

Opportunity to provide important feedback: survey for learners, early career pharmacists and stakeholders/employers on the HEIW transition programme for IETPs, with particular focus on early career practice

In December 2020, the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) council approved the new standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists (IETP), which were published in early 2021.

The implementation of the standards will put emphasis on the application of science in clinical practice and will include a greater focus on key professional, clinical and diagnostic skills, throughout the five years training, enabling pharmacists to offer high quality person-centred service delivery from their first day of registration. These standards have been updated to support the development of a flexible pharmacist workforce who will be competent and confident in operating within multi-professional teams across a variety of healthcare settings, to meet the changing needs of a diverse and growing UK population.

The key changes which have been made to these standards include:

- the introduction of a set of learning outcomes that will be used to assess the full five years of pharmacist education and training
- incorporating the skills, knowledge and attributes for prescribing, with pharmacists being able to independently prescribe from the point of registration
- the fifth year of pharmacists' initial education and training becoming a foundation training year, which will have an emphasis on increased supervision, support and collaborative working between higher education institutions, statutory education bodies (i.e. HEIW) and employers
- providing a greater emphasis on equality, diversity and inclusion principles

The implementation of these new education and training standards will take place over a phased transition, starting in August 2021, with the newly trained pharmacists becoming independent prescriber registrants after August 2026.

The Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) pharmacy team will be undertaking a **transition programme to meet all the needs of the new IETPs**. Part of this work will involve offering an 'extended period of learning' for the first few qualified years of the emerging registered pharmacist workforce, across all pharmacy sectors, between 2022-2025. This post-registration programme of learning will aim to identify and prioritise the knowledge and skills gaps between the current standards and the newly approved standards, including independent prescribing skills and qualification. The content of this programme will vary and will change over the transition period.

We have developed an **online survey to gain feedback** from year 3 and 4 pharmacy undergraduate students, current pre-registration pharmacists, provisionally registered pharmacists and newly qualified pharmacists (registered 3 years or less) and all appropriate Welsh stakeholders and employers, on the different elements of a HEIW 'early career practice' programme and a proposed model of delivery, starting from August 2022, which is likely to evolve over the IETP transition period.

This survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Link to access online survey: <https://cardiff.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/heiw-transition-programme-ietps>

Deadline for completion: Friday 16th April 2021.

Many thanks for your time.