

## Quality Assurance of Pre-registration Tutors

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland must provide quality assurance in all aspects of the Pre-registration training programme including the standard of pre-registration tutors.

In order to become a pre-registration tutor, a pharmacist must:

- Have been registered for at least three years
- Have worked for at least three years in the sector of pharmacy they wish to tutor in
- Have attended a Tutor Training Course
- Work at least 30 hours per week over at least four days per week unless a shared tutoring arrangement has been approved by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland
- Not be subject to current fitness to practise proceedings
- Be compliant with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's system for continuing professional development

One method of assessing the standard of pre-registration tutors is to ask trainees. At the end of pre-registration training, pre-registration trainees are asked to complete a Tutor Performance Survey. The trainees are asked to grade their tutor on a scale of one (less effective tutor) to five (highly skilled tutor) against seventeen attributes associated with tutoring. A score of three or above is considered to demonstrate the necessary competence for tutoring.

### Results

A questionnaire return is expected for all tutors; therefore trainees who have had more than one tutor during their training should complete more than one questionnaire. In the 2010-11 training year there were a total of 205 trainees and potentially 274 return questionnaires. A total of 241 (88%) questionnaires were returned.

The scores achieved across all 17 tutoring skills were calculated for each tutor. The scores obtained are shown below.

Year	Score attained				
	4-5	3-4	2-3	1-2	0-1
2010-11	223	16	1	1	0

Each tutor for whom feedback is received is provided with an individualised performance report detailing their scores against each attribute compared with those of other tutors in that training year. Those tutors falling below standard are provided with a Tutor Development Plan and offered the opportunity to seek advice from the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland. Trends in performance are monitored.

### Conclusion

The standard of tutoring in Northern Ireland is high. The system of quality assuring tutors continues to develop.