

27 July 2020

Dear pre-registration pharmacists,

RE: UPDATE FROM HEE: INTERIM FOUNDATION PHARMACIST PROGRAMME

We are sending this update on behalf of Health Education England to inform you about this new programme.

**Please send any questions about this update to fpp@hee.nhs.uk
Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme for provisionally registered pharmacists**

Health Education England are acutely conscious of the disruption to your training and registration caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In normal circumstances you would have undertaken the General Pharmaceutical Council's (GPhC) assessment in June, with successful candidates going on to provide patient-centred care as registered pharmacists in August.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has created an exceptional set of circumstances for you and your peers:

- As part of the team, you have worked with your tutors to deliver care outside of your scheduled training pathways and usual duties with both flexibility and professionalism at the height of the crisis.
- You will now have to sit the registration assessment online in late 2020/early 2021.
- You are applying for provisional registration if eligible – to be ready to start working from August 2020, as originally planned.

We know that many of you have faced and are still facing uncertainties over your employment status. Some of you have also had to deal with uncertainty over visa extensions. And many of you have will have taken extra steps to shield from the virus but also to protect and care for patients and loved ones.

This is an exceptionally challenging time for you.

Health Education England recognise that it will take a whole-system approach to help you make a safe and effective transition from provisional to full GPhC registration, and to launch your career.

We are therefore, developing new solutions with partners and key stakeholders that will enable you to join the pharmacy workforce in summer 2020, in a way that supports you and helps you to provide safe and effective patient care and NHS services.

On 23 July 2020, Health Education England with NHS England and NHS Improvement published a [joint letter](#) setting out the context for accelerating the reform of pharmacist education. This letter also announced that Health Education England, in partnership with key stakeholders, is establishing an **Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme** to help provisionally registered pharmacists transition to full GPhC registration and beyond.

The first phase of the reform and the purpose of the Interim Foundation Programme is to provide provisionally registered pharmacists with the foundation training support they need.

This new Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme, known as IFPP, is a fully funded 12-month education and training programme, starting in September 2020.

The IFPP has three aims:

- To support provisionally registered pharmacists in England transition to full GPhC registration and beyond.
- To develop pharmacists' ability to achieve high quality outcomes for patients, improve patient safety and reduce medication errors.
- To inform the development of a UK-wide Foundation Pharmacist Programme.

We are working at pace with key partners and stakeholders to build support around you, and the pharmacy profession as a whole.

We anticipate there will be many questions about the new programme, particularly, what it means for you. We will organise regular communication from the programme team, including an FAQ and points of contact to enable information sharing.

In the meantime, please send any queries to the programme team at fpp@hee.nhs.uk. We wish to thank you for all the hard work and professionalism you have shown to date and ask for your continued support over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Sheona MacLeod

Acting Director of Education & Quality and Medical Director

Health Education England

Honorary Professor University of Nottingham and University of Leicester

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