

Revised standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists

In January 2021, the GPhC published the revised [Standards for the Initial Education and Training of Pharmacists](#).

This is an exciting moment for the profession, as it provides a set of new learning outcomes that:

- Span the whole 5-year initial training period (MPharm degree and the Foundation Training Year) and can link to a continuum of development into post-registration.
- Provide newly qualified pharmacists with the necessary consultation skills and confidence to provide the clinical services expected by patients and the NHS, working across health systems.
- Will enable pharmacists to be independent prescribers at the point of registration (this will be introduced in a future Foundation Training Year, the 21/22 learning outcomes are an interim set being used before reaching this point)

Over the next few years, Health Education England will be working closely with the GPhC, Pharmacy Schools, employers, system partners and trainees to implement these changes in England.

The fifth year of training (previously called the pre-registration year) will now be called the **Foundation Training Year**. Learners on this programme will be referred to as **Trainee Pharmacists**.

[The GPhC has set out the responsibilities and activities of Health Education England](#) in relation to the Foundation Training Year in England. HEE will primarily be involved in the quality management, design, management, and monitoring of the Foundation Training Year.

There is clearly an exciting and complex process of change and implementation ahead of us, in which we will be involving our key stakeholders to help shape and guide the important decisions to be made.

Our immediate focus is on supporting the roll-out of the new standards and learning outcomes for the Foundation Training Year starting this summer, in July/August 2021.

Foundation Training Year 2021/22

The GPhC has published a range of information on the [2021 Foundation training year](#), in which they confirm that:

- Independent Prescribing will **NOT** be incorporated in the 2021 Foundation Training Year, and a set of [Interim Learning Outcomes](#) have been produced to reflect this
- All Foundation training sites are required to use the interim learning outcomes for Foundation Training Year 2021/22
- Tutors will now be known as Designated Supervisors.

Along with key partners, and building on the successes of the [IFPP \(Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme\)](#), Health Education England has started work on a range of support resources that will be offered to all Foundation Year training sites, regardless of sector and commissioning route.

Resources available to support Trainee Pharmacists in the Foundation Training Year will include:

1. A practice-based assessment strategy that will support Trainee Pharmacists to complete a range of specific activities (under the supervision of their Designated Supervisor) that are mapped to, and will provide evidence for, the demonstration of the interim learning outcomes.
2. An e-portfolio in which the Foundation Trainee Pharmacist will record evidence of these activities, providing a mapped record of evidence against learning outcomes.
3. A range of virtual learning and information resources to support key areas of learning.

These resources will:

- Be used in conjunction with existing employer led/local/regional training plans.
- Support Designated Supervisors to determine when the learning outcomes have been demonstrated, and feed directly into the process of review and sign-off that is mandated by the GPhC.
- Inform future iterations of an England-wide Foundation Training Year Assessment Strategy that will support the assessment of the full learning outcomes including independent prescribing as an outcome at registration.
- enable trainee pharmacists to demonstrate consistency of evidence across all sectors, developing a more flexible workforce.

We will shortly be inviting a wide range of stakeholders and users from all sectors to inform the development of our implementation plans for the 2021 Foundation Training Year in England. The aim is to ensure that the approach is co-designed and meets the needs of all Trainee Pharmacists and training sites for this initial year, and future years of the implementation process.