



Pharmacy Qualifications Support Team (QST)

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 30 January 2026 (via Microsoft Teams)

Present

Aileen Begley	External Verifier
Carol Neilson	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Catherine Carre	Edinburgh College
Colin Sinclair	NHS Fife
Jonathan Gillies	SQA
Laura McClelland	Edinburgh College
May Byrne	SQA
Michael McKenna	SQA
Suzanne Thompson	West College Scotland

Welcome and introductions

Jonathan welcomed members to the meeting.

1. PDA in Assessment and Supply of Individual Patients' Medicines (GW26 48)

The request to revise the above qualification to include the most recent National Occupational Standards (NOS) has now been actioned and is available for use by centres. A link to the new qualification is below:

- <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/57437.html>

The old version of the PDA (GE7D 47) will still be available until the end of July 2028. This will allow transition for centres from the old to the new qualification.

Members were asked to note that the Undertake the final accuracy check of dispensed medicines and products (J44T 04) unit, although not included in the new qualification, will still be available as a freestanding unit.

2. Workplace learning log guidance

Jonathan noted that the workplace learning log guidance had been circulated to members via email in November 2025.

3. GPhC Pharmacy Technician survey

Jonathan informed members that the above survey had been issued via email on 6 January 2026 with a deadline of 30 June 2026.

Members were asked to note that this is a different survey to the one that had been issued for the SQA recognition event.

Some concerns from members were raised regarding the number of surveys issued at this busy time of year which could potentially lead to lower engagement.

4. GPhC annual data request

Jonathan asked members to note that he is expecting the annual GPhC data request for Pharmacy Technicians early February 2026.

As in previous years, Jonathan will share the GPhC spreadsheet and associated guidance with delivering centres. All data received will be collated and then submitted to GPhC.

5. GPhC Pharmacy Technician recognition/accreditation event

Members were asked to note that this full-day online event will take place on Friday 13 March 2026. The exact scheduling of the day has still to be confirmed by GPhC. As part of the event there will be individual sessions with SQA, External Verifiers and delivering centres. Jonathan will forward the finalised schedule as soon as possible.

GPhC has requested that past and present trainees complete a survey regarding their experiences. Any feedback received will be discussed at the recognition/accreditation event. The survey was sent to delivering centres on 26 January 2026 with a deadline of 9 March 2026.

6. AOB

Jonathan asked members to note that he has been invited to join a new GPhC Initial Education and Training of Pharmacy Technicians Advisory Group (IETPT). The group will contribute to the implementation of the 2026 IE&T standards for pharmacy technicians, advising on the route to registration for internationally qualified pharmacy technicians, considering issues relating to the education and training of pharmacy technicians and pharmacy support staff more broadly, and acting as a forum for hearing views from stakeholders across the sector. The first meeting of the group is scheduled for April 2026.

Suzanne highlighted the need for confirmation from employers as to what qualification is suitable regarding final accuracy checking for advanced Pharmacy Support Workers. Members agreed that a decision was required from National Pharmacy Technician Group Scotland (NPTGS). Jonathan agreed to contact Hazel Jamieson, Chair of NPTGS, to get a decision on what qualification they deemed to be suitable for Pharmacy Workers in an advanced role.

Next steps

It was agreed that the next meeting of the pharmacy QST would be arranged towards the end of the current academic session.

Action grid

Action	Date completed
Jonathan to contact Hazel Jamieson, Chair of NPTGS, to request a decision on what qualification would be suitable regarding final accuracy checking for advanced Pharmacy Support Workers.	