

P T J

Journal of the Association
of Pharmacy Technicians
United Kingdom

General
Pharmaceutical
Council

General
Pharmaceutical
Council



Revalidation
network
January 2018

Revalidation
framework
January 2018

Revalidation
network
January 2018

What's inside this issue:

- Education and training update
- Revalidation for the Pharmacy Team
- What are our branches up to?





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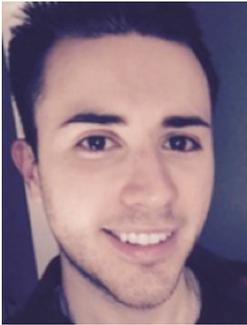
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JOSH TAYLOR MPharmT – Editor
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Education for the future

Well, despite what the weather is saying, spring is supposedly upon us. I suppose naturally this is a time for reflection and to look to what the future will hold for us as individuals, but also to look at what's in store for us as a profession.

I'm sure by now everyone has heard from the GPhC about revalidation and what this means for our profession, but also what this entails for individuals. The GPhC website holds many great resources that are available to browse through to help guide you in this new process, ensuring we, as professionals, are working to the top of our license. There is a fantastic article in this edition walking us through these changes and what they mean for us. Don't forget, we have a dedicated National Officer for our members especially for revalidation who I am sure will welcome any questions or concerns you have during this new period. You can find more information on the APTUK website.

As I've said previously, I believe education and training is vital to ensuring we, as a profession, remain consistent in our knowledge and ensuring we are seen as highly qualified healthcare professionals. So, why not use this transition into revalidation to see how you can further yourself and take on new challenges? You'll see in the CPPE article, that they are running accuracy checking pharmacy technician courses, as well as the Mary

Seacole Leadership Programme, so why not use this opportunity to your advantage and rise to the next level of your career? I myself cannot recommend the BTEC Level 4 Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy Services enough! Not only for my own development, but also in my role as a manager for developing my team further through my learnings.

As you read through this edition, I hope you take note of the fantastic work APTUK are carrying out, especially with our branches. There are two new branches opening up soon, but if these are still a distance away, why not set up your own branch? Again, we have a National Officer dedicated to supporting our branches and I am sure she will be delighted to hear from our members looking to open up a new branch.

I'll leave you with a reminder about our upcoming conference which is taking place in June this year in Glasgow and I look forward to see as many of our members there as possible.

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PTJ 2018/19 Timeline

| Edition | Copy deadline |
|----------------|--------------------|
| September 2018 | August 11th 2018 |
| December 2018 | November 10th 2018 |
| April 2019 | February 17th 2019 |

Follow all activities of APTUK on social media:

Twitter - @APTUK1 Facebook - APTUK.ORG

Keep up with all the news and info on APTUK's 2018 conference and awards by using the twitter hashtag #APTUK18

Author and reviewer guidelines

Full instructions are available online at www.aptuk.org. Articles must be submitted electronically to editor@aptuk.org. Authors are required to transfer copyright in their work to the Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK.

Subscription available on request. For more information contact membership@aptuk.org



TESS FENN MAPharmT – APTUK President
president@aptuk.org

Spring into the new

Dear Members,

Through my column I try to update you on the numerous pharmacy and strategic developments that APTUK is involved with. It is my pleasure this time to tell you about some that are entering a renewed stage. It fills me with excitement and inspiration to be able to do this, as we 'Spring into the New' at the time of year which is traditionally about birth and new beginnings. The spring season brings along with it beautiful flower blossoms, melodious chirping birds, warm and pleasant sun and

Pharmacy (Preparation and Dispensing Errors – Registered Pharmacies) Order 2018

You may have seen on the website, posted in December 17, that the House of Commons and the House of Lords had agreed the 'Draft Pharmacy (Preparation and Dispensing Errors – Registered Pharmacies) Order 2018'. The order was then signed by the Queen on 8 February 2018 and the Privy Council on 21 March 2018. So what does this mean?

This commences the 'Pharmacy (Preparation and Dispensing Errors – Registered Pharmacies) Order 2018' and therefore the legal defences for inadvertent preparation and dispensing errors that were explained in the consultation held in 2015.

The new defences will be available to pharmacy professionals working in registered pharmacies from 16 April 2018 onwards. APTUK will be supporting our members with more information and what this means shortly, so please do watch the website and look out for emails.

What can we expect next from the Rebalancing Programme Board (RPB)?

There will be public consultations on two more proposals from the RPB; an extension of the dispensing error defences to pharmacy professionals working in hospitals and other pharmacy services, and to clarify the role of Superintendent Pharmacists and Responsible Pharmacists in legislation. This will aim to strengthen organisational governance and therefore support any possible future proposals of changes to 'Supervision'.

