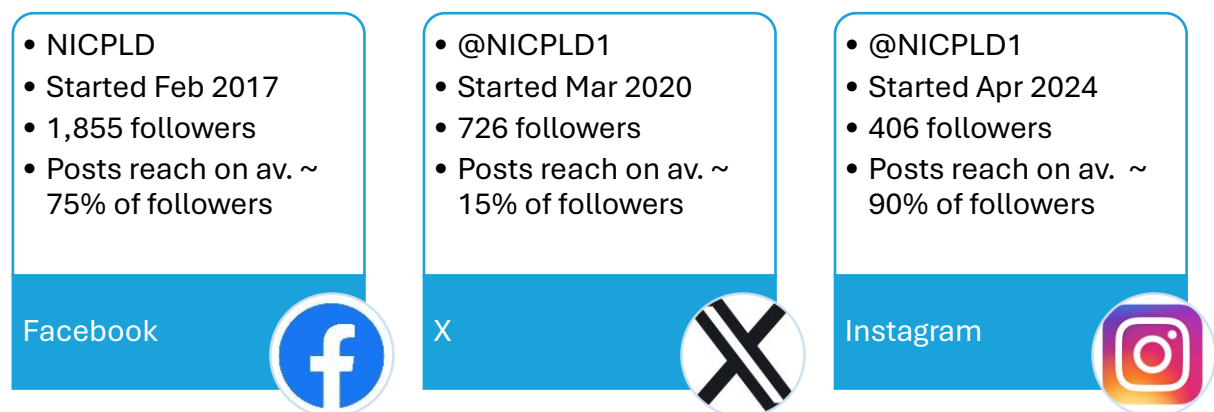


Figure 1: Social media platforms used by NICPLD

Social media posts are used to promote and provide information, for example:

- Advertising webinars, workshops and eLearning courses from the live and open learning programmes
- Delivering medicines and healthcare calculation practice
- Advertising the workforce development programmes
- Updating the pharmacy profession on the workforce development programmes e.g. changes to FTY 2025/26, Funded DPP project
- Advertising vacancies within NICPLD and welcoming new members of staff to NICPLD team
- Sharing surveys e.g. learning needs assessment, tutor expression of interest

NICPLD following on social media continues to grow and Figure 2 shows examples of social media posts issued during this Commission.

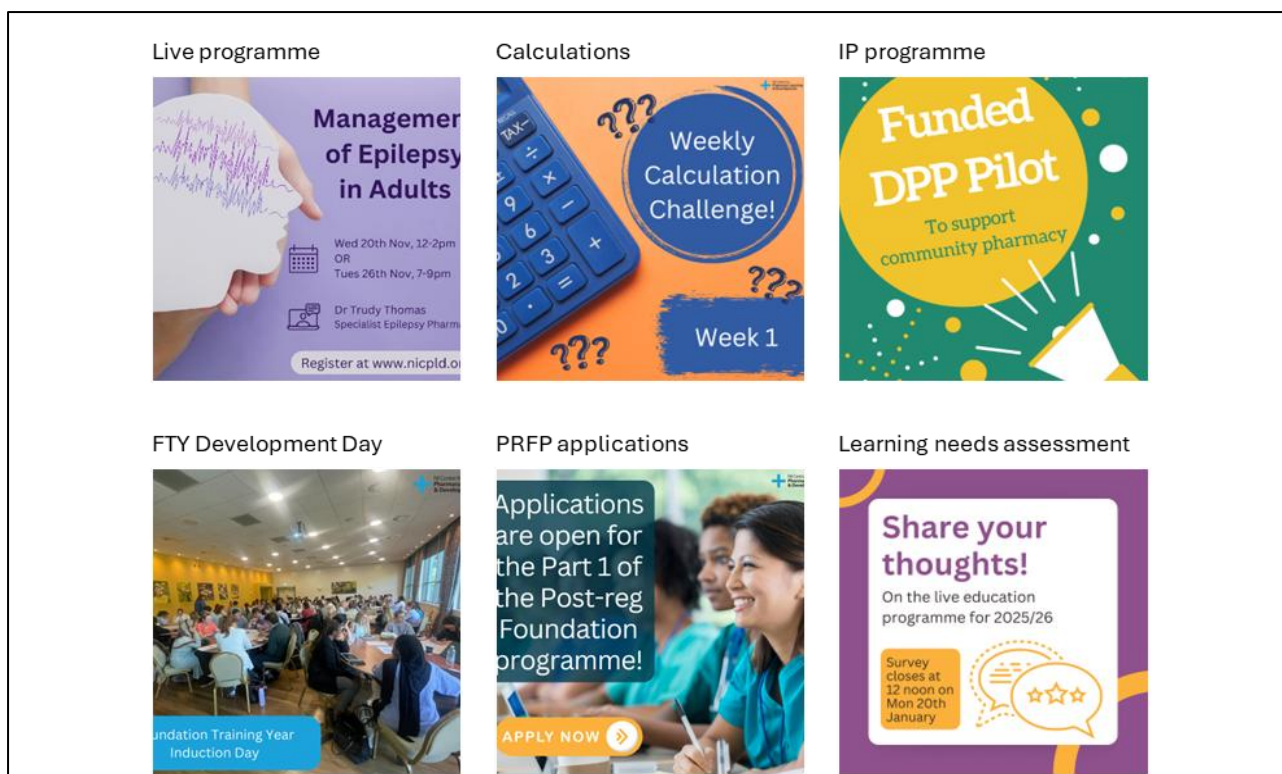


Figure 2: Example of social media posts

2.2 eNews

Three editions of NICPLD eNews were published. Each newsletter was emailed to approximately 4000 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians registered with NICPLD, and made available on the NICPLD website.

2.3 Websites

NICPLD manage two separate websites. Pharmacy users access the [NICPLD](#) website and other healthcare professionals access the [Medicines NI](#) website.

