

Pharmacy Technician Expansion Project 2022/23

Frequently Asked Questions

Can the PTPT be on site if the practice supervisor is absent?

Yes, there will be times when the practice supervisor is absent, for example on annual leave, and the PTPT is at the site. This should be planned with appropriate supervision by another registered healthcare professional and activities put in place for the PTPT in these instances. Arrangements must be in place for the management of unplanned practice/clinical supervisor absences, for example sickness, including who has responsibility for the supervision of the PTPT. Unexpected, prolonged absences would need to be escalated to the lead employer and the local HEE Pharmacy team.

Do the placements have to happen at specific times over the two years?

The timing of each of the component placements should be in the learning plan and support the successful completion of the PTPT integrated training programme. Your local HEE Pharmacy team and apprenticeship/education provider can provide advice on this.

Can PTPTs spend their time across several sites in each sector?

There are several benefits to exposing the trainee to several sites and experiences, ensuring appropriate supervision requirements are in place.

Should the PTPT spend all their time working with pharmacy professionals?

No, the PTPT should be exposed to and learn from a wide range of professionals, whilst ensuring the GPhC Initial Education and Training Standards are met. The time spent with other healthcare professionals must cover clinical duties as well as non-clinical activities relevant to a pharmacy technician role in that sector.

Can the PTPT support service delivery?

Yes, however, as the PTPTs are not yet qualified healthcare professionals, they must always be supervised. The degree of autonomy with which they can operate will be determined by the registered professional supervising them at that time, based on their assessment of the PTPT's knowledge and skills.

PTPTs will be able to contribute to quality improvement activities. However, the bulk of their time should be spent on activities relating to the delivery of patient focused and, where appropriate, patient-facing activities.

While the PTPTs are supernumerary, they should be undertaking activities (with the appropriate supervision) that support them in developing the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to function as an autonomous professional upon registration.

Should PTPTs spend most of their time shadowing others?

No, this programme should provide PTPTs with significant hands-on practical experience in order to prepare them for practice as autonomous professionals. It is therefore expected that they be given the opportunity to learn by undertaking the range of tasks expected of a registered pharmacy technician.

What activities is the PTPT expected to be involved in?

PTPTs will undertake a range of activities dependent on the clinical learning environment in which they work, their knowledge and skills, and their competence and confidence. Activities should allow them to meet the requirements of the GPhC Initial Education (IET) Standards and link to the agreed learning outcomes as agreed in the learning plan.

As part of their training PTPTs will be expected to demonstrate accuracy in the assembly of medicines and the checking of others as well as be able to undertake medicines reconciliation and supply. Roles and responsibilities for the PTPT should include activities that deliver services and pharmaceutical care to individuals.