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GPhC Registrant Survey 2013

Country/ region summaries

General
Pharmaceutical
Council

England – summary report

1.1 Response

- Among pharmacists, 11,743 questionnaires were returned, giving a response rate of 50.2%, very close to the overall pharmacist response rate of 50.8%. Among pharmacy technicians 11,298 questionnaires were returned, a response rate of 62.3%, again very similar to the overall pharmacy technician response rate of 62.6%. The response among prescribers in England was 60.6% (1,295 questionnaires returned).

1.2 Overview of registrants

- Two per cent of pharmacists and 1% of pharmacy technicians in England had not worked in pharmacy in the last 12 months.
- The majority of registrants in England currently worked in a paid pharmacy related role (90% of pharmacists and 95% of pharmacy technicians).
- Three per cent of English pharmacists and 2% of pharmacy technicians worked in a paid non pharmacy related role.
- Four per cent of English pharmacists said they were temporarily away from work, 2% were unemployed and 2% gave other reasons for not currently working in pharmacy.
- The majority of English pharmacists (80%) worked in one job, 94% of pharmacy technicians worked in one job.
- The most common setting for English registrants' main job was a community setting for both pharmacists (64%) and pharmacy technicians (50%). The second most common was a hospital setting for pharmacists (21%) and pharmacy technicians (39%).
- Just 3% of English pharmacists and 2% of pharmacy technicians worked across multiple settings in their main job.
- English pharmacists worked around 36 hours per week on average across all jobs and pharmacy technicians worked 32.4 hours per week on average across all jobs.

1.3 Understanding pharmacy jobs

- English **community pharmacy** settings were typified as follows:
 - 63% of pharmacists were employees, 26% were locums or self-employed and 11% were business owners.
 - 73% of pharmacists and 64% of pharmacy technicians worked full-time in their main job.
 - Registrants were particularly likely to be patient facing.
 - Pharmacists most frequently mentioned providing advice to patients, supplying medicines and managing staff as their main responsibilities.
 - Pharmacy technicians most frequently mentioned supplying medicines, providing advice to patients, and doing routine tasks to manage the pharmacy environment as their main responsibilities.
- English **hospital pharmacy** settings were typified as follows:
 - Predominantly employees, 5% were working as locums

- 77% of pharmacists and 76% of pharmacy technicians worked full-time in their main job.
 - Pharmacists were mostly patient facing (95% of pharmacists and 87% of pharmacy technicians at least occasionally were patient facing).
 - Pharmacists most frequently mentioned providing advice to health professionals and patients and doing other clinical work as their main responsibilities.
 - Pharmacy technicians most frequently mentioned supplying medicines, providing advice to patients and doing routine tasks to manage the pharmacy environment as their main responsibilities.
- English **primary care pharmacy** settings were typified as follows:
 - Mostly employees, but 12% working as locums.
 - 61% of pharmacists and 71% of pharmacy technicians worked full-time in their main job.
 - Around 58% of pharmacists were patient facing at least occasionally, while the base sizes for pharmacy technicians were too small to allow for such analysis.
 - Pharmacists most frequently mentioned providing advice to health professionals, dealing with governance, policy, regulation and other administrative work, and providing advice and information to patients and carers as their main responsibilities.
 - Pharmacy technicians most frequently mentioned providing advice and information to patients and carers, providing advice and information to health professionals, and supplying medicines and medical devices as their main responsibilities.

1.4 Appraisals, learning and development

- 51% of English pharmacists working in a community setting reported having had an appraisal, 65% of pharmacists in a community setting had had an appraisal.
- 83% of English pharmacy technicians working in a hospital setting reported having had an appraisal, 85% of pharmacy technicians in a hospital setting had had an appraisal.
- Fifty six per cent of pharmacists working in a community setting had had an appraisal carried out by a peer in the pharmacy profession and 67% had had an appraisal where professional learning and development needs had been discussed. Ninety six percent had discussed organisational or business objectives.
- Eighty four per cent of English pharmacy technicians working in a community setting had had an appraisal carried out by a peer in the pharmacy profession, and 87% had had an appraisal where professional learning and development needs had been discussed and nine in ten had discussed organisational or business objectives as part of their appraisal.