The NICPLD website serves as a central hub for pharmacy education, offering access to programme information, learner portfolios, dedicated learner hubs, as well as our online booking system and application forms.

To improve inclusivity, [social media posts](#) are available on the NICPLD website enabling learners without social media accounts to access important information. A [calendar](#)

function has been introduced to help users see at a glance what is happening each month including important deadlines for education programme applications.

The medicinesNI website for other healthcare professionals provides access to eLearning and webinar recordings, and to the workshop/webinar booking function.

2.4 Consultation responses

NICPLD provided formal responses to the following consultations:

- GPhC consultation on the quality assurance of pharmacy education and training April 2024
- PSNI consultation on EDI Strategy February 2025
- PSNI consultation on Amendments to General Regulations: Initial Education and Training Reforms March 2025

2.5 National and regional collaboration

NICPLD staff are active members of the groups, committees, boards and panels listed below during the Commission.

- Advanced Practice Pharmacist Task and Finish Group – regional
- Conference of Pharmacy Education Deans CoPED – national
- GPhC Accreditation and Recognition panel member (MPharm, FTY, IP programmes) – national
- GPhC Advisory Group on IET – national
- GPhC Advisory Group on post assurance of practice – national
- GPhC Board of Assessors – national
- HSC Staff Digital Capacity and Capability group – regional
- Living Well sub-group – regional
- Northern Ireland Committee for Pharmacy Education and Training (NICPET) - regional
- Pharmacy Research Advisory Group – national
- Pharmacy Research Advisory Group subgroup workforce – national
- Pharmacy Schools Council Entrustable Professional Activities working group – national
- Pharmacy Technician Education Subgroup – regional
- Pharmacy Technician Regulation & Development (PTRD) project – regional

- Pharmacy Workforce Review Steering Group – regional
- Rapid Review group for experiential learning – regional
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Post Registration Curriculum Review Steering Group – national
- RPS Advanced Pharmacist Assessment Panel (APAP) – national
- RPS Advanced Pharmacist Competency Committee (APCC) panels - national
- RPS Consultant Pharmacist Post Approval panels – national
- RPS Designated prescribing practitioner competency framework Task and Finish group – national (joined Feb 25, only meeting now)
- RPS Foundation Pharmacist Assessment Panel (FPAP) – national
- RPS supporting advanced pharmacist practice through collaboration between the RPS and HEIs: Task and finish group – national
- Short Life Working Group for IET reform – regional
- Task and Finish group for FTY selection – regional
- UK Pharmacy Professional Leadership Advisory Board - Pharmacy Stakeholder Forum – national

2.6 Presentation of work

NICPLD staff presented work at the events listed below:

- Royal Pharmaceutical Society Conference, London November 2024. Trainee pharmacists evaluation of the formal learning elements within the Foundation Training Year. Poster presentation
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society Conference, London November 2024. Experiential Learning as a pathway to success for student pharmacists in Northern Ireland
- Monash Pharmacy Education Conference, Prato July 2024 Experiential Learning as a pathway to success for student pharmacists in Northern Ireland. Oral presentation
- Pharmacy Education Conference, Manchester June 2024. Keynote speech ‘Navigating the Future: Assessing Trainee Pharmacists and Developing Designated Prescribing Practitioners
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society Advanced Pharmacist Summit, London September 2024. Advanced Practice in NI. Oral presentation
- FIP World Congress, Cape Town September 2024. Implementing a flexible development pathway to upskill the pharmacy workforce in Northern Ireland. Poster presentation.

3.0 Workforce development programmes

3.1 Experiential learning (EL)

NICPLD are responsible for the development and quality management of the EL programme working in partnership with Queen's University, Ulster University and the NI Clinical Education Pharmacist (CEP) Team. The regional administrative team and the digital infrastructure for EL is hosted at NICPLD for all placements. The senior pharmacist leads for community pharmacy EL and general practice pharmacy EL are based at NICPLD while the CEP Team who support placements in hospital pharmacy are employed by the hospital Trusts.

NICPLD supported the successful MPharm reaccreditation events at both universities during the Commission period.

The EL hub, hosted on NICPLD's website, houses a wide variety of information and resources for students and for supervisors. New practice supervisors receive training before beginning to supervise and all supervisors receive an update annually.

In response to stakeholder feedback including student pharmacists, Practice Supervisors, university module leads and the CEP Team, the ePortfolio from the 23/24 EL programme was redesigned and developed as a bespoke platform specific to EL. The platform was re-named the 'EL Tracker' and acts as a secure repository for the student pharmacists' Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA) feedback templates. The EL Tracker report functionality allows NICPLD, student pharmacists, university staff and the CEP Team to monitor student progress and view evidence of EPA achievement. NICPLD undertook an audit to provide assurance that EL Tracker completion standards were met, reviewing the records of 349 students across Level 2 to 4 and confirming a high level of compliance. The results of this audit have been shared with the universities and CEP Team and are available on request.

EL Tracker user satisfaction is high. The results from 373 student responses are shown in Figure 3.

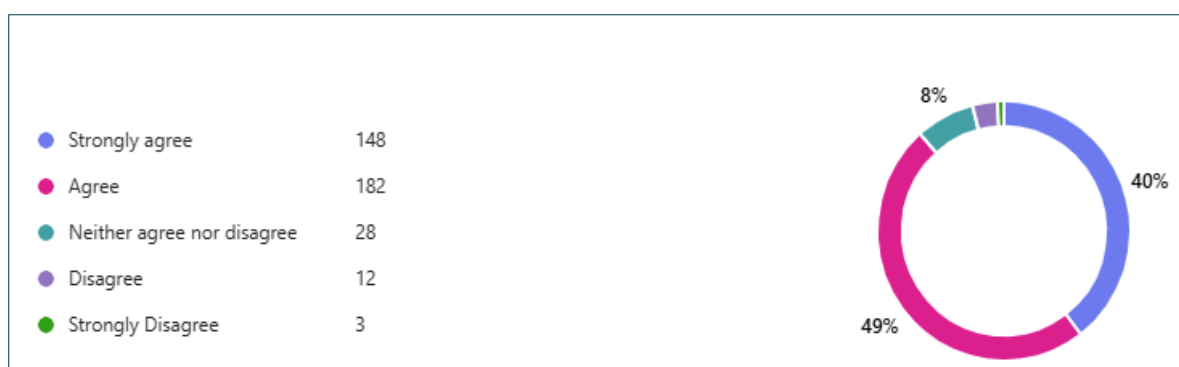


Figure 3: Student Pharmacist response to ease of use and navigation of the EL Tracker

Placements were provided for student pharmacists as shown in Table 2. A small number of students with exceptional circumstances attended supplemental weeks of EL.