We will, of course, be asking our members for their views to help form our responses to these future consultations. So again please look out for the information about these and the support that we will be offering to you and the Branches.

The 'Supervision' debate continues and you may have seen some of the communication on this that came out of the RPB Partners Forum meeting in

February 18. The RPB will be discussing this more and to be ready, APTUK have put together an internal Rebalancing Task and Finish group. The group is aiming to put together a survey to ask members to give their views and how any possible changes could support working practises for the benefit of patients. So again please do look out for this and do respond so we can represent you precisely.

So what else is new?

Revalidation

It's here, after all the lead up to the changes from CPD to the introduction of revalidation by the GPhC, it comes into being on the 1st April 2018. By now you should have received your personalised timeline email that tells you what records you will need to submit next time you renew your registration. If you do not already know this you can find it on the GPhC website <https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/your-revalidation-timeline>

You should also have received your letter from the GPhC inviting you to log onto the new 'My GPhC'. Log on as soon as you can! This is where you will be recording your new CPD entries from April 2018.

Do remember, however, that www.uptodate.org is being taken off-line on the 1st June 2018. So if you want to keep your current and historical CPD records you will need to print them out before this date.

To help explain the new requirements there is more information and a video in the members area of our website <http://www.aptuk.org/about-us/Revalidation/Revalidation-requirements/>

'New' Pharmacy Technician Qualification

As you are aware, the new GPhC initial education and training standards (IET) for anyone wanting to train and register as a pharmacy technician in Great Britain came into place in October 2017. The development of a new qualification which meets the IET has been commissioned by Health Education England. The development project, being managed by Skills for Health, has now started with an expectation that the new qualification will be ready for new pre-registration trainee pharmacy technicians from September 2019.

There will be an opportunity to consult on the new qualification content in June/July this year. So again please do look out for this if you would like to give your views.

These are just a few of the new developments that we have been involved in, but I'm sure you will agree, these are of high significance and importance to pharmacy technicians.

It is also pleasing to report that our membership continues to grow and, as indicated in my last column, the multiple, Day Lewis is supporting their pharmacy technicians by giving them one year APTUK membership. Their membership started on the 1st March 2018 and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new community pharmacy technician members.

As you can imagine, at this time in the APTUK calendar, there is much activity and preparation for the annual professional conference. Our focus this year is on 'Patient Safety' and how pharmacy technicians contribute to this. We look forward to seeing 'old' and 'new' faces and encourage attendance, as it truly is a motivating event that allows us all to see and share amazing work. For more information and how to book please see <http://www.aptuk.org/events/conference-2018/>

Right from the beginning of my presidency I was certain that we must communicate clearly and engage with our members to understand your

wants and needs and those of the pharmacy technician profession. I recently saw it written that good communication skills are essential for health and social care professionals, because they help them to develop relationships and demonstrate that they care.

We, APTUK, may not always get our communication just right, but we do care for you and our profession. Thus, I hope reading of some of our involvements on your behalf has encouraged you and given you the enthusiasm to spread the word and help increase our membership.

As always I will leave you with a thought. *'Individually we are one drop but together we are an ocean.'*

APTUK Membership information

CURRENT FEES

To Join APTUK follow this link
www.aptuk.org/about-us/join-aptuk/

The current annual fees are:

Full £48

Associate £14 (for retired members)

Students are free of charge

Please ensure you have amended your standing order, direct debits will be updated to any new fees

APTUK JOURNAL

Autumn and Spring editions of the journal are printed and posted to all full, fellow and associate members. The Summer and Winter editions are only available electronically via the member's area on the APTUK website.

All members, including students can access previous and current editions via the member's only area.

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Please inform Lynn Ali, the Membership Coordinator if you have recently changed any of the following details or not sure if we hold current details:

- Email?
- Address?
- Home or mobile telephone?
- Sector of work?

APTUK WEBSITE MEMBERS ONLY AREA

Please ensure you have access to the member's area to receive electronic journals and find details of other benefits of membership.

To request a username and password please contact Lynn Ali, the Membership Coordinator.

Contact details for Lynn Ali - APTUK Membership Coordinator
Email: membership@aptuk.org Answerphone: 0121 632 2025

APTUK Branches Update

I am delighted to be writing my first Branch update for the PTJ and sharing with you the successes of the Branches within the last 12 months.