1.5 Prescribers

- 75% of prescribers in England had ever prescribed, and of these, 81% had prescribed in the last 12 months.
- The majority (62%) prescribed in a hospital pharmacy setting, with 31% prescribing in a primary care setting.
- Overall, the most frequently mentioned areas in which they had prescribed were antibiotics (41%), cardiovascular (39%), hypertension (39%) and pain management (39%).

- Four in ten prescribers in England (39%) prescribed for fewer than five patients a week on average, with 34% prescribing fewer than five items per week on average.

1.6 Future plans for registration

- The majority of registrants in England planned to renew their registration to the GPhC register next year (95% of pharmacists and 96% of pharmacy technicians).

Wales – summary report

2.1 Response

- Among pharmacists, 751 questionnaires were returned giving a response rate of 56.7%, higher than any other country. Among pharmacy technicians 949 questionnaires were returned, a response rate of 64.1%, again higher than any other country. The response among Welsh prescribers was 62.3% (114 questionnaires returned).

2.2 Overview of registrants

- One per cent of Welsh pharmacists and less than 0.5% of pharmacy technicians had not worked in pharmacy in the last 12 months.
- The majority of Welsh registrants currently worked in a paid pharmacy related role (93% of pharmacists and 96% of pharmacy technicians).
- Three per cent of Welsh pharmacists and less than 0.5% of pharmacy technicians worked in a paid non pharmacy related role.
- Four per cent of Welsh pharmacists said they were temporarily away from work, less than 0.5% were unemployed and 1% gave other reasons for not currently working in pharmacy.
- The majority of Welsh pharmacists (82%) worked in one job, 97% of pharmacy technicians worked in one job.
- The most common setting for Welsh registrants' main job was a community setting (63% of pharmacists and 62% of pharmacy technicians), the second most common was a hospital setting (23% of pharmacists and 29% of pharmacy technicians).
- Just 5% of Welsh pharmacists and 1% of pharmacy technicians worked across multiple settings in their main job.
- Welsh pharmacists worked around 35 hours per week on average across all jobs and pharmacy technicians worked 32.0 hours per week on average across all jobs.

2.3 Understanding pharmacy jobs

- Welsh **community pharmacy** settings were typified as follows:
 - 71% of pharmacists were employees, 18% were locums or self-employed and 11% were business owners.
 - 72% of pharmacists and 66% of pharmacy technicians worked full-time in their main job.
 - Ninety-eight percent of registrants (pharmacists and pharmacy technicians) were in patient facing jobs.
 - Pharmacists most frequently mentioned providing advice to patients, supplying medicines and managing staff as their three main responsibilities. The last of these was more prevalent in Wales than elsewhere.
 - Pharmacy technicians most frequently mentioned supplying medicines, providing advice to patients and doing routine tasks to manage the pharmacy environment as

their three main responsibilities. The last of these was more prevalent in Wales than elsewhere.

- Welsh **hospital pharmacy** settings were typified as follows:
 - Predominantly employees, very few were business owners or were working as locums.
 - 73% of pharmacists and 73% of pharmacy technicians worked full-time in their main job.
 - Pharmacists were mostly patient facing (95% of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians were patient facing at least occasionally).
 - Pharmacists most frequently mentioned providing advice to health professionals and patients and doing other clinical work as their three main responsibilities.
 - Pharmacy technicians most frequently mentioned supplying medicines, providing advice to patients and doing routine tasks to manage the pharmacy environment as their three main responsibilities. The second of these was more prevalent in Wales than elsewhere.