Table 2: Placement timetable for the academic year 2024-25

	Community Pharmacy	Hospital Pharmacy	General Practice Pharmacy
Level 2 (261 students)	1 week	3 days	n/a
Level 3 (244 students)	1 week	2 weeks	1 week
Level 4 (191 students)	1 week	3 weeks	2 weeks
Total placement weeks	696	1322	626

Whilst on placement, student pharmacists are supervised and supported to complete EPAs. Those completed in 2024-25 are shown in Figure 4.

COMMUNITY PHARMACY YEAR 2, 3 AND 4	
Medication Counselling	
Medication related query	
Conduct a patient-specific calculation to support medication use	
Undertake a complete check of a prescription (legal, clinical and accuracy check)	
Assess presenting signs and symptoms	
GENERAL PRACTICE YEAR 3	GENERAL PRACTICE YEAR 4
Medicines reconciliation	Medicines reconciliation (week 1)
Medication related query	Medication related query (week 1)
	Medication Review (week 2)
	Risk and error management audit (week 2)
HOSPITAL Year 2	
Medication History	
Patient Specific Calculation	
Assessing presenting signs and symptoms (NEWS2)	
HOSPITAL Year 3	
Medication History	
Drug Interaction	
Medical History	
Medicines Reconciliation	
Medication Review	
Medication related query	
HOSPITAL Year 4	
Medication History	
Medicines Reconciliation	
Medication Review	
Prescribe Medicines	
Assessing presenting signs and symptoms	
Supervise and entrust learners	
Discharge planning from hospital with MDT	
Contribute to MDT discussion and decision making	

Figure 4: EPAs completed in 2024-25 academic year

In early 2025, NICPLD was requested by the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer to conduct a Rapid Review of EL due to capacity issues arising within the hospital sector. The output of the review was reported to the regional Short Life Working Group that oversees the initial education and training reform and a report was provided to the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer and the universities.

3.2 Foundation Training Year (FTY)

3.2.1. FTY 2024-25 cohort

The majority of trainee pharmacists from the 2023-2024 cohort successfully completed their FTY, with 95% passing the registration assessment on their first attempt in June 2024. The number of trainee pharmacists continues to grow with 169 trainee pharmacists joining the 2024-2025 NICPLD FTY programme. The key components of the programme are outlined in Figure 5.

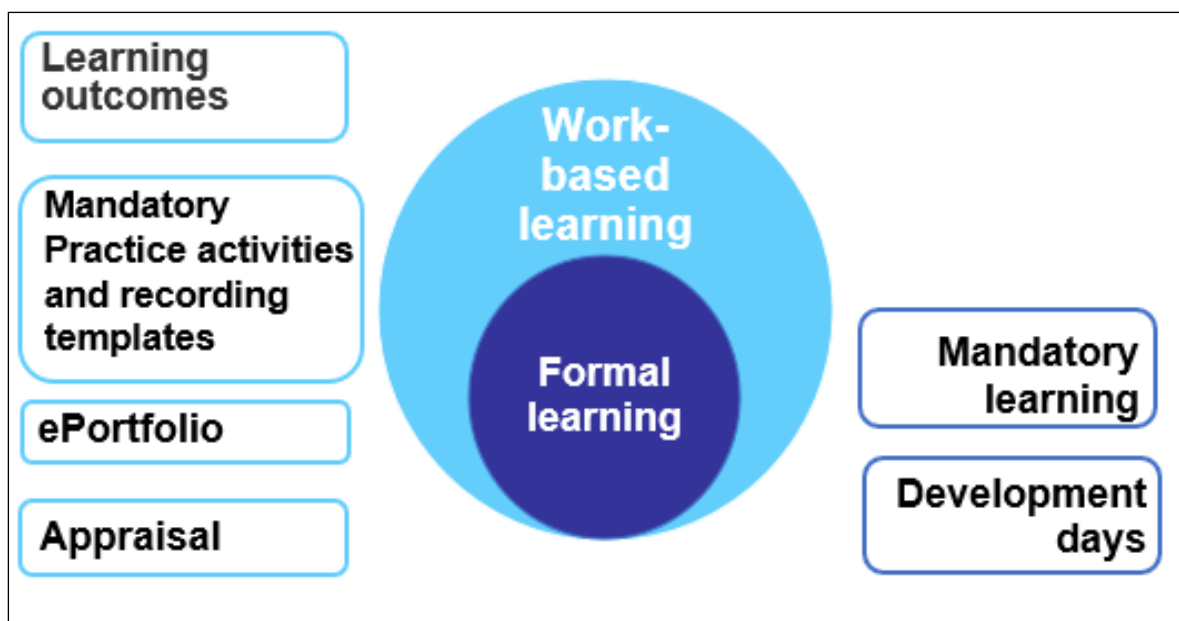


Figure 5: Key components of the NICPLD FTY programme

Trainee pharmacists attended an in-person induction workshop and received ongoing support, along with their Educational Supervisors (ES), throughout the FTY. The remaining 13 NICPLD development days were delivered virtually apart from an in-person well-being day. A new system of four support calls per trainee per year was introduced to provide more direct contact between NICPLD FTY lead pharmacists, trainees, and their ES.

