



Pharmacy Qualifications Support Team (QST)

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 22 November 2024 (via Microsoft Teams)

Present

Angela Cannon	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Colin Sinclair	NHS Fife
Jonathan Gillies	SQA
Karen Liles	NHS Education for Scotland
Kirsty Hurt	SQA
Monica Hunter	NHS Education for Scotland
Scott Hislen	Edinburgh College
Suzanne Thompson	West College Scotland
Yvonne Bayne	Fife College

Welcome, introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from Aileen Begley, Jodi Jenkins and Susan Roberts.

1. GPhC data collection

GPhC have confirmed that they will request data for all pre-registration pharmacy technicians.

Jonathan shared the draft GPhC template and noted that the information to be requested included sex, age range, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and any disabilities declared. GPhC will also request information on the primary pharmacy setting/sector and any fitness to practice sanctions imposed.

Jonathan noted that GPhC plan to issue templates in February 2025. SQA will forward the templates on to delivering centres so they can provide the requested data. SQA will collate all of the data received from delivering centres and return one completed template to GPhC. Only centres delivering and entering trainees for the Diploma in Pharmacy Services at SCQF level 7 need to provide a return. Any centres working in partnership to deliver the training programme should liaise with each other to agree on an approach to collating and submitting the data.

Kirsty Hurt confirmed that it was permissible for SQA to collect and share this data as all data submitted would be aggregated.

Jonathan encouraged QST members to liaise with their colleagues to discuss the requirements of GPhC's data request and, where possible, to start collating the data.

2. PDA in Assessment and Supply of Individual Patients' Medicines (GE7D 47)

Concerns were previously raised regarding the alignment of the PDA in Assessment and Supply of Individual Patients' Medicines (GE7D 47) with the current initial education training standards.

Jonathan confirmed that replacing the NOS in the framework would result in the SCQF level of the PDA increasing from SCQF level 7 to SCQF level 8. A business case would therefore be required to progress this change.

Monica advised that a scoping survey had been issued to employers to ascertain if there was any demand for the revision of the PDA in Assessment and Supply of Individual Patients' Medicines (GE7D 47). The closing date for the survey is 13 December 2024.

Suzanne noted that there was potential demand for a revised group award for pharmacy support workers.

Monica agreed to share the scoping survey with QST members. QST members agreed that it would be advantageous to delay making a decision until the results of the survey were available.

3. Final Accuracy Checking by Pharmacy Technicians 1 and 2 (H9NP 34 / H9NR 34)

Concerns were previously raised regarding the Final Accuracy Checking by Pharmacy Technicians 1 (H9NP 34) and Final Accuracy Checking by Pharmacy Technicians 2 (H9NR 34) units and how they align with Pharm 28 (Undertake the Final Accuracy Check of Dispensed Medicines and Products - J44T 04).

Monica advised that the employer scoping survey also included the Final Accuracy Checking by Pharmacy Technicians 1 (H9NP 34) and Final Accuracy Checking by Pharmacy Technicians 2 (H9NR 34) units.

QST members agreed that it would be advantageous to delay making a decision until the results of the survey were available.

4. GPhC IET standards review

GPhC are currently consulting key stakeholders on the initial education training standards for pharmacy technicians (IETPT). Monica advised that a meeting was held on 3 October 2024 with NPTGS and PTET pharmacy technician members to discuss views and suggest changes to the IETPT. The views were documented and circulated to stimulate further conversation in pharmacy workplaces.

Jonathan noted that GPhC had initially expected it to be a light touch review. However, based on discussions so far there was potential for more significant changes.

Jonathan confirmed that SQA have not been asked to provide feedback at this stage. Awarding bodies/delivering centres will be asked to provide feedback at a later date. Monica noted that GPhC were planning to issue a consultation in December 2024/January 2025.

5. SOLAR assessments

Suzanne raised concerns with regard to accessing SOLAR assessments in advance of an assessment event to carry out key internal verification checks. Jonathan confirmed that discussions were ongoing between the SQA SOLAR and quality assurance teams to try to find a solution. Jonathan noted that discussions had also taken place with the College Quality Focus Group.

Jonathan confirmed that in the interim period centres could continue to create dummy live assessment events to carry out any internal verification checks. However, this should be kept to a minimum.

Suzanne also raised concerns with regard to amending SOLAR assessments for trainees with additional support needs. Jonathan advised that SOLAR has several accessibility features to support trainees who have been identified as having additional support needs. This includes:

- Adjustments can be made to the duration of assessments when scheduling assessments
- Trainees can adjust the colour scheme and contrast of assessments as required
- Trainees can zoom in and out of assessments as required
- Assessments can be navigated using a keyboard
- SOLAR works with assistive technology applications such as JAWS, NVDA, Dragon NaturallySpeaking and Windows Magnifier

Jonathan advised that centres should liaise with their assessment arrangements team if any other assessment arrangements were required. SQA's assessment arrangements team are also available to provide advice and guidance to centres.

6. Assessments and standardising marking

Scott suggested all delivering centres get together to standardise assessments and marking instructions. Jonathan encouraged all centres to work together and to share good practice.

Scott agreed to contact all delivering centres to try to arrange a standardisation event.

7. AOB

Minimum English language requirements for pharmacy technicians to be added to the agenda for the next QST meeting.

Jonathan advised that the next meeting of the pharmacy QST would be arranged for February 2025.

Action grid

Action	Date completed
QST members to liaise with their colleagues to discuss the requirements of the GPhC data request and, where possible, to start collating the data	
Monica to share the scoping survey issued to employers to ascertain if there is any demand for the revision of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- PDA in Assessment and Supply of Individual Patients' Medicines (GE7D 47)- Final Accuracy Checking by Pharmacy Technicians 1 (H9NP 34) / Final Accuracy Checking by Pharmacy Technicians 2 (H9NR 34) units	22/11/2024
QST members to consider the results of the employer scoping survey at a future meeting	
Scott to contact all delivering centres to try to arrange a standardisation event	
Minimum English language requirements for pharmacy technicians to be added to the agenda for the next QST meeting	
Jonathan to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date/time for the next meeting	