- Welsh **primary care pharmacy** settings were typified as follows:
 - Predominantly employees rather than locums or business owners.
 - 68% of pharmacists and 80% of pharmacy technicians worked full-time in their main job.
 - 70% of pharmacists were patient facing at least occasionally.
 - Pharmacists most frequently mentioned providing advice to health professionals, doing governance and other administrative work, and doing other clinical work as their responsibilities.
 - Pharmacy technicians most frequently mentioned providing advice to health professionals and patients and supplying medicines as their responsibilities.

2.4 Appraisals, learning and development

- Six in ten Welsh pharmacists (57%) and six in ten Welsh pharmacy technicians (63%) reported having had an appraisal in the last 12 months.
- 70% of Welsh pharmacists working in a hospital setting reported having had an appraisal, 49% of pharmacists in a community setting had had an appraisal.
- 62% of Welsh pharmacy technicians working in a hospital setting reported having had an appraisal, 61% of pharmacy technicians in a community setting had had an appraisal.
- Two-thirds of Welsh pharmacists working in a community setting had had an appraisal carried out by a peer in the pharmacy profession (66%) and had had an appraisal where professional learning and development needs had been discussed (65%). Ninety eight percent had discussed organisational or business objectives.
- Nine in ten Welsh pharmacy technicians working in a community setting had had an appraisal carried out by a peer in the pharmacy profession (90%), had had an appraisal where professional learning and development needs had been discussed (89%) and had discussed organisational or business objectives (87%).

2.5 Prescribers

Although a relatively high response rate was achieved with Welsh prescribers (62.3%), only 114 questionnaires were received which limits the extent to which sub group analysis can be performed.

- 83% of Welsh prescribers had prescribed since their annotation, and of these, 86% had prescribed in the last 12 months and are considered active prescribers.
- The majority (79%) prescribed in a hospital pharmacy setting (which is higher than in the other countries), with 20% prescribing in a primary care setting.
- Overall, the three most frequently mentioned areas in which they had prescribed were antibiotics (32%), anticoagulation (28%) and pain management (26%).
- Almost half (46%) of Welsh prescribers prescribed for fewer than five patients a week on average with 42% prescribing fewer than five items per week on average.

2.6 Future plans for registration

- The majority of Welsh registrants planned to renew their registration to the GPhC register next year (96% of pharmacists and 97% of pharmacy technicians).

Scotland – summary report

3.1 Response

- Among pharmacists, 1,236 questionnaires were returned giving a response rate of 53.3%, higher than the overall pharmacist response rate of 50.8%. Among pharmacy technicians 1,268 questionnaires were returned, a response rate of 63.5%, again higher than the overall pharmacy technician response rate of 62.6%. The response among Scottish prescribers was 65.3% (414 questionnaires returned).

3.2 Overview of registrants

- Two per cent of Scottish pharmacists and 1% of pharmacy technicians had not worked in pharmacy in the last 12 months.
- The majority of Scottish registrants currently worked in a paid pharmacy related role (91% of pharmacists and 96% of pharmacy technicians).
- Two per cent of Scottish pharmacists and 1% of pharmacy technicians worked in a paid non pharmacy related role.
- Five per cent of Scottish pharmacists said they were temporarily away from work, 1% were unemployed and 2% gave other reasons for not currently working in pharmacy.
- The majority of Scottish pharmacists (84%) worked in one job, 95% of pharmacy technicians worked in one job.
- The most common setting for Scottish registrants' main job was a community setting (61% of pharmacists and 56% of pharmacy technicians), the second most common was a hospital setting (23% of pharmacists and 35% of pharmacy technicians).
- Just 3% of Scottish pharmacists and 3% of pharmacy technicians worked across multiple settings in their main job.
- Scottish pharmacists worked around 34 hours per week on average across all jobs and pharmacy technicians worked 33 hours per week on average across all jobs.

