

## **Questions and Answers from the 12 November 2020 Stakeholder Event - A roadmap for the future of pharmacy – reforming education and training**

### **How should employers, tutors and students plan for 2022/23?**

It is recognised that recruitment for the foundation training year in 2022/23 has already begun and employers should proceed with this as normal. The foundation training year will remain a practice-based training programme, but with a portfolio that reflects the new Initial Education and Training (IET) standards, together with taught elements to support acquisition of clinical and prescribing specific skills. Supervised learning in practice will be required to support development of prescribing specific skills of those in training.

### **What support will be available for tutors to prepare for the foundation training year?**

Plans are being developed to equip tutors for their evolving roles in delivery of the foundation training year and further details will follow.

### **What will be the structure of the proposed foundation training year?**

The foundation training year will remain a practice-based training programme, but with a portfolio that reflects the new IET standards, together with an enhanced taught programme to support acquisition of clinical and prescribing specific skills. Full implementation will take several years, given that these reforms are proceeding in tandem with reforms to the undergraduate programme and there is an interdependency between the two. As independent prescribing is introduced to the foundation training year there will be a requirement to provide some training in a prescribing practice. The current supervised learning in practice requirement for prescribing is 12 days (90 hours), although this may change by the time of full implementation.

### **How will demand for IP mentors be resolved to meet foundation training year requirements?**

While Designated Medical Practitioners have provided mentoring to trainee pharmacist prescribers, there is now provision for other professions to also undertake this role. Thus, the term Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) is used to describe a prescribing mentor from any profession. In Northern Ireland we are well placed to support the training of IPs as there are almost 700 pharmacist prescribers and this number will have increased to between 800 and 900 by the time independent prescribing is introduced into the foundation training year. These numbers will be in addition to any medical practitioners who may undertake the role.

### **Considering the enhanced level of practice new registrants will have upon entering the register, is a form of provisional registration being considered?**

For the foundation training year to achieve its aims, including qualifying as an independent prescriber, the foundation trainee pharmacist needs autonomous patient care responsibilities and opportunities to demonstrate their clinical competence during this year. Thus, the foundation training year will be more than simply the pre-registration year rebranded. Current legislation does not provide for provisional registration and advice will be sought around the type and nature of any registration necessary to achieve these goals. Regardless of the eventual term used to describe the status of foundation trainee pharmacists, their level of clinical responsibility will need to change to achieve the desired outcomes of the IET reforms. Consideration will also be given to governance and support requirements around new and recently qualified pharmacists.

### **Will the joint registration assessment change?**

While it is likely that a common registration exam will remain part of the assessment strategy for the foundation training year, we do not yet know if, or how, this will change from 2022 onwards. We anticipate that more information will be available in early 2021.

### **What will be the implication for the current workforce; will opportunities be made available to train as IPs and develop specialisms/consultant pharmacy roles?**

The Pharmacy Workforce Review supports professional development opportunities for all pharmacists. The implementation of the [Pharmacy Workforce Review](#) will consider the development of the consultant pharmacist role.

### **What consideration has been given to ongoing funding requirements?**

It is recognised that in order for the proposed reforms to fully deliver their intended objectives, implementation plans will need to be adequately resourced. An implementation group is taking forward the reforms, commencing with the foundation training year, and work is underway to secure the necessary resources required to ensure the reforms will be implemented in full.

### **How does this plan map against the international direction of travel of Pharmacy as a profession?**

The changes being proposed are consistent with the [international](#) clinical direction of pharmacy and in which the UK is playing a leading role. We will continue to take cognisance of the international context, which has also been reflected in the [Pharmacy Workforce Review](#).

### **How will the reforms impact upon the current progression routes within hospital pharmacy?**

All pharmacists must work within their level of competency and in line with the contractual agreements with their employer.