

## **Pre-registration training during the COVID-19 pandemic**

**27 March 2020**

We recognise that this is an extremely challenging and uncertain time for all involved in pre-registration training and that there will be questions and concerns about training. We will communicate any further decisions regarding pre-registration training as soon as possible.

### **Pre-registration training requirements (Appraisals and portfolio)**

In relation to appraisals and portfolio aspects of training, and in line with the recent joint regulatory statement, we are encouraging tutors to use professional judgement to assess risks in the delivery of safe care, in the first instance, to prioritise patient care (informed by relevant guidance in the values and principles set out in the professional Standards) and similarly to make those professional judgements in relation to aspects of pre-registration training and assessment. We understand that, at certain times, many trainees will be required to work apart from their tutors and be unable to follow training plans. It is important that trainees are properly supported and supervised and working with pharmacists support and guidance. We know many will be approaching their next appraisal and will be receiving automatic prompts via the online portfolio, please be assured that we will take a pragmatic view on submission and ask that tutors and trainees do likewise, completing what can be completed in the circumstances.

During this difficult period, it will be essential that systems are in place so that trainee wellbeing is supported and that trainees are not operating outside their current competency.

We would assure tutors and trainees that we are working as quickly as we can to resolve these matters and aim to produce more detailed guidance as soon as we can

## **What if I have to self-isolate or take sick leave during the coronavirus pandemic and I go over the 42 day absence limit?**

You must follow all government advice in relation to self-isolation. Do not go into your training site if you or someone you live with has symptoms of coronavirus for the period of isolation set out by the government.

For trainees: Do not worry if you need to take some days over the normal 42 days of permitted leave during your training because of the need to self-isolate. We will take a flexible and proportionate approach in these circumstances.

We ask that you contact us via email at [pre-registration@psni.org.uk](mailto:pre-registration@psni.org.uk) if you do exceed the total 42 day training absence limit so we can provide advice and support. You do not need to contact us until you go over the 42 day limit.

If you are self-isolating but are otherwise well, we recommend that you use the time to progress what remaining aspects of training you have and avail of on-line resources such as those provided by NICPLD.

We can assure you that we are working through these issues as quickly as we can, with a view to facilitating the completion of the preregistration programme leading to registration, whilst acknowledging the exceptional and extremely difficult circumstances you are all working under.