

Supporting the COVID-19 response:

Joint statement from Health Education England, NHS Education for Scotland and Health Education and Improvement Wales

27th March 2020

The Statutory Education Bodies (SEB) for England¹, Scotland² and Wales³ recognise the multiple concerns over pre-registration pharmacist training and examinations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this context, the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) has released a joint statement (26 March) to postpone both the June and September 2020 pre-registration pharmacist examinations. Whilst alternative options for the assessments are being considered, the GPhC are exploring a possible 'provisional' register in the interim, for the current cohort of pre-registration pharmacists. The full GPhC statement can be found here:

<https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/news/pre-registration-training-2020-joint-statement-gphc-and-psni>

Health Education England, NHS Education for Scotland and Health Education and Improvement Wales welcomes the proposed approach for current pre-registration pharmacists to potentially progress through their training. Their contribution to the registered workforce will be valuable to maintaining the safety of patients and the general public.

The SEBs are mindful of the impact that a delay in the examination and registration will have on pre-registration pharmacists. As such, we are currently working with key partners, including the GPhC, NHS England, NHS Scotland and NHS Wales, to identify and explore the additional measures to be in place, to support pre-registration pharmacists with appropriate training and professional support, as they progress through this period of uncertainty.

We understand that you will have many questions and concerns at this time. We will ensure that our regional and national training leads have the latest information; they should be your primary contact point for any queries. Our sincere thanks go out to all current pre-registration pharmacist trainees for their professionalism and flexibility during this time.

¹ Health Education England

² NHS Education for Scotland

³ Health Education and Improvement Wales

We also wish to highlight the importance of following current guidance and advice from Public Health England, Health Protection Scotland and Public Health Wales:

Public Health England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

Health Protection Scotland:

<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19/>

Health Wales:

<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>

More information and guidance to support health professionals and the public to respond to coronavirus (COVID-19) is provided here:

Health Education England, NHS England and NHS Improvement:

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19>

NHS Scotland:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/27993/coronavirus-covid-19>

Welsh Government:

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus>



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