

Pharmacy services, across all sectors, have developed significantly over recent years to meet increasingly complex health and social care needs as an integral part of the multidisciplinary team. This is to meet the ambitions of – [“Achieving Excellence in Pharmaceutical Care”](#) (2017).

The GPhC have launched new [Standards for the Initial Education and Training \(IET\) of Pharmacists](#) which match the ambitions of Scotland by integrating independent prescribing into the initial 5 years.

The new IET standards will continue the transformation of the education and training of pharmacists, enabling them to have a greater role in the clinical care of patients and the public from registration, enhanced recognition as experts in medicines and increased roles in public health and wellbeing.

The standards have been developed to produce adaptable pharmacists who will be:

- confident about and capable of operating in multi-professional teams across a variety of healthcare settings to meet diverse and changing patient needs
- dedicated to person-centred care, both in person and through remote consultations. They will ensure the high-quality use of medicines that incorporates both safety and effectiveness alongside compassion and empathy, and
- proficient prescribers whose skills can be used to collaborate with and support the wider, complex healthcare systems across Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

These standards introduce important changes to ensure pharmacists are equipped for their future roles. These include:

- incorporating the skills, knowledge and attributes for prescribing, to enable pharmacists to prescribe independently from the point of registration
- revised learning outcomes that will be used to design, deliver and assess the full five years of education and training. These will link to a continuum of development post-registration
- emphasising the application of science in clinical practice and a greater focus on key skills, including professional judgement, clinical decision making, management of risk, diagnostic and consultation skills (including remote consultations)
- changing the focus of the fifth year of initial education and training (Foundation training year (replacing the pre-registration training year)) to strengthened clinical supervision and support with increased collaborative working between the Schools of Pharmacy, statutory education bodies and employers
- having a greater emphasis on equality, diversity and inclusion to address discrimination and health inequalities.

Outline plans and indicative timings

- Spring 2021** further information provided to students, employers and Designated Supervisors (previously pre-registration tutors) about how the Foundation Training Year will work in practice in each country of the UK..
- July/Aug 2021** first Foundation Training Year begins.
- September 2021** Schools of Pharmacy begin to implement the revised standards in their courses building on the reforms in pharmacy education over the past 10 years.
- July/August 2025** Foundation Training Year begins for first students who have completed their MPharm under the revised standards. This will complete the education and training for them to be independent prescribers from registration in July/August 2026.
- July/August 2026** first students who have completed their MPharm and Foundation year under the revised standards join the register as IP.

Note: The GPhC plan to review their regulations for IP to change the current requirement for pharmacists to have 2 years of patient facing experience to enable these changes to occur.

Implementation plans in Scotland (IET)

Both the University of Strathclyde and Robert Gordon University are reviewing and revising their courses to meet the new standards. They will continue to work with stakeholders to ensure that these courses meet the accreditation requirements for the next GPhC visit which are due in Spring 2022 (subject to confirmation with the GPhC).

Within Scotland both strategic and implementation groups will be set up to progress this work to support the transition over the next 5 years:

- **Pharmacist IET Strategic group** (Scotland) with representatives from GPhC, DoPs, SG, CPS, RPS, both Schools of Pharmacy
- **MPharm/EL and Foundation Training Year (FTY) Implementation groups** – the Schools of Pharmacy, NES and the service will work collaboratively to link the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitude for prescribing and clinical assessment and influence how the incremental increase in Experiential Learning (EL) can support this learning linking the MPharm more closely with the NES Foundation Training Year (FTY). This incremental approach will ensure that from 2026 all newly registered pharmacists in Scotland are Pharmacist Independent Prescribers.

Implementation plans in Scotland (Post-Registration)

Pharmacist Independent Prescribers (PIPs) are key to delivery of the ambitions for Pharmacy services across all sectors in Scotland. Plans have been put in place to ensure that newly qualified pharmacists are not disadvantaged by the changes in the initial education and training of pharmacists.

These plans include a new NES Post-Registration Foundation Programme aligned to the new Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Post registration Foundation curriculum for recently qualified pharmacists. This will include the PIP qualification which will be delivered by the two Schools of Pharmacy.

This new programme will be open to newly qualified pharmacists across all sectors of pharmacy in Scotland and individuals completing this will be credentialed by the RPS. In addition, there will continue to be PIP training places made available to the current workforce in Scotland, who have not already undertaken the qualification.

Partners involved

NHS Education for Scotland

Chief Pharmaceutical Officer (Interim) for Scotland

Schools of Pharmacy in Scotland (University of Strathclyde and Robert Gordon University)

Directors of Pharmacy in Scotland

Community Pharmacy Scotland

General Pharmaceutical Council (Director for Scotland)

Royal Pharmaceutical Society in Scotland

Appendix 1: Timeline

	Spring 2021	July 2021	September 2021	2021 – 2026	Summer 2025	Summer 2026
All	Information and communication					
Undergraduates			Revised curriculum starts		First cohort starts Foundation year	First cohort registers as pharmacists with IP
Graduates		1 st Foundation year starts				
Newly registered pharmacists			Post registration Foundation programme starts	IP incorporated into post-registration Foundation programme		
Pharmacists	PIP course available					

Appendix 2: Terminology

	Current E & T terms (prior to Sept 2021)	Future E&T terms	Comments
5-year Initial Education & Training (IET)	MPharm (2011 GPhC IET Standards)	MPharm (new 2021 GPhC IET standards)	Will have an increased amount of prescribing and clinical skills built in and linked to increasing Experiential Learning (EL) and Interprofessional Learning (IPL) over the next 4 years
	NES Pre-Registration Pharmacist Scheme (PRPS) in Scotland (2011 GPhC IET Standards)	NES Foundation Training Year (FTY) (new 2021 GPhC IET standards)	Building in prescribing, clinical skills and the period of learning in practice for IP over the next 4 years
Post -Registration Training	Foundation Training	Post-Registration Foundation Training for newly qualified pharmacists (RPS curriculum and assessment)	Will include Independent Prescribing (IP) offered by the 2 Schools of Pharmacy (UoS and RGU) until 2026
		Advanced Practice and Consultant Pharmacist training requirements	These will be looked at from 2021 to address educational needs across Scotland