

Dear Colleague,

**Re: timeframe for completion of pharmacy technician education and training – end of transitional period**

In the registration criteria for pharmacy technicians first published by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) in September 2010, the GPhC introduced a maximum timeframe in which trainee pharmacy technicians must complete their education and training and apply to register. This timeframe requires trainees to apply for registration as a pharmacy technician within five calendar years of starting the first GPhC-approved course, or within 2 years of completing the last GPhC-approved course, whichever is sooner.

In order to allow trainees time to complete all the registration requirements, and to apply to register, a transitional period has been in place allowing the GPhC to accept applications from trainees who may have exceeded the above timeframes.

This transitional period ends at **noon on 20 December 2013**. As such I am writing to all course providers and awarding bodies offering GPhC-approved pharmacy technician qualifications to ask you to please remind your current and previous trainees that this deadline is approaching in case it should affect them. Awarding bodies should notify their approved centres for this qualification so that the centres may, in turn, inform trainees.

In order to be eligible to register after 20 December 2013, a trainee must have met all criteria for registration within the specified timeframes. Applications received after this date which include qualifications started or completed outside of the timeframes will not be accepted. It is therefore vitally important that trainees who are likely to breach the timeframes for registration complete all registration requirements ahead of this date so that they are in a position to submit a valid application to be received by the GPhC before the end of the transitional period.

For information, the full criteria for registration as a pharmacy technician can be found on our website: <http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/registration/registering-pharmacy-technician/uk-qualified-pharmacy-technicians>

Over the next few months there will be further information and reminders about the deadline provided on the GPhC website and within the GPhC publication, *Regulate*.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the GPhC Applications team on [Applicationteam2@pharmacyregulation.org](mailto:Applicationteam2@pharmacyregulation.org) or 0203 365 3400.

Yours sincerely



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