There are currently 12 APTUK Branches throughout the UK who hold regular meetings providing networking opportunities and educational sessions which members may wish to use as evidence of CPD and revalidation. Additionally, they provide updates on how the APTUK Board of Directors and National Officers are working to support their members.

The last 12 months:

APTUK Branches have been engaging with many members over the last twelve months and have held a number of meetings. Educational sessions on many subjects have been delivered, some examples are shown below:

- Heart Failure
 - Dysphagia and Medicines Manipulation- Helping patients with swallowing difficulties
 - Anticoagulants and Acute Kidney Injury
 - Inhaler Technique
 - CPPE led COPD Optimise session.
 - CPPE led Dementia Friends sessions.
 - Sepsis
 - Diabetes
 - Antibiotics in the treatment of Cystic Fibrosis.
 - Quality, Safety and Sourcing Unlicensed Medicines
- Branches have also included information about professional development opportunities and information regarding registration requirements including:
- Pharmacy Clinical Services Professional Diploma Level 4
 - Progression and the future of Pharmacy Technicians.
 - Revalidation.

Therefore, I would like to thank all the Branch Officers for their hard work and efforts in running the Branches, and the Branch attendees for your contributions and attendance.

The next 12 months:

So, what will be the Branches be doing over the next 12 months?

Branches will be continuing to host regular meetings on subjects relevant to you. I am pleased to announce that the APTUK Board of Directors will be providing a quarterly update for the Branches to share with you. Information will be shared with you about how the Professional Committee Members (PCM) (Board of Directors and National Officers) are working to support you and promoting our profession.

Many Branches are currently planning meetings focusing on Revalidation, which goes live on 1ST April 2018. Branches will be offering support for their attendees with this, so keep an eye out on social media or your email address for further information.

Want to know more about what APTUK Branches do? Then just wait until we launch 'Branch Corner'. This new information section of the PTJ is coming soon and will provide you with an overview of the fantastic sessions and events taking place at Branch Meetings.

If you've not attended a Branch meeting before now may be a great opportunity to do so. APTUK have Branches in the following areas:

Aberdeen
Bedfordshire
Bristol *New Branch to be opened shortly*
Cornwall
Devon *New Branch to be opened shortly*
Gloucestershire
Kent
North Mersey
London
South Yorkshire
Yorkshire and Humberside
Warrington

APTUK also have virtual Branch which members may wish to use, this can be accessed here: <https://www.smore.com/yydwc-virtual-branch-aptuk>

Information about Branch meetings is shared on APTUKs' Branch Educational Sessions webpage, click here <http://www.aptuk.org/branches/Branch-Educational-Sessions/> for further information.

Have you not got a Branch near you? Are you interesting in starting a new Branch in your local area? If so please contact me, APTUK National Branch Liaison Officer email; branchliaison@aptuk.org and I would be more than happy to chat about how APTUK can support you in setting up a new Branch.



RACHEL RAYBOULD MPharmT
 Branch Liaison Officer
branchliaison@aptuk.org

Book for Conference
 June 17th - 18th - Conference 2018

Building the Foundations of Future Pharmacy Practice

How do we define the future learning requirements of pharmacy technicians, ensuring a consistent approach to professional development opportunities across all sectors?

Over the last 15 years, my pharmacy career has seen me undertake some exceptionally interesting roles in Community Pharmacy, Primary Care, Secondary Care, Leadership and at present, Academia. Learning has been at the forefront of my professional journey, starting with initial education and training, progressing onto Higher Education and on-going with Continued Professional Development (CPD). As registered professionals, we continue to learn and develop both pharmacy and non-pharmacy related skills. The application of these skills to everyday pharmacy practice is creating a new generation of pharmacy technicians.

The role of the pharmacy technician is evolving rapidly and it is imperative learning opportunities match the individual service requirements; thereby enabling pharmacy technicians to work to the top of their professional license. To support in the delivery of this, a transformation of learning opportunities needs to be at the forefront of professional development.

Proposals to further develop the role of the pharmacy technician are both exciting and inspiring. Working together as pharmacy professionals can drive forward individual role development, deliver patient centered care, improve patient outcomes and allow for a greater use of NHS resources.

Communication, engagement and transformation provide a platform for the success of future professional developments.

- **Collaboration** – working together, we can achieve more. If we aim to collaborate both locally and nationally with fellow pharmacy professionals, we can influence the future of the profession.
- **Innovation** – Sharing ideas for role developments and expansion. Creating and inspiring an exciting future for the role of the pharmacy technician.
- **Networking** – the primary driver in achieving success. Creating a community of like-minded professionals, building relationships and sharing opportunities. Networking encourages collaboration, collaboration inspires innovation and pharmacy technicians should be leading the way for transformation.