All ESs undertook supervisor accreditation training and NICPLD FTY Team provided a virtual drop-in clinic each Friday in addition to the usual contact methods to support supervisors within this programme.

The FTY hub is hosted on the NICPLD website and is a repository for the trainee pharmacist portfolio, FTY Handbook, Learning contracts and a range of other guidance and support resources. The content of the hub for FTY 2024-25 is shown in Figure 6.

Foundation Training Year

FTY

Welcome to the Foundation Training Year (FTY) hub where all resources relating to the programme will be hosted. The hub is accessible only to trainee pharmacists and to their Educational Supervisors and provides easy access to all resources that will be required during the course of the programme.

The presentation below provides an introduction to the FTY and should be viewed by all trainee pharmacists before starting the programme.

Finally, whilst there are specific workshops associated with the FTY programme, trainee pharmacists may also participate in the other courses provided by NICPLD and available to pharmacists. To view these go to Education Programmes in the above menu.

27:31

Foundation Training Year Support

Introduction
Standards for Foundation Training Year
FTY handbook
Common Registration Assessment
Administrative forms
Learning contract
Policies
Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)
FTY team
Self-care
Communication
Reporting a concern
Support calls

Work-based Learning

ePortfolio
ePortfolio tracker
Learning outcomes
Mandatory practice activities
Feedback MPA
Guides and resources

Formal Learning

Figure 6: Screen shot of the FTY2024-25 hub contents

3.2.2 Accreditation of the NICPLD FTY

NICPLD acts as the pharmacy statutory education body in Northern Ireland and in accordance with the 2021 [standards](#) for the initial education and training of pharmacists, is responsible for the quality management of the FTY and must be accredited by the GPhC. The roles of relevant organisations are outlined in Figure 7.

Organisation or group	Responsibility	Achieved by	Activity
GPhC	Quality assurance	Setting and quality assuring the standards	Setting standards and quality assuring the management of education
Statutory education bodies and their partners	Quality management	Overseeing the delivery of the foundation year	Designing, managing and monitoring the foundation year
Employers, designated supervisors and dedicated prescribing partners	Quality control	Day-to-day delivery of the foundation year	Supervising, mentoring and proving feedback to trainees

Figure 7: Roles of organisations involved in FTY

NICPLD began an accelerated accreditation process in July 2024, aiming to complete steps 1, 2, and 3a by January 2025, with step 3b scheduled for spring 2025 if needed. This demanded input from across the NICPLD staff team and an intense period of collaboration and co-design with stakeholders across NI.

NICPLD successfully achieved FTY accreditation for six years without the need for a follow up step 3b. There are two conditions attached to this accreditation which are:

1. NICPLD must set out the recruitment process that will be used for community and hospital placements for the 2026/27 training year onwards which will ensure a fair and equitable process and allow applicants to demonstrate their ability and suitability to be a trainee pharmacist. The plan must describe appropriate mechanisms for assessing each trainee's performance to justify selection decisions and the allocation of training places. This must be accompanied by a detailed project plan with relevant timelines which provides assurance that the new recruitment process will be developed and implemented for 2026/27 training year. Updates on key milestones must be provided to the GPhC for assurance that work is developing as planned.
2. NICPLD must clearly set out how trainee EDI data will be collected, analysed and incorporated into programme review processes for the 2025/26 training year onwards.

This must additionally include analysis of applicants' EDI data for the 2026/27 training year onwards.

Funding was secured from the Department of Health during the Commission period to appoint a senior FTY selection and admission lead pharmacist to lead on the work required to meet these conditions on behalf of a regional Task and Finish Group that began work in October 2024.

3.3 Post-registration Foundation Programme (PRFP)

The PRFP is available to all patient-focused pharmacists in Northern Ireland and aligns with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Post-registration Foundation Pharmacist Curriculum across five domains:

- Person-centred care & collaboration
- Professional practice
- Leadership & management
- Education
- Research

The PRFP is divided into two parts:

- Part 1 (FP1): Safe and effective patient care
- Part 2 (FP2): Proficient patient care

There are two intakes into FP1 each year. In September 2024, 48 pharmacists commenced the FP1 programme and with another 23 beginning in March 2025. This is a work-based programme supported by a series of workshops and webinars and requires learners to complete a portfolio of evidence that is submitted for assessment. The learner is supported by an educational supervisor in the workplace. As well as two intakes, there are two assessment periods each year. A total of 36 pharmacists submitted for assessment in October 2024 with a first attempt pass rate of 92%. A total of 39 pharmacists submitted in March 2025 with a first attempt pass rate of 95%. The

portfolio, programme handbook and associated materials are housed on the post registration foundation programme hub on the NICPLD website. Figure 8 shows the programme structure for those who began the programme in September 2024.

FP1 workshop / webinar	Format	
FP1 Induction	Face to face workshop	When: 18 th September 2024 10am-12pm Where: Stranmillis College Belfast Pre-requisites: 1) Read through all materials emailed
Medicines reconciliation & review	Face to face workshop	When: 18 th September 2024 1pm-4pm Where: Stranmillis College Belfast Pre-requisites: 1) Read through the medicines reconciliation and review pre-workshop presentation and accompanying notes. 2) Prepare case studies.
Clinical Lab Tests	Webinar	When: 17 th October 2024 10am-12pm Pre-requisites: 1) Complete 2 NICPLD eLearning courses: • Electrolytes, liver and kidney function tests • Iron studies & anaemia 2) Prepare case studies 3) Download the Zoom app
Audit	Webinar	When: 6 th November 2024 10am-12pm Pre-requisites: 1) Read through all pre-webinar materials emailed 2) Prepare case study
Effective Professional Practice Part 1 (part 2 will be delivered in FP2)	Webinar	When: 4 th December 2024 10am-12pm Pre-requisites: 1) Read through all pre-webinar materials emailed
FP1 assessment preparation	Webinar	When: 12 th December 2024 10am-12pm Pre-requisites: 1) Read through all pre-webinar materials emailed
Q&A	Webinar	When: 7 th February 2025 10am-10.30am
Portfolio submission		19 th March 2025 12pm

