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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

The self-reported advanced-level practice development needs of pharmacists working across the United Kingdom: A national cross-sectional survey

Invitation to Participate

You are being invited to take part in a national cross-sectional [survey](#) on the self-identified advanced-level practice development needs of pharmacists working across the United Kingdom.

You will be asked to rate your current confidence in achieving each of the outcomes of the RPS Core Advanced Pharmacist Curriculum. The data generated will help to identify the development needs of pharmacists working towards or at an advanced level, which will inform commissioning decisions by the statutory education bodies in each of the devolved nations (NHSE, HEIW, NES and NICPLD).

By participating you are helping to shape the available educational support for pharmacists as they further develop in their career.

We want to hear from you, even if you do not currently aspire towards an advanced pharmacist role, as the development needs of pharmacists in all types of roles are of interest. This information sheet tells you the purpose of the survey and what will happen if you decide to take part.

You should complete this survey if you:

- Are a pharmacist registered with GPhC or PSNI
- Are working or residing in the United Kingdom; England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland
- Working in any sector of pharmacy practice

You should not complete this survey if you:

- Have been formally credentialed as a 'consultant-pharmacist ready'
- Are in-post as a consultant pharmacist
- Are a trainee pharmacist

Further details are available on the RPS website. Further details are available on the [RPS website](#). Please contact us if there is anything that is unclear or if you would like more information. Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

If you are unfamiliar with the consultant pharmacist and advanced pharmacist levels of practice, additional information is provided below.

Consultant pharmacist practice

Delivering care to individuals and/or populations, with the most complex needs; influencing care beyond traditional healthcare boundaries across systems through leadership, education and research. Individuals have demonstrated that they have the level of competence expected of a consultant pharmacist and they are working in an approved consultant pharmacist post.

Advanced pharmacist practice

Experienced pharmacists, delivering care autonomously to individuals and/or groups with complex needs, influencing services within your organisation and/or locally, with advanced capabilities across the four pillars of professional/clinical practice, leadership and management, education and research.

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1. Who is conducting the study?

The study is being carried out collaboratively by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) and the statutory education bodies across the UK (NHS England (NHSE), NHS Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW), NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and The Northern Ireland Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development (NICPLD)). Three pharmacists from NHS Scotland (Paul Forsyth, Andrew Radley and Fiona Marra), a member of the RPS Science and Research Committee (Christine Bond) and the University of Dundee are also collaborating on the design, methods, analysis and write-up of the survey. Ethics approval was sought and confirmed as not required as the study did not involve patients, was anonymously delivered, and the aims were directly related to the directly employed roles of the researchers.

2. What is the purpose of the study?

The aim of this survey is to identify the self-reported advanced-level practice development needs of pharmacists across the United Kingdom against the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Core Advanced Curriculum, and any association of these with individual pharmacist characteristics. The results of the survey will be used to inform regional and national discussions on support structures and commissioned projects required to develop advanced-level practice.

3. Why have I been chosen?

You have been invited to take part in this study as you are a pharmacist registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council or Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland and you work or reside in the United Kingdom.

However, please do not complete the survey if you are a pharmacist already formally credentialed as 'consultant-pharmacist ready' or already in-post as a consultant pharmacist.

4. How was I identified to take part?

This survey and accompanying information have been circulated widely by the collaborating partners. You may have received it because you are a member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, or via local or regional networks supported by the education commissioning bodies (NHSE, HEIW and NES, NICPLD).

Because of this approach to dissemination, you may receive the invitation to participate more than once. Please only complete the survey once.

You may also receive a reminder request to participate.

5. Do I have to take part?

No. Your participation is entirely voluntary. If you decide not to take part, you do not need to tell us why.

6. What will happen to me if I take part?

If you are interested in taking part, please click on the following link ([survey](#)) which will take you to the survey; the link is also included in the covering email sent with this Participant Information Sheet.

You will be asked a series of questions including:

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- Your demographics and characteristics
- Whether you are interested in 'advanced-level credentialing', including being asked to elaborate on your response
- Your self-reported confidence in being able to evidence the 25 outcomes in the curriculum
 - You will be asked to rate your self-identified confidence in being able to evidence each competence using a simple 5-point Likert Scale; Really Confident, Confident, Neutral, Unconfident, Really Unconfident.

Survey completion is expected to take 10-15 minutes.

7. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

You may not benefit directly from taking part. However, the information gained will help to assess the development needs of pharmacists in relation to the core advanced entry-level standard to inform regional and national discussions on required support structures. This may lead to commissioned projects to develop 'advanced-level practice' and potentially the formation of new training programmes.

8. Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Yes. No participant-identifiable data will be collected; all data will be collected anonymously.

9. What will happen to the information I provide?

All data collected is anonymous and is stored on password-protected RPS computer systems.

The RPS will lead on data collection. The data will be owned by the RPS with a data-sharing agreement in place with NHSE, NHS HEIW, and NHS NES and NICPLD for co-ownership of their country's data.

The University of Dundee will lead on undertaking a statistical analysis of the data. This statistical analysis will determine if any of the participant's demographics and characteristics are associated with self-reported training needs. The University of Dundee will only share their analysis with the project steering committee.

The qualitative data on participant's reasons for being interested, or not, in advanced-level practice will be analysed separately at a later stage for common themes.

The RPS take data protection seriously. Please read our [privacy policy](#) for information on how we handle your data and what your rights are.

10. What will happen to the results of the study?

A report of the findings will be produced. The results of this study will be presented to senior pharmacy teams across NHS England, NHS Scotland, NHS Wales and Health and Social Care Northern Ireland. It may be published in a peer-reviewed journal and may also be presented at various meetings and conferences (e.g. Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Government, NHS, etc.).

11. If you have further questions?

If you would like more information, please email education@rpharms.com.

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet and for considering taking part in the survey.