**Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) guidance regarding Provisional Registrants within Wales**

Due to the existing Covid-19 crisis, the 2019/20 cohort of pre-registration pharmacist trainees find themselves in an unprecedented situation. In March 2020, the GPhC confirmed that the registration assessments scheduled for June and September would be postponed due to the government restrictions on public gatherings and requirements for social distancing due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The GPhC has signalled that it is likely the registration assessment will be re-scheduled to December 2020/January 2021 at the earliest, but this will be confirmed over the coming months. In addition, the assessment is expected to be online rather than held as previously within assessment centres.

As a result of this delay, the GPhC has agreed to a provisional registration period from 1st July 20 to 1st July 21 to enable these provisional registrants to begin practising as pharmacists from August 2020.

The GPhC has set certain criteria for the provisional registration period for both provisional registrants and their employers. For full information and guidance, please see appendices at end of this document.

The GPhC guidance states provisional registrants should receive study leave. As the online assessment date approaches, we would recommend one study day a week as part of their exam preparation and flexibility regarding time off (which may be annual leave). However, we appreciate this is at the discretion of the employer and may not be possible in all situations. In such cases we would hope to see employers and provisional registrants working together on a solution.

Due to the disruption of training for this year’s pre-registration cohort, we feel it is critical that all trainees are given appropriate time to prepare for the online assessment during their working week. This is an exceptional situation and whilst a practice-based role is essential in maintaining current competence and enhancing confidence, we want to ensure this cohort are given every opportunity to successfully pass the online assessment at the first sitting.

We will be setting up a provisional registrant resource/forum page on our website for all provisional registrants working in Wales. Access to these resources will also be available to pre-registration trainees working towards registration and living in Wales. These resources will be available until the close of the GPhC provisional registration period in July 2021. Access to the webpage will be voluntary allowing individuals to source relevant resources based on their particular learning needs. We recommend that all provisional registrants maintain or initiate RPS membership for this provisional registration period and utilise the RPS ePortfolio (if alternative not available) to continue evidence gathering in new role during provisional registration period. This will support future career developments and revalidation requirements.

HEIW resources aim to provide the following;

* An online forum for provisional registrant discussion and networking with their peers
* Signposting to CPD programme and other online resources within HEIW
* Signposting to RPS and additional resources for support
* Support for provisional registrants in meeting their identified training needs
* Access to a full online mock exam assessment

For employers and senior pharmacists supporting a provisional registrant, HEIW aims to provide:

* An online forum (if required) for employer and senior pharmacist discussion and networking with their peers
* Access to relevant resources including mentoring

Working with employers and key partners such as RPS and the GPhC, we recognise and appreciate the commitment and time that will be given to support this provisional registrant cohort. The intended outcome will be the successful registration for our trainees and improve the transition from trainee to practising pharmacist during this period.

Medical Director Pharmacy Dean

 

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Appendices

 