



Consultation on initial education and training standards for pharmacists

Speaking notes for presentation

We have provided these notes for organisations to use when using the 'consultation on initial education and training standards for pharmacists' presentation in the resources for organisations toolkit.

Slide 1

- The GPhC are consulting on revising the standards they set for the initial education and training of pharmacists. This consultation is open until 3 April 2019.

Slide 2 - Why do the standards need to be revised?

- Pharmacists' roles are evolving quickly in response to rapid changes in healthcare and pharmacy practice.
- The GPhC believes that the standards we set for the initial education and training of pharmacists need to be revised to respond to these changes and help prepare future pharmacists for future practice
- The GPhC is proposing to integrate academic study and workplace experience so that student pharmacists are adequately prepared for future roles.

Slide 3 – How were the proposals developed?

- The GPhC:
 - sought views from stakeholders, including the schools of pharmacy and others involved in education and training
 - established an Education Advisory Group
 - established expert drafting groups to test specific aspects of the proposals

Slide 4 - Key proposals at a glance

- **Having one set of standards and learning outcomes** that cover the full period of education and training before initial registration as a pharmacist
- **Closer integration between academic study and practical experience**
- **Revising the learning outcomes** so that they are more focused on developing clinical skills and communication skills, while still retaining the critical importance of science. Strengthening experiential learning and inter-professional learning

- **Strengthening requirements in relation to selection and admission**, including a requirement for course providers to assess the values of prospective students in addition to their academic qualifications through interactive activities such as multiple mini interviews or group work. And **strengthening requirements in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion**, including by requiring course providers to conduct an annual review of student performance and admissions by the protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010

Slide 5 - What would this mean in practice?

- If the GPhCs proposed approach is adopted, schools of pharmacy will need to redesign their MPharm degrees to integrate the full period of education and training before initial registration. GPhC will not specify precisely how this can be achieved
- Student pharmacists need exposure to an appropriate breadth of patients and people in a range of environments (real and simulated) to enable them to develop the skills and the level of competence required. They would also have more inter-professional learning with students in other health professions.
- Course providers, employers and the health education and training bodies will have to work collaboratively to consider how to meet the standards and deliver the 52 weeks of learning in practice. GPhC will expect a more rigorous and structured approach to learning in practice with more regular and documented progress meetings.
- The GPhC believes there are likely to be different ways and models both within and across the countries of Great Britain and will ensure that the approval methodology is flexible enough to accommodate diverse and innovative provision of pharmacy education.

Slide 6 – Take part in the consultation

- The consultation will be open until 3 April and you are urged to respond to the consultation via the GPhC website.

Slide 7 - Next steps

- The feedback received through the consultation will be considered by the GPhC Council in Summer 2019
- Once the education and training standards have been finalised there would be:
 - a managed transition to the new standards
 - an evidence framework and guidance for providers to help implement the new standards

Slide 8 – Find out more

- Find out more about the GPhC on their website and on social media.