

Reforms to initial education and training of pharmacists

Speaking notes for presentation

We have provided these notes for organisations to use when using the 'Reforms to initial education and training of pharmacists' presentation.

Slide 2: Overview

- New standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists have been published, introducing important changes to ensure pharmacists are equipped for their future roles
- The implementation of these 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 the MPharm degree and the Foundation training year to implement these reforms

Slide 3: Key changes

- The new standards will introduce a number of important changes to make sure pharmacists are equipped for their future roles
- introducing a **new set of learning outcomes that cover the full five years** of education and training, and which can link to their continued development after registration.
- emphasising **the application of science in clinical practice** and including a greater focus on the key skills needed for current and future roles – including professional judgement, management of risk, and diagnostic and consultation skills
- having a **greater emphasis on equality, diversity and inclusion** to combat discrimination and deal with health inequalities

Slide 4: Key changes – foundation training year

- Making the fifth year of initial education and training 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 in the foundation training year, with statutory education bodies, employers and higher education institutions working together in new ways,

with a clear set of accountabilities, including systems of quality management and quality control, and with oversight of the outcomes from the regulators

- Trainees will experience high-quality education and training in all five years, addressing the current variable quality of pre-registration training
- The changes will be introduced through a staged process from July 2021 onwards

Slide 5: 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
- The GPhC will work towards introducing independent prescribing from the point of registration at the earliest possible opportunity, taking account of the knowledge and skills student and trainee pharmacists will be developing and making sure the necessary assurances, governance and supervision are in place to appropriately manage patient safety

Slide 6: Next steps

- The GPhC are developing an implementation plan setting out how and when each of the changes will be introduced.
- The Advisory Group of stakeholders which advised the GPhC Council on the final standards will continue to work with the GPhC to facilitate and oversee the implementation of the standards.
- The GPhC will keep you updated as the implementation plan develops, including what the changes mean for everyone.