3.3 Understanding pharmacy jobs

- Scottish **community pharmacy** settings were typified as follows:
 - 75% of pharmacists were employees, 17% were locums or self employed and 8% were business owners.
 - 68% of pharmacists and 70% of pharmacy technicians worked full-time in their main job.
 - Ninety-nine percent of registrants (pharmacists and pharmacy technicians) were in patient facing jobs.
 - Pharmacists most frequently mentioned providing advice to patients, supplying medicines and managing staff as their three main responsibilities.
 - Pharmacy technicians most frequently mentioned supplying medicines, providing advice to patients and doing routine tasks to manage the pharmacy environment as their three main responsibilities.
- Scottish **hospital pharmacy** settings were typified as follows:

- Predominantly employees, very few were business owners or were working as locums.
 - 76% of pharmacists and 79% of pharmacy technicians worked full-time in their main job.
 - Pharmacists were mostly patient facing (92% of pharmacists and 85% of pharmacy technicians at least occasionally).
 - Pharmacists most frequently mentioned providing advice to health professionals and patients and doing other clinical work as their three main responsibilities. All three of these were more prevalent in Scotland than elsewhere.
 - Pharmacy technicians most frequently mentioned supplying medicines, doing routine tasks to manage the pharmacy environment, and preparation and manufacturing of medicinal products as their three main responsibilities. The second of these was more prevalent in Scotland than elsewhere.
- Scottish **primary care** settings were typified as follows:
 - Predominantly employees rather than locums or business owners.
 - 52% of pharmacists and 77% of pharmacy technicians worked full-time in their main job.
 - 67% of pharmacists were patient facing at least occasionally.
 - Pharmacists most frequently mentioned providing advice to health professionals and patients, and doing governance and other administrative work as their three main responsibilities.
 - Pharmacy technicians most frequently mentioned providing advice to health professionals and patients and routine tasks to manage pharmacy environment as their three main responsibilities.

3.4 Appraisals, learning and development

- Six in ten Scottish pharmacists (59%) and six in ten Scottish pharmacy technicians (61%) reported having had an appraisal in the last 12 months.
- 65% of Scottish pharmacists working in a hospital setting reported having had an appraisal, 51% of pharmacists in a community setting had had an appraisal.
- 51% of Scottish pharmacy technicians working in a hospital setting reported having had an appraisal, 65% of pharmacy technicians in a community setting had had an appraisal.
- Seven in ten Scottish pharmacists working in a community setting had had an appraisal carried out by a peer in the pharmacy profession (68%) and had had an appraisal where professional learning and development needs had been discussed (72%). Ninety eight percent had discussed organisational or business objectives.
- Nine in ten Scottish pharmacy technicians working in a community setting had had an appraisal carried out by a peer in the pharmacy profession (92%), had had an appraisal where professional learning and development needs had been discussed (90%) and had discussed organisational or business objectives (89%).

3.5 Prescribers

Although a relatively high response rate was achieved with Scottish prescribers (65.3%), only 414 questionnaires were received which limits the extent to which sub group analysis can be performed.

- 70% of Scottish prescribers had ever prescribed, and of these, 82% had prescribed in the last 12 months.
- Just over half (52%) prescribed in a hospital pharmacy setting, with 32% prescribing in a primary care setting. Fewer prescribed in a hospital setting and more in a primary care setting than in the other countries.
- Overall, the three most frequently mentioned areas in which they had prescribed were pain management (40%), antibiotics (36%) and cardiovascular (34%).
- Forty four percent of Scottish prescribers prescribed for fewer than five patients a week on average with 38% prescribing fewer than five items per week on average.

3.6 Future plans for registration

- The majority of Scottish registrants planned to renew their registration to the GPhC register next year (96% of pharmacists and 97% of pharmacy technicians).

London – summary report

4.1 Response

- Among pharmacists, 1,046 questionnaires were returned giving a response rate of 42.7%, lower than the overall pharmacist response rate of 50.8%. Among pharmacy technicians 465 questionnaires were returned, a response rate of 54.4%, again lower than the overall pharmacy technician response rate of 62.6%. The response among London prescribers was 53.2% (100 questionnaires returned).