Figure 8: Typical structure of the FP1 programme

There are two intakes and two assessment periods for FP2. In September 2024, 32 pharmacists commenced the FP2 programme and with another 31 beginning in January 2025. This is also a work-based programme supported by a series of workshops and webinars and requires learners complete a portfolio of evidence that is submitted for assessment. As well as two intakes, there are two assessment periods each year. A total of 21 pharmacists submitted for assessment in January 2025 with a 100% pass rate. The learner is supported by an educational supervisor in the workplace. Again, the portfolio, programme handbook and associated materials are housed on the post registration foundation programme hub on the NICPLD website with a typical programme structure shown in Figure 9.

FP2 Workshop/Webinar	Cohort	Format	Dates, Location (if applicable) and Pre-Requisites
FP2 Induction	4	Face to face workshop	When: 29 th January 2025 10am-12pm Where: Stranmillis College Belfast Pre-requisites: 1) Read through all materials emailed
Quality Improvement	3&4	Face to Face workshop	When: 29 th January 2025 1pm-4pm Where: Stranmillis College Belfast Pre-requisites: 1) Read through all pre-webinar materials emailed 2) Prepare Case Studies
Critical Evaluation Skills	3&4	Webinar	When: 12 th February 2025 10am-12pm Pre-requisites 1) Read through all pre-webinar materials emailed
Journal Club	3&4	Webinar	When: 13 th March 2025 10am- 12pm Pre-requisites 1) Read through all pre-webinar materials emailed
Assessment Preparation	3	Webinar	When: 27 th March 2025 10am- 12pm Pre-requisites 1) Read through all pre-webinar materials emailed 2) Prepare any questions regarding portfolio submission
Effective Professional Practice Part 2	3&4	Webinar	When: 16 th April 2025 10am- 12pm Pre-requisites 1) Read through all pre-webinar materials emailed
Portfolio Submission	3		14 th May 2025

Figure 9: Typical structure of the FP2 programme

Due to the implementation of the 2021 standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists the PRFP is under revision. The RPS is leading a UK-wide review of the current PRPF curriculum and expect to launch a new enhanced curriculum in 2026. NICPLD are represented on the RPS Post-registration Curriculum Steering group and the Task and Finish group.

FP1 will become an optional 'Fundamentals of Professional Practice' self-development programme for pharmacists who are new to practice, new to a sector of practice, or returning to practice. A new Enhanced Post-registration programme will be launched by NICPLD in January 2027.

3.4 Advanced Practice Development

NICPLD has continued to run the MSc in Advanced Pharmacy Practice in collaboration with Queen's University, Belfast and Ulster University. Launched in September 2023, it aligns with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Core Advanced Pharmacist Curriculum and is open to all patient-focussed pharmacists working in Northern Ireland who have completed the NICPLD Post-registration Foundation Programme (or equivalent) and a GPhC-accredited IP course. NICPLD runs the Advanced Practice Development (APD) module delivering the clinical practice, leadership and management and education pillars totalling 20 credits. The other modules covering the research component are delivered by the universities.

In September 2023, 29 students began the new programme with 28 successfully completing year 1 and progressing in September 2024 to year 2 of the programme. Three additional pharmacists successfully completed the previous APD programme. In September 2024, 48 students entered year 1.

3.5 Independent Prescribing (IP)

The PG Certificate Independent Prescribing (PMYPC-IN) is a 60-credit programme leading to a Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing as well as a Post Graduate Certificate. A new external examiner was appointed in 2025.

In total 130 students began in August 2023 with 127 completing the course in 2024. A total of 117 students began in August 2024.

In March 2024, NICPLD developed and launched a Department of Health-funded initiative to support community pharmacists in securing a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP). As part of the project, a payment of £1,500 is available to each DPP. This initiative has successfully enabled 41 community pharmacists to be accepted onto the next cohort of the Independent Prescribing (IP) programme, commencing in August 2025

The IP programme will undergo reaccreditation by the pharmacy regulators in 2026.

4.0 Continuing professional development – open access

4.1 Open learning

A wide range of eLearning material was available to pharmacists during 2024-2025 and was promoted via NICPLD eNews and a structured social media campaign linked with national health promotion events where possible. The full range of eLearning and recorded webinars is available on the NICPLD website.

New courses published are shown in Table 3. Courses are updated as required and the date updated is shown clearly on the NICPLD website.

Table 3: Courses published 2024 and 2025 (to June 2025)

New eLearning courses introduced in 2024 and 2025
Developing others – Role of the Designated Prescribing Practitioner during FTY
Prescribing skills – Trainee Pharmacists
Antimicrobials – Antimicrobial Stewardship
Antimicrobials – Sepsis
Cardiovascular disease – Anticoagulation
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Introduction to equality, diversity and inclusion

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Cultural competence + avoiding microaggressions
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Neurodivergence awareness
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – LGBTQIA+ and gender identity awareness
Laboratory tests – Iron Studies and anaemia
Mental Health – Clozapine
Minor ailments – Skin
High-risk medicines - Opioids
High-risk medicines – Insulin
Pain – Understanding pain
Pain – Pain management and assessment
Pain – Analgesics
Pain – Specific groups
Pharmacy practice – Answering medicines-related questions in practice
Pharmacy practice – NIECR
Pharmacy practice – Pre and in-process accuracy checking - induction
Pharmacy services – Pharmacy First pilot service for the treatment of shingles
Public health – Emergency contraception
Public health – Sexual health

Between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, a total of 11,181 eLearning courses were completed by pharmacists and pharmacy technicians equating to 40,915 hours of learning. During the Commission period, 2,578 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians engaged with NICPLD courses (live and open learning).

