

Reforms to initial education and training of pharmacists



2021

Overview

- **New standards for initial education and training of pharmacists** published, introducing important changes to ensure pharmacists are equipped for their future roles
- Implementing the standards will **transform the education and training of pharmacists**, so they are able to play a much greater role in providing clinical care to patients and the public from their first day on the register, including by prescribing medicines
- **Changes will be gradually made** to implement these reforms



Key changes



The new standards introduce important changes to make sure pharmacists are equipped for their future roles including:

- A **new set of learning outcomes that cover the full five years** of education and training
- emphasising **the application of science in clinical practice** and including a greater focus on the key skills needed for current and future roles
- having a **greater emphasis on equality, diversity and inclusion** to combat discrimination and deal with health inequalities

Key changes – foundation training year

- The fifth year of initial education and training will become a **foundation training year** with **strengthened supervision support**, and **collaborative working** between higher education institutions, statutory education bodies and employers
- Trainees will receive **enhanced support** and experience **high-quality education and training in all five years**
- The changes will be **introduced through a staged process** from July 2021 onwards

Key changes – independent prescribing

- The standards incorporate the aim that future pharmacists receiving their education and training under the new standards will be independent prescribers at the point of registration
- The underpinning attributes, knowledge and skills for independent prescribing are included in the new standards and will be an integral part of the MPharm degree, with the majority of the practical learning forming part of the Foundation training year

Next steps



- The GPhC are developing an implementation plan setting out how and when each of the changes will be introduced
- An Advisory Group of stakeholders will continue to work with the GPhC to facilitate and oversee the implementation of the standards
- The GPhC will provides further updates as the implementation plan develops, including what the changes mean for everyone

Further information

Visit our website –

<https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/initial-training>

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