

Post-Registration Foundation Pharmacist Community Pharmacy Stakeholder Event

Summary Report



February 2022

Background

The virtual event arranged by Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) provided an opportunity for all current trainee pharmacists and community pharmacy employers to hear and understand in more depth the content and delivery implementation plan of the new Post-registration foundation pharmacist programme in Wales, from Cardiff University (CU).

HEIW provided information regarding the current position of the programme and the next steps including expressions of interest (EOI) requirement and application process. The commissioned programme provider, Cardiff University (CU), presented an overview of the programme content, roles and responsibilities and a proposed timetable for delivery.

A Q&A discussion session offered an opportunity to gain an understanding of the needs of stakeholders to enable them to engage in this programme for newly registered pharmacists from September 2022.

Presentations provided during this event can be viewed below;

HEIW programme update, expression of interest process and next steps:



HEIW Postreg
foundation Commu

Cardiff University programme overview (content, implementation plan and roles & responsibilities):



CU presentation
feb 2022 - Communi

The event recording can be accessed via the link below:

[Post-registration Foundation Pharmacist programme for Community Pharmacy \(panopto.eu\)](https://panopto.eu)

Q&A Discussion Session

Informative discussions were held amongst the delegates that attended this event. Key questions (Q) and responses (R) are listed below:

Q. When in the programme should completion of the Independent Prescribing (IP) element take place, as earlier than year 2 may appeal more to employers to support delivery of the new community pharmacy contract in Wales?

R. *The majority of employers agreed with the CU approach that the IP element for completion should currently sit within year 2 of the programme and this is based on their educational evidence and experience of running prescribing modules. The practise time and content of the programme offered during year 1 will support with the embedding of knowledge and skills, which will be beneficial for newly registered pharmacists then going on to undertake the prescribing module. As the GPhC initial education and training standards for pharmacists (IETP) are implemented across the transition period, this could be reviewed.*

Q. The current programme completion will provide 80 level 7 HEI credits. Additional 40 credits can be used to build upon to a diploma/MSc. Can you do the extra 40 credits within the two years or is it to be completed after the programme has finished?

R. *The 40 credits can be completed during or following the programme completion. This should be a decision made between the pharmacist and employer organisation and should not take preference over completion of the programme.*

Q. The cohort of undergraduate students who started in Sept 2021 will come out with an IP qualification in 2026 without needing to complete a post registration programme. Will this Post-registration foundation programme still be required?

R. *HEIW still envisage that new registrants in 2026 will require support as a novice IP to embed their knowledge and skills. The support required during the early post-registration phase may take a different stance, such as offering a mentoring programme.*

Q. Do employers prefer full or half days for the learners to be able to attend the mandatory study days?

R. *Of those that responded, full days were preferred to facilitate the ease of backfill within community pharmacy. CU requested that employer organisations fed back further information regarding this aspect and the timetable would be released in the next couple of weeks. Please see next steps below for further details.*

Q. What month would be best to start the programme?

R. Of those that responded, September seemed the most appropriate month to start the induction process and October for the main programme delivery. CU requested that employer organisations fed back further information regarding this aspect and the timetable would be released in the next couple of weeks. Please see next steps below for further details.

For 2023 intake, the proposed start dates and split cohort over September and February, it was stated that February can be tight in community pharmacy due to a lot of deadlines during March/April time.

Q. On what basis are the places being allocated? Are people who already have their employment sorted etc. being favoured?

R. Places will be allocated according to number of employer expression of interest (EOI) requests. If oversubscribed, places will be allocated pro rata within each health board across Wales to provide as even a distribution as possible. Trainee pharmacists that have not secured employment will need to link with employer organisations to secure their new role and discuss and agree the opportunity to enrol on this programme.

Q. If already qualified as a pharmacist in 2021, what would be the advantages for an employer putting a learner through this programme now and qualifying as Independent Prescriber (IP) in August 2024 vs waiting 1 year and enrolling onto a 6-month IP programme?

R. This programme would provide a learner with structured support and opportunities to embed and develop their knowledge and skills, so once enrolled they would find the IP programme a bit more manageable and would have more confidence when they started.

If under subscribed through the EOI, HEIW will review extending the offering for this programme to pharmacists who registered in 2021, who are not currently on a formal training programme and who have an employer willing to support them through this programme.

Q. Who is eligible to put in an EOI to HEIW?

R. All current trainee pharmacists i.e those registering in August 2022, whether they have secured a new pharmacist contract or not.