Course evaluations are reviewed on a weekly basis and the post-course evaluations continue to demonstrate high quality. A summary of the eLearning course evaluations for the Commission period is shown in Table 4.

A summary of post-course evaluations shows that all the audit standards were met, except for the overall satisfaction. Reasons for this are unclear but the score is consistent with the previous Commission periods.

Table 4: eLearning course evaluations (11,037 evaluations)

Element	Criteria	Standard (%)	Actual (%)
Objectives	Both mostly or completely	95	97
Relevance	Both mostly or completely	85	95
Quality of content	Very good or good	90	95
Quality of presentation	Very good or good	90	93
Intellectual Stimulus	Both straight forward/challenging	95	96
Overall satisfaction	7 or more (Likert scale 0-9)	90	85

4.2 Live programme

During the Commission period, a learning needs analysis survey was sent to all pharmacy professionals registered with NICPLD.

In total, 310 responses were received to the survey (257 pharmacists, 50 pharmacy technicians and 3 respondents indicated other). An overview of the sector(s) respondents work in is shown in Figure 10.

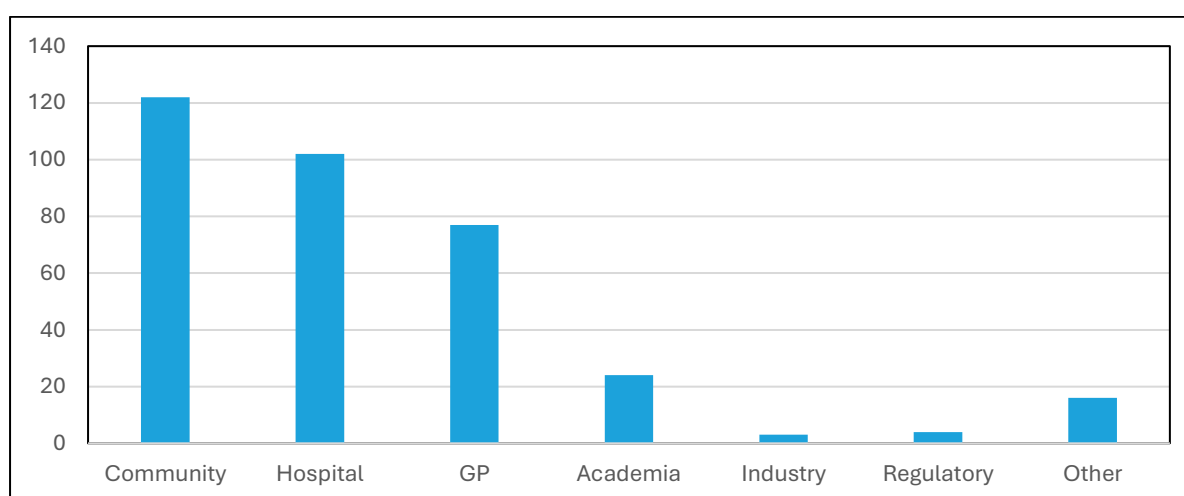


Figure 10: Numbers of respondents working in each sector

Respondents were asked to identify which areas are most important for NICPLD to include in the live education programme for 2025/26 and the results are shown in Figure 11. The most important therapeutic areas to include are shown in Figure 12.

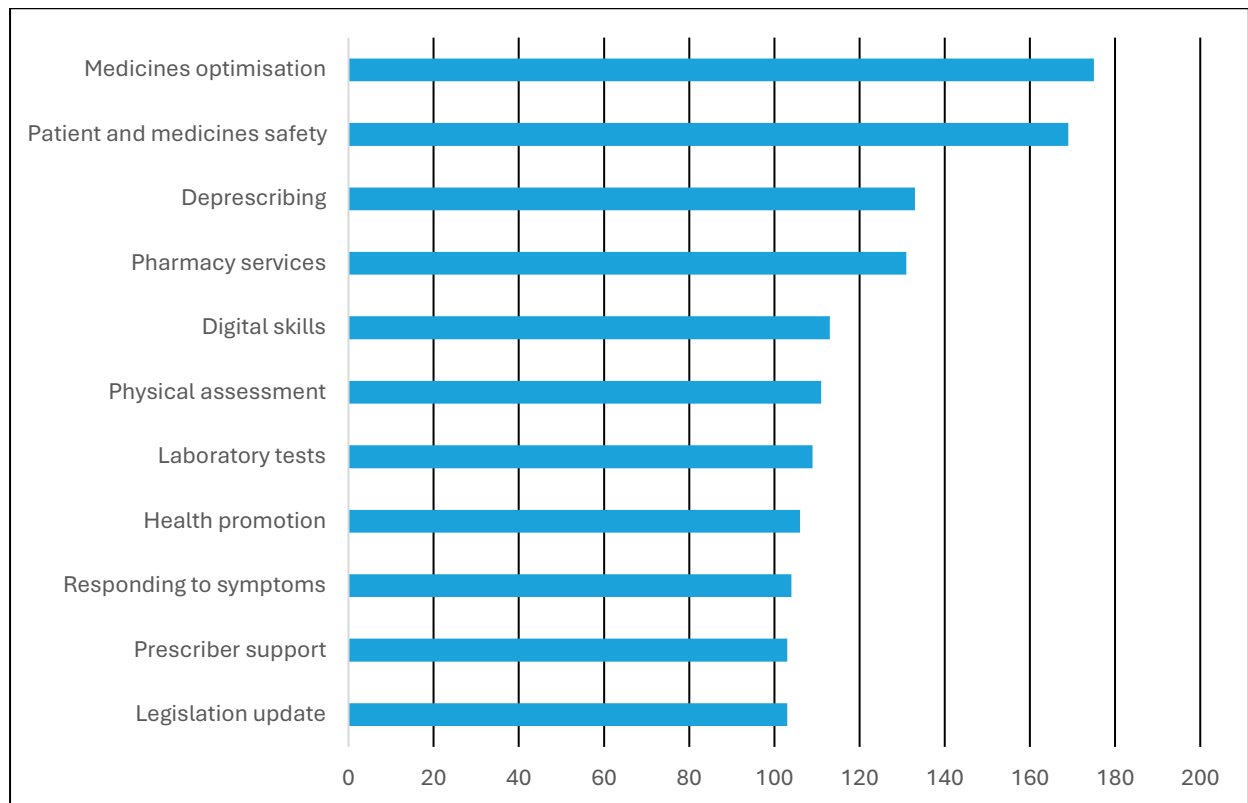


Figure 11: The top 10 (out of 22 options) topics most important to include in the live education programme 2025/26

