Press release

CPPE

CENTRE FOR PHARMACY POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION

For immediate release
26 March 2020

CPPE launches *Guide to returning to pharmacy practice* in response to COVID-19 pandemic

The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) has launched a new e-course designed to help pharmacy professionals returning to pharmacy practice after a gap in professional service, including those returning to the **General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) temporary register**.

Guide to returning to pharmacy practice has been developed in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent unprecedented demand on pharmacy services in England.

CPPE has liaised with colleagues across the profession while developing this programme, including NHS England and NHS Improvement, Health Education England, Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS), and Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC).

The GPhC has contacted pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who have voluntarily removed themselves, or were removed for non-renewal, from the GPhC register in the last three years.

Those who are fit and suitably experienced to act as pharmacists or pharmacy technicians during the pandemic response will be added to the **GPhC temporary register**.

To work within legislation, and to continue the safe provision of medicines, CPPE recognised that some pharmacy professionals returning to practice may need to complete some continuing professional development to feel confident in their professional role.

With this in mind, and in line with **GPhC *Standards for pharmacy professionals***, the programme was developed to support pharmacy professionals in identifying their own specific learning needs.

This personalised approach to learning involves learners completing a self-assessment framework at the start of the programme to identify the key topic areas they need to visit to refresh their knowledge for practice. The topic areas chosen for the *Guide to returning to pharmacy practice* e-course are as follows:

- Clinical knowledge
- Community pharmacy contractual requirements
- Consultation and communication skills
- Controlled drugs and substance misuse
- Digital technology
- Legislation and professionalism
- Patient safety
- Resilience
- Support network

NHS
Health Education England

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Within each topic area, key resources are included to quickly bring pharmacy professionals up to date, including CPPE resources and those available from PSNC and RPS.

Learners will be able to engage in a tutor-supported discussion forum within each topic area to enhance the learning experience.

CPPE recognises that building a peer support network will be important to help people discuss the more complex areas of practice and any challenges in returning to the role.

As a result, CPPE will run online support sessions via video application every day, including weekends, to ensure additional guidance and support is available to those returning to practice.

CPPE will continue to review and update the e-course to ensure pharmacy professionals have what they need to feel confident and capable in their return to pharmacy practice.

The *Guide to returning to pharmacy practice* e-course is now available on the Canvas platform, via the CPPE website, at: **www.cppe.ac.uk/programmes/l/rtp-ec-01**

Quotes:

"Across the country, pharmacy professionals are returning to practice to play an essential role in protecting the public and providing essential pharmacy services.

I am delighted that we have been able to use our years of experience in supporting those returning to the register at this time to help them regain their knowledge, adapt to current practice and be confident in their skills and abilities. We are grateful to all those who have taken this step."
Matthew Shaw, Director, Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education

"Pharmacy is already doing an amazing job in supporting patient care during the COVID-19 pandemic. At CPPE, we want to do everything we can to ensure the workforce returning to practice has access to the resources they need to get back to practice as safely, efficiently and confidently as possible.

The new *Guide to returning to pharmacy practice* programme takes a personalised approach to learning, directing pharmacy professionals straight to the key resources to meet their individual learning needs. This isn't just about learning though; support networks and wellbeing are important so we are pleased to introduce a new initiative where CPPE will host a support hub each day where people can come together to talk through different issues in an online community."
Lesley Grimes, Head of Learning Development, Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education

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Notes to editors:

About CPPE
The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) is funded by Health Education England to provide CPD opportunities to all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians providing NHS services in England. We generate income from the sale of our programmes to a wider healthcare professional audience both in the UK and internationally. All income received is reinvested into further development of learning programmes.

Please visit the CPPE website for further information: **www.cppe.ac.uk**

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