All employer organisations who are wishing to support a newly registered pharmacist(s) to complete this programme.

Q. If oversubscribed through the EOI, employers could have a number of disappointed pharmacists and be in a situation of having some on the programme and some off or on a different programme?

R. *This could be the case and HEIW will review available funding to ascertain whether appropriate post-graduate educational modules (fee only support) could be provided to this group of learners so they can progress if they wish with identified further knowledge and skills development e.g. a minor ailments course to support readiness for IP completion at a later date.*

Q. Can clarification be provided on the Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) requirements?

R. *The Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) will need to be qualified 3 years and meet the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) requirements and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) DPP competency framework. Please follow the links for further information.*

GPhC: [Standards for the education and training of pharmacist independent prescribers \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/standards-for-the-education-and-training-of-pharmacist-independent-prescribers)

RPS: [DPP competency framework | RPS \(rpharms.com\)](https://www.rpharms.com/dpp-competency-framework)

Q. Does the practice supervisor need to be a pharmacist?

R. *Yes, the practice supervisor provided by the employer organisation must be a pharmacist.*

Q. As an employer organisation can I employ a pharmacist who is currently completing their foundation training in a different UK country?

R. *Yes, pharmacists who have completed their foundation training outside of Wales will be able to enrol onto the HEIW Post-registration foundation pharmacist programme, if employed as a newly registered pharmacist in Wales.*

Q. As a trainee pharmacist, would the programme be easy to manage alongside working full time?

R. *HEIW will be providing funding to enable pharmacists to have protective development time equivalent to one day per week for a maximum of two years, to support those who are working full time and to enable vocational experiences to be undertaken. This time will be pro-rated for pharmacists who are working part time. The programme will involve a significant amount of work and it is anticipated that pharmacists will need to complete some of this in their own time as well as during the protective development time.*

Q. What if the practice supervisor is also a designated supervisor for a current foundation trainee pharmacist, are they still able to support with this post-registration programme?

R. The practice supervisor will be able to undertake other supervisor role(s) if this has been agreed with their employer organisation and they have the capacity to. The practice supervisor will undergo training with Cardiff University and will need to meet their criteria requirements at the start of the programme. The employer organisation will receive funding to support supervision time equivalent to one day per month for a maximum of 2 years.

Q. If a pharmacist has been allocated a place on the new programme by a future employer organisation, what is the reason for them completing an application to Cardiff University following this?

R. Application to Cardiff University is a requirement for the pharmacist to be enrolled onto the post-graduate CPD modules as part of the programme delivery. This will enable the pharmacist to gain access to the required CU resources to support with completion of the modules (e.g. library services). The pharmacist will have a meeting with their education supervisor and the programme director at month 9 of the programme to assess suitability to enrol onto the prescribing module as per the GPhC accreditation requirements. The pharmacist must have a suitable DPP in place before enrolling onto the prescribing module in year 2.

Next Steps

1. All employers and trainee pharmacists 21/22 to complete the EOI form by 4/3/22

Expression of interest form: <https://forms.office.com/r/3XhvPUk3K9>

2. Drop-in sessions available for all stakeholders as below:

Wednesday 16th February 2022 12.30-1.30pm

Thursday 17th February 2022 7.30-8.30pm

Wednesday 2nd March 2022 12.30-1.30pm

Thursday 3rd March 2022 7.30-8.30pm

HEIW and Cardiff University (the programme provider) representatives will be attending these sessions.

No registration is required, please use the link below to access these sessions:

<https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/a67d488eda6d48dbb3c30fb2041cf9ef>

NB: Suggested browsers to use are Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge as the Blackboard Collaborate platform performs better with these.

3. Further information request

Employer organisations to feedback to CU their preferred start date for the 2022 cohort if DO NOT agree with a mid-September 22 induction to the programme (meet their HEI education supervisor, set up ePortfolio etc.) and programme delivery to commence in early October 2022.

Please provide further details on how the training days plan would best suit your employer organisation needs (i.e. full days/half days, same day each week).

Please email: hodsonKL@cardff.ac.uk

These requests need to be made by the end of February 2022.

4. Further resources

Please access the HEIW Post-registration foundation pharmacist programme dedicated website page for further resources and FAQs; [HEIW Post-registration foundation pharmacist training programme \(For newly registered pharmacists\) - HEIW \(nhs.wales\)](#)

Please send any further comments or questions to HEIW.IETP@Wales.nhs.uk