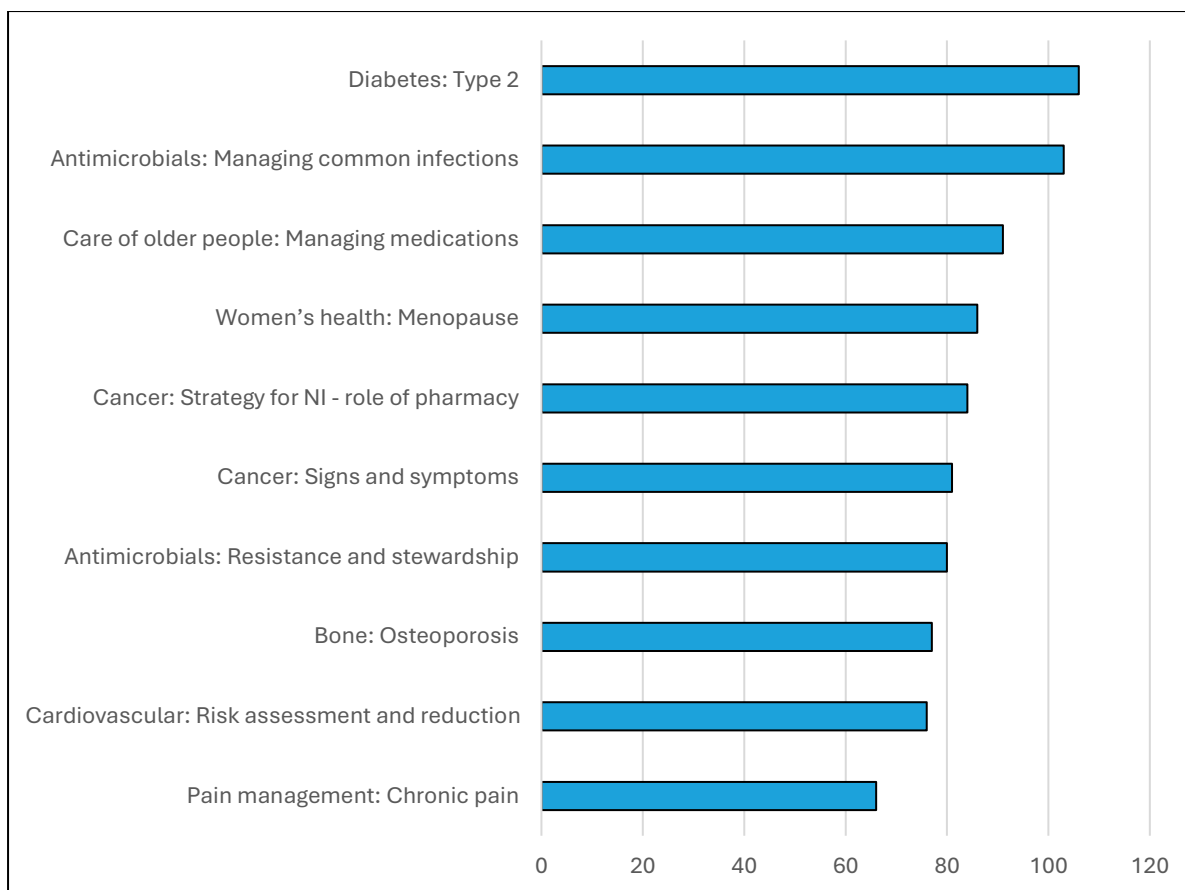


Figure 12: The top 10 (out of 69 therapeutic options) topics most important to include in the live education programme 2025/26

Respondents were asked which learning formats they preferred to use to support their continuing professional development and the results are shown in Figure 13. This showed that eLearning, watching recorded webinars/lecture and attending webinars are the three most popular formats.

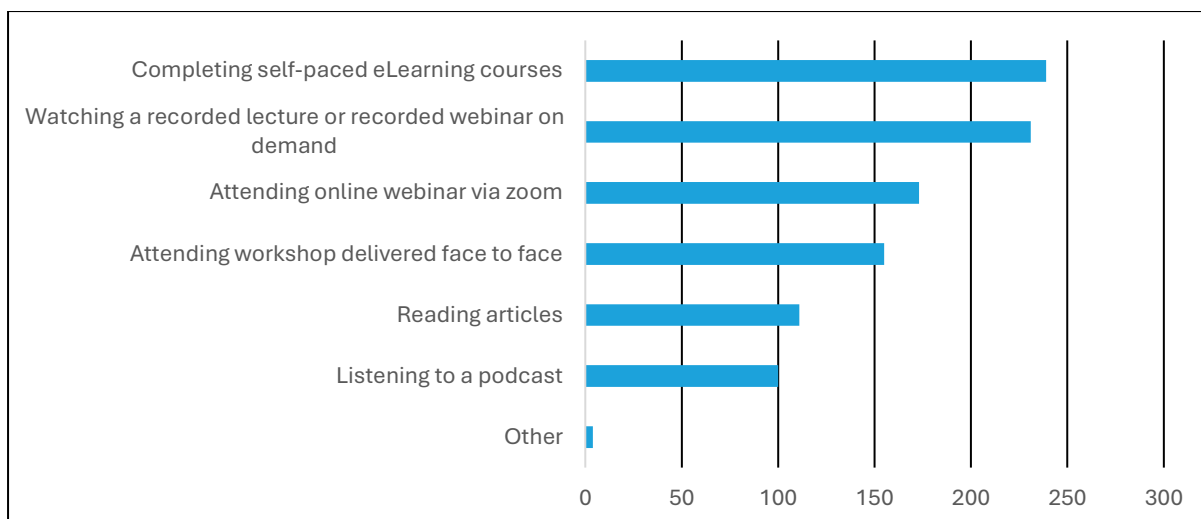


Figure 13: Preferred learning formats

Respondents were asked if there are any barriers to their participation in the NICPLD live programme and responses are shown in Figure 14. The most prevalent barriers are work and time commitments.

