

Criteria for registration as a pharmacy technician

21 December 2013

Criteria for registration as a pharmacy technician with the GPhC

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) is the regulator for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and registered pharmacies in England, Scotland and Wales.

This document sets out the qualifications and work experience requirements for

- Initial registration as a pharmacy technician with the GPhC. This is found in Section A – paragraphs 1 to 5.
- Return to registration as a pharmacy technician with the GPhC. This is found in Section B – paragraph 6

The registration process also includes health, character and identity checks.

Section A

Criteria for initial registration as a pharmacy technician from 1 July 2011

Persons seeking initial registration as a pharmacy technician from 1 July 2011 must possess the qualifications and work experience set out in the following sections.

1. United Kingdom qualified persons and persons who do not possess rights conferred by Directive 2005/36/EC or EC Treaty

1.1 Must complete

- one of the competency based qualifications listed in Annex A, and
- one of the knowledge based qualifications listed in Annex A, and
- provide evidence of having completed the qualifying periods of work experience set out in section 3.

1.2 Persons seeking registration as a pharmacy technician must apply for registration as a pharmacy technician within five calendar years of commencement on a recognised course, or within 2 years of completing the last recognised course, whichever is sooner. Extenuating circumstances will be considered where there are legitimate, documented grounds for exceeding these timeframes.

1.3 The GPhC uses the term 'recognised' in the same way the RPSGB used 'approved' – that is to confirm that a national qualification is suitable for registration purposes.

2. Qualifications - see Annex A

3. Qualifying period of work experience

3.1 A minimum of two years relevant work-based experience in the UK under the supervision, direction or guidance of a pharmacist to whom the applicant was directly accountable for not less than 14 hours per week. A pre-registration trainee pharmacy technician must commence or register for one of the two required qualifications in **Annex A** within three months of commencing contracted, relevant work experience.

3.2 Within the two year period of training and work experience a minimum of 1260 hours of work experience must be undertaken under the supervision, direction or guidance of a pharmacist to whom the applicant is directly accountable, excluding sickness absence, maternity/paternity leave and holidays. A minimum of 315 hours of work experience under the supervision, direction or guidance of a pharmacist to whom the applicant is directly accountable must be undertaken in each of the two years.

- 3.3 A period of pharmacist preregistration training in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man that can be validated by the GPhC and has been completed within two years of commencing an approved pharmacy technician training programme may be offset against the work experience requirements for registration.
- 3.4 In exceptional circumstances (for example, prolonged serious ill health or maternity/paternity leave etc) an extension of the two year qualifying period of work experience may be granted on application to the Registrar if supported by cogent and sufficient evidence. The Registrar has the discretion to grant such an extension up to a maximum of one year.
- 3.5 Instead of the two years relevant work experience described in 3.1, individuals with non-UK pharmacist and pharmacy technician qualifications wishing to register as a pharmacy technician must provide evidence of:
- a non-UK pharmacist or pharmacy technician qualification;
 - being registered or otherwise eligible to practice as a pharmacist or pharmacy technician outside the UK.

4. Current or recent registration in Great Britain or Northern Ireland as a pharmacist

- 4.1 Persons do not have to complete sections 1 to 3 if they
- are currently or have been until recently¹ registered as a pharmacist with the General Pharmaceutical Council, or
 - are currently or have been until recently registered with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland in the practising part of the Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists.

5. Persons who possess rights conferred by Directive 2005/36/EC or EC Treaty

- 5.1 A pharmacy qualification gained in an applicant's country of qualification that would entitle them to practise as a pharmacist or pharmacy technician in that country, which has been recognised by a Member State and that individual has been permitted to work as a pharmacist or pharmacy technician in that Member State.
- 5.2 A pharmacy technician qualification required in another Member State for the taking up or pursuit of the profession in its territory, such qualification having been awarded in a Member State, or if the profession is not regulated in that Member State full-time professional experience as a pharmacy technician for 2 years, or for an equivalent period on a part-time basis, during the previous 10 years.

¹ GPhC return to registration requirements define recent registration as having been registered within the last 12 months.

5.3 An application for registration will be subject to scrutiny and evaluation and the applicant may be required to complete an adaptation period not exceeding two years or take an aptitude test where the theoretical and/or practical matters covered by the education and training which they have received differ substantially from those required for qualification in Great Britain or where one or more regulated professional activities do not form part of the profession pursued by the applicant in the Member State from which they qualified or worked as a pharmacy technician, and that difference corresponds to specific education and training required in Great Britain and covers theoretical and/or practical matters which differ substantially from those covered by the evidence of education and training adduced by the applicant.

Section B

Criteria for return to registration as a pharmacy technician with the GPhC

- 6. Persons previously registered as a pharmacy technician with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain or the GPhC**
 - 6.1 An application for return to registration will be subject to scrutiny and evaluation. This involves an assessment of applicants' professional competence. Applicants are required to submit a portfolio of evidence demonstrating their professional competence against the scope of practice they propose to practise within.
 - 6.2 Paragraph 6.1 will apply to persons applying to return to registration on any date after 26 September 2012. It will apply to persons who would have previously registered as pharmacy technicians with formerly approved grand-parented pharmacy technician qualifications, accredited pharmacist qualifications and persons previously registered as pharmacy technicians with non-GB pharmacy qualifications irrespective of their initial route to registration.

Annex A

Eligible qualifications for registration as a pharmacy technician

Competency based qualifications

Title	Awarding body/training provider	Code	Qualification start date	Qualification end date	Certificates may be issued until
Level 3 NVQ (NQF) Pharmacy Services	City & Guilds	100/2201/6	01/04/02	31/08/10	31/08/13
Level 3 NVQ (NQF) Pharmacy Services	Edexcel	100/2615/O	01/10/02	31/08/10	31/08/13
Level 3 SVQ Pharmacy Services	SQA	G759 23	11/05/03	30/09/10	30/09/14
Level 3 NVQ (QCF) Diploma Pharmacy Service Skills	City & Guilds	500/9576/6	01/09/10	ongoing	ongoing
Level 3 NVQ (QCF) Diploma Pharmacy Service Skills	Edexcel	500/9578/X	01/09/10	ongoing	ongoing
Level 3 SVQ Pharmacy Services	SQA	GA08 23	01/10/10	ongoing	ongoing

Knowledge based qualifications

Title	Awarding body/training provider	Code	Qualification start date	Qualification end date	Certificates may be issued until
Level 3 Certificate Pharmacy Services	City & Guilds	100/5845/X	01/01/06	31/08/10	31/08/13
Level 3 BTEC National Certificate Pharmacy Services	Edexcel	500/1138/8	01/09/07	31/08/10	31/08/13
Level 3 National Certificate Pharmacy Services	SQA	GA6P46	01/08/11	ongoing	ongoing
Level 3 Diploma Pharmaceutical Science	City & Guilds	500/9959/0	01/09/10	ongoing	ongoing
Level 3 Diploma Pharmaceutical Science	Edexcel	500/9939/5	01/09/10	ongoing	ongoing
Level 3 knowledge based programme	Buttercups	Before 1 Jan 14: No code After 1 Jan 14: BCP/14/001	01/08/11	ongoing	ongoing
Level 3 knowledge based programme	NPA	Before 1 Jan 14: No code After 1 Jan 14: NPA/14/001	01/08/11	ongoing	ongoing