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GPhC Registrant Survey 2013

Key findings

General
Pharmaceutical
Council

Overview of registrants

- The majority of registrants had worked in a pharmacy related job in the last 12 months (98% of pharmacists and 99% of pharmacy technicians).
- The majority of registrants currently worked in a pharmacy related job (90% of pharmacists and 95% of pharmacy technicians).
- Five per cent of pharmacists and 3% of pharmacy technicians worked in a non pharmacy job.
- Four per cent of pharmacists and 3% of pharmacy technicians said they were temporarily away from work, 2% of pharmacists and no pharmacy technicians were unemployed and 2% of pharmacists and 1% of technicians gave other reasons for not working.
- The majority of pharmacists (81%) and pharmacy technicians (95%) reported having only one pharmacy related job. 13% of pharmacists and 3% of pharmacy technicians had two or more pharmacy related jobs. The remainder did not currently have a pharmacy related job.
- Sixty-four per cent of pharmacists and 52% of pharmacy technicians worked in a community setting in their main job. 22% of pharmacists and 38% of pharmacy technicians worked in a hospital setting in their main job.
- Just 3% of pharmacists and 2% of pharmacy technicians worked across multiple settings in their main job (considering community, hospital, primary care and other as different setting types).
- Within community settings 17% of pharmacists and 3% of pharmacy technicians worked in more than one type of community setting (large, medium or small).
- Pharmacists worked around 36 hours per week on average across all pharmacy jobs reported (up to three) and pharmacy technicians worked 32.5 hours per week on average across all jobs.

Understanding pharmacy jobs and settings

- Overall, for pharmacists:
 - Around three-quarters were employees, three-quarters worked full-time in their main job and 90% were patient facing at least occasionally
- Overall, for pharmacy technicians:
 - Almost all (98%) were employees, 70% worked full-time in their main job and 90% were patient facing at least occasionally
- Community pharmacy settings were typified as follows:
 - Locums and business owners were more prevalent than in other settings.
 - Registrants were particularly likely to be patient facing.
 - Pharmacy technicians were more likely than pharmacists to work part-time in their main job.
 - The most frequently mentioned responsibilities for pharmacists were providing advice to patients, supplying medicines and managing staff.
 - The most frequently mentioned responsibilities for pharmacy technicians were providing advice to patients, supplying medicines and doing routine tasks to manage the pharmacy environment.
- Hospital pharmacy settings were typified as follows:
 - Predominantly employees, very few were working as locums.
 - Pharmacy technicians were more likely than other settings to be working full-time.
 - Pharmacists were mostly 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 providing advice to patients, supplying medicines and doing routine tasks to manage the pharmacy environment as their main responsibilities.
- Primary care settings were typified as follows:
 - Predominantly employees rather than locums or business owners.
 - Less likely to be patient facing than in other settings.
 - Pharmacists were more likely to be working part-time.
 - Pharmacists most frequently mentioned providing advice to health professionals and patients and doing governance and other administrative work as their main responsibilities.
 - Pharmacy technicians most frequently mentioned providing advice to health professionals and patients and supplying medicines as their main responsibilities.

Appraisals

- Six in ten pharmacists (60%) and seven in ten pharmacy technicians (72%) reported having had an appraisal in the last 12 months.
- Pharmacists only working in a hospital setting were most likely to report having had an appraisal (80%); pharmacists in a community setting were least likely (51%).
- Pharmacy technicians only working a hospital setting were most likely to report having had an appraisal (81%), pharmacy technicians in a community setting were least likely (65%).
- Prevalence of appraisals varied significantly by type of community setting, 69% of pharmacists working in large multiples had had an appraisal and 17% of pharmacists working in a community pharmacy with four or fewer stores had had an appraisal. There was a similar difference for pharmacy technicians, although less marked.
- Pharmacists with a patient facing role in a community or primary care setting were less likely to have had an appraisal than those in non patient facing roles, but there was no significant difference for those working in a hospital setting. There were also no significant differences between patient and non patient facing roles among pharmacy technicians in community, primary care or hospital settings.
- Having an appraisal by a pharmacy professional was most common in hospital settings for both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, but when appraisals in smaller community pharmacy settings occurred, these were more likely to be carried out by a peer than appraisals carried out in larger multiple community settings.

Locum work

- Locum jobs were most common in community settings (24% of main jobs in a community setting were locum jobs).
- Locum work in hospital settings was least common (4% of main jobs in hospital setting only were locum jobs).
- The age distribution of community locums was similar to that of pharmacists as a whole, and the age distribution of locums did not vary by different community settings.
- Half of community locums were male and half female.
- 50% of locum main jobs in a community setting were full-time and 50% part time.
- The majority of locum main jobs in community settings (99%) were patient facing.
- Only 14% of pharmacists in a locum main job in a community setting had had an appraisal in the last 12 months, in contrast to 51% of all pharmacists in a main job in a community setting.

Prescribers

- Three quarters (74%) of prescribers had prescribed at some point since their annotation and of these, 82% had prescribed in the last 12 months (61% of all with a prescriber annotation).
- The reasons prescribers gave for not prescribing can be summarised as: lack of opportunities, changes in circumstances, and for personal reasons such as retirement and maternity leave.
- Prescribers were predominantly working in hospital settings (61%) and primary care settings (30%), less so in community settings (11%). Six per cent worked across multiple settings.
- The three most frequently given areas for prescribing were antibiotics (39%), pain management (38%) and cardiovascular (37%).
- Two-thirds (64%) prescribed to 10 patients or fewer in a typical week.
- 54% of those who had prescribed in the last 12 months prescribed 10 items or fewer in a typical week.

Future plans for registration

- The majority of registrants planned to renew their GPhC registration when it next comes up for renewal (95% of pharmacists and 96% of pharmacy technicians).
- Three per cent of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians were still undecided about renewing their registration next year.
- The most common reason stated for not renewing the registration was plans for retirement (61% of pharmacists and 42% of pharmacy technicians).
- The second most common reason stated was plans to work in a non-pharmacy sector (around 20% of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians).