

To: pharmacy technician education and training leads and national awarding bodies

By email

Thursday, 01 June 2017

Colleagues,

Introduction of Standards for Pharmacy Professionals

Standards for pharmacy professionals

After an extended period of consultation with patients, the public, pharmacy professionals and other stakeholders, the GPhC has replaced its core practice standards – the *Standards of Conduct, Ethics and Performance* - with *Standards for Pharmacy Professionals*. They came in to force on the 12th May 2017.

The new standards explain their relevance to pre-registration trainee pharmacy technicians:

The standards and pharmacy students and trainees

9 The standards for pharmacy professionals are relevant to all pharmacy students and trainees while they are on their journey towards registration and practice. The standards explain the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours that will be expected of students and trainees if they apply to join the register.

10 They should be interpreted in the context of education and training and used as a tool to prepare students and trainees for registration as a pharmacy professional.

11 Pharmacy students and trainees should consider the standards as they move closer to registration and professional practice, and should read them alongside other relevant documents that are provided by initial education and training providers.

Alongside the new standards being introduced, the *Code of Conduct for Pre-registration Pharmacy Technicians* has been withdrawn. Now that the relationship between our core practice standard and pre-registration trainee pharmacy technicians has been explained, we have concluded that a separate trainee code is no longer required from a regulatory perspective.

The practical consequences for pharmacy technician training providers in the 2017-2018 training cycle are that references to either *Standards of Conduct, Ethics and Performance* or the *Code of Conduct for Pre-registration Pharmacy Technicians* should be replaced with reference to the *Standards for Pharmacy Professionals* as appropriate. We will be doing the same with our education documents. This change should affect your training materials, some of your training sessions and your trainee fitness to practise procedures.

To support the introduction of our new standards, we have developed web materials, which are at www.pharmacyregulation.org/spp and also an app: to download it from your app store - search for 'GPhC standards'.

In 2017-2018, we will be developing further guidance on using the new standards in education and training contexts and will contact you about this when the guidance is ready.

Should you have any questions, please contact myself or our Head of Education, Damian Day (damian.day@pharmacyregulation.org).

Yours sincerely,



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cc

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