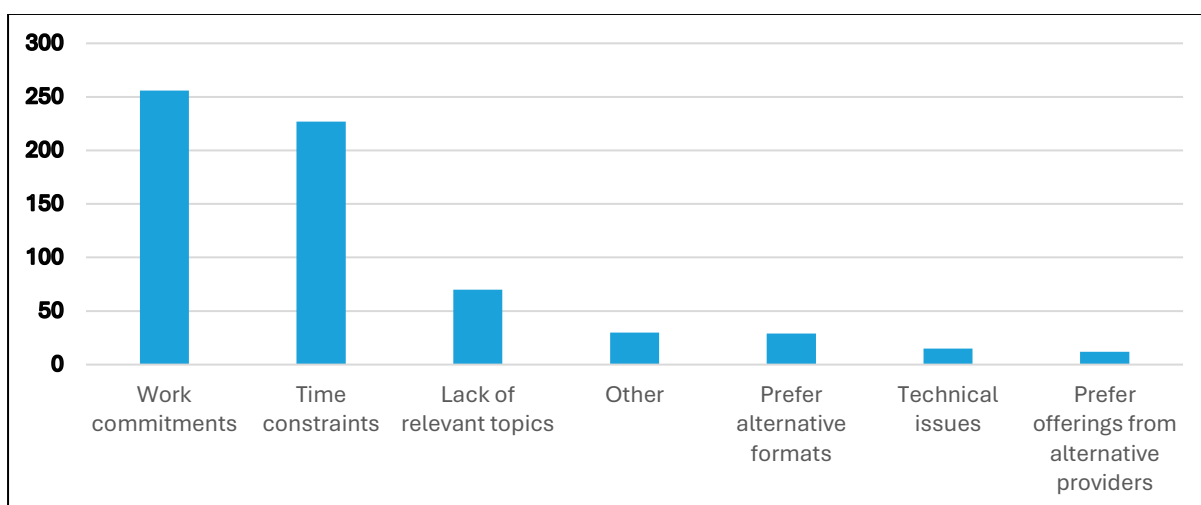


Figure 14: Barriers to participation in the NICPLD live programme

The live programme from January 2025 was cognisant of the results of this learning needs analysis survey and included the following webinars:

- Deprescribing medicines for people at risk of falls
- Safe use of GLP 1 and dual GLP/GIP agonists
- What pharmacists need to know about digital diagnostics

Post-course evaluations were undertaken for all the direct learning workshops and webinars with the results shown in Table 5. A summary of responses for direct learning show that all standards were achieved with the exception of overall satisfaction and intellectual stimulus. Reasons for this are unclear but the scores are consistent with the previous Commission periods.

Table 5: Webinar and workshop evaluations (859 evaluations)

Element	Criteria	Standard (%)	Actual (%)
Objectives	Both mostly or completely	95	95
Relevance	Both mostly or completely	85	91
Quality of content	Very good or good	90	93
Quality of presentation	Very good or good	90	94
Intellectual Stimulus	Both straight forward/challenging	95	90
Overall satisfaction	7 or more (Likert scale 0-9)	90	83

5.0 Specific funding arrangements

5.1 CPD Funding

In previous Commissions, £15,000 was allocated to support pharmacists wishing to access training not provided via NICPLD. This was not provided in the 2024-25 Commission. A review of the CPD funding process was undertaken by NICPLD and presented to the Northern Ireland Committee for Pharmacy Education and Training with a recommendation to merge all specific funding arrangements into a single workstream in the future with strengthened governance and reporting

5.2 MSc in Pharmaceutical Technology and Quality Assurance (PTQA)

Each year, two additional students are provided with funding for this three-year course offered by the University of Manchester. In total £30,000 was paid from the Commission in 2024-2025.

5.3 General Practice Pharmacists

Funding of 100K was provided for the training of general practice pharmacists.

6.0 Pharmacy Technician provision

NICPLD offered post-qualification training for pharmacy technicians in the form of Accredited Pharmacy Checking Technician (ACPT), Pre and In-process checking programme (PIP) and Medicines Management Accredited Programmes (MMAP). Additionally, pharmacy technicians could access workshops/webinars and eLearning, which includes joint training with pharmacists. In total, 103 pharmacy technicians attendances were recorded during the Commission period.

7.0 Quality Assurance Systems

NICPLD underwent a 2-day external audit in February 2024 to achieve accreditation to the ISO 9001:2015 quality assurance standard.

NICPLD and DoH had quarterly assurance and risk meetings during this Commission.

8.0 Financial governance

8.1 Expenditure

	Income 2024-2025
DoH NICPLD Commission	£2,522,796.00 initial plus additional £43,490.70 slippage agreed = £2,566,286.70

2024/25 FY	Core	GP Pharmacists	Experiential Learning	
QUB Project Codes	S4008PMY / S4021PMY	S4038PMY	S4044PMY	
Allocation	£1,702,026.00	£100,000.00	£720,770.00	
Spend	£1,718,402.99	£77,275.64	£768,893.25	£2,564,571.88