4.2 Overview of registrants

- Three per cent of London pharmacists and 2% of pharmacy technicians had not worked in pharmacy in the last 12 months.
- The majority of London registrants currently worked in a paid pharmacy related role (84% of pharmacists and 94% of pharmacy technicians).
- Five per cent of London pharmacists and 2% of pharmacy technicians worked in a paid non pharmacy related role.
- Six per cent of London pharmacists said they were temporarily away from work, 4% were unemployed and 3% gave other reasons for not currently working in pharmacy.
- The majority of London pharmacists (78%) worked in one job, 90% of pharmacy technicians worked in one job.
- The most common setting for London registrants' main job was a community setting for pharmacists (53%) and a hospital setting for pharmacy technicians (58%). The second most common was a hospital setting for pharmacists (31%) and a community setting for pharmacy technicians (34%).
- Just 4% of London pharmacists and 3% of pharmacy technicians worked across multiple settings in their main job.
- London pharmacists worked 37 hours per week on average across all jobs and pharmacy technicians also worked 37 hours per week on average across all jobs.

4.3 Understanding pharmacy jobs

- London **community pharmacy** settings were typified as follows:
 - 53% of pharmacists were employees, 34% were locums or self employed and 13% were business owners.
 - 73% of pharmacists and 81% of pharmacy technicians worked full-time in their main job.
 - Ninety-nine percent of registrants (pharmacists and pharmacy technicians) were in patient facing jobs.
 - Pharmacists most frequently mentioned providing advice to patients, supplying medicines and routine tasks to manage the pharmacy environment as their three main responsibilities.
 - Pharmacy technicians most frequently mentioned supplying medicines, providing advice to patients and doing routine tasks to manage the pharmacy environment as their three main responsibilities.

- London **hospital pharmacy** settings were typified as follows:
 - Predominantly employees, 8% were working as locums.
 - 87% of pharmacists and 90% of pharmacy technicians worked full-time in their main job.
 - Pharmacists were mostly patient facing (96% of pharmacists and 86% of pharmacy technicians at least occasionally were patient facing).
 - Pharmacists most frequently mentioned providing advice to health professionals and patients and doing other clinical work as their three main responsibilities.
 - Pharmacy technicians most frequently mentioned supplying medicines, providing advice to patients and doing routine tasks to manage the pharmacy environment as their three main responsibilities. The first two of these were less prevalent in London than overall in the UK.

- There were too few pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working in London primary care settings to provide a meaningful analysis.

4.4 Appraisals, learning and development

- Six in ten London pharmacists (62%) and eight in ten London pharmacy technicians (79%) reported having had an appraisal in the last 12 months.
- 82% of London pharmacists working in a hospital setting reported having had an appraisal, 47% of pharmacists in a community setting had had an appraisal.
- 82% of London pharmacy technicians working in a hospital setting reported having had an appraisal, 75% of pharmacy technicians in a community setting had had an appraisal.
- Seven in ten London pharmacists working in a community setting had had an appraisal carried out by a peer in the pharmacy profession (68%) and had had an appraisal where professional learning and development needs had been discussed (71%). Ninety four percent had discussed organisational or business objectives.
- Nine in ten London pharmacy technicians working in a community setting had had an appraisal carried out by a peer in the pharmacy profession (92%), had had an appraisal where professional learning and development needs had been discussed (88%) and had discussed organisational or business objectives (88%).

4.5 Prescribers

Only 100 completed questionnaires were received from prescribers who worked in London, which limits the extent to which sub group analysis can be performed.

- 74% of London prescribers had ever prescribed, and of these, 86% had prescribed in the last 12 months.
- The majority (76%) prescribed in a hospital pharmacy setting, with 13% prescribing in a primary care setting.
- Overall, the three most frequently mentioned areas in which they had prescribed were antibiotics (38%), cardiovascular (32%) and pain management (31%).

- Just over half (52%) of London prescribers prescribed for fewer than five patients a week on average with 46% prescribing fewer than five items per week on average.

4.6 Future plans for registration

- The majority of London registrants planned to renew their registration to the GPhC register next year (95% of pharmacists and 96% of pharmacy technicians).