Social media provides crucial networking platforms to facilitate and



encourage collaborative working. Providing opportunities to share best practice, local and national guidelines, employment opportunities, learning and education, pharmacy events and most importantly, the opportunity to be a part of an inspirational community of pharmacy technicians.

The APTUK Annual Conference also provides an outstanding platform for networking, education, learning and CPD.

Building the foundations of the future role of pharmacy technicians across all sectors is on the agenda nationally. Education and learning provides the foundation for an exciting future in terms of upskilling pharmacy technicians to deliver more clinically focused services. Identifying the learning needs of pharmacy technicians is crucial to ensure the role is expanding as rapidly as the profession.

CPPE (Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education, online¹) currently offers a range of creative learning opportunities for pharmacy professionals and I would encourage the use of such resources in maintaining professional development. Current expressions of interest for higher apprenticeships in clinical pharmacy skills are on the horizon. This could potentially be an exciting development in the further education of pharmacy technicians.

NHS England Pharmacy Integration

Fund² has proposed to support the transformation of clinical pharmacy practice in a wide range of primary care settings as outlined in the Five Year Forward View. The proposed outcome is an effective NHS primary care patient pathway. The objective of this transformation is to drive the greater use of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in new, integrated local care models.

Health Education England has collaborated with NHS England to implement further clinical education and learning for both pharmacy technicians and pharmacists³. This is an exciting opportunity in terms of pharmacy technician's role development.

Bradford College also offer a unique and exciting opportunity for pharmacy technicians. The BTEC Level 4 Professional Diploma in Pharmacy Clinical Services aims to support pharmacy technicians with their professional development within clinical areas of pharmacy practice.

Pharmacy technicians should be seeking unique opportunities in Further or Higher education and learning, building a foundation for their own future practice. Improving patient outcomes is our primary aim and ensuring pharmaceutical education is appropriate to individual service requirements, is key to influencing change.

As Pharmacy Professional Development Lead at Bradford College, I seek innovative ways to take pharmacy technician professional development to the next level. I actively encourage my fellow pharmacy professionals to join me on my journey.

REFERENCES

1. www.cppe.ac.uk
2. (NHS England. (2016). *Pharmacy Integration Fund*. Available: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/primary-care/pharmacy/integration-fund/>. Last accessed 11/10/2017).
3. (NHS England. (2017). *Workforce education and development*. Available: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/primary-care/pharmacy/workforce-education/>. Last accessed 11/10/2017).



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Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK (APTUK)

The Professional Leadership body for Pharmacy Technicians

Collect evidence for revalidation



THE ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACY TECHNICIANS UK

APTUK 2018

ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

SUN 17 - MON 18 JUNE

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in Glasgow at the largest conference for Pharmacy Technicians in the UK

SAVE UP TO 20% REGISTER BY 14 MAY 2018

The Annual Conference and Exhibition is the APTUK's flagship event and a must-attend conference for all pharmacy technicians to learn from leading experts, exchange ideas and debate the hottest topics surrounding current practice.

WHY ATTEND?

- A full programme covering all sectors of the profession.
- Gain evidence and advice for revalidation.
- Pharmacy experts will be sharing their knowledge and insights.
- Debate hot topics, exchange ideas and share best practice.
- Showcase your own work as a poster.
- Network with your peers and leading players from the field.
- Come together to celebrate the profession at the Annual Pharmacy Technician Awards.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Join more than 200 like-minded professionals – the conference is aimed at all pharmacy technicians at all stages of their career across all sectors and will offer a multi-stream programme so you can tailor the programme to meet your learning needs.

SUNDAY 17 JUNE

09:15 REGISTRATION, WELCOME REFRESHMENTS, EXHIBITION AND POSTER VIEWING

10:00 President's welcome, introduction and national update Tess Fenn, President, APTUK

10:20 Keynote address – Achieving excellence in pharmaceutical care Dr Rose Marie Parr, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Scotland

10:50 Plenary session - Revalidation Osama Ammar, Head of Continuing Fitness to Practise, General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)

11:20 REFRESHMENTS, EXHIBITION AND POSTER VIEWING

11:45 SPECIALIST SESSIONS

SS1 - Aseptics - supported by Helapet Lynn Morrison, Regional QA Pharmacist, Greater Glasgow and Clyde

SS2 - Medicine shortages - an update on national strategies, regional support and local implementation Danny Palmer, Regional Medicines Procurement Specialist, University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, Jane Kelly, Principle Pharmacist, Commercial Medicines Unit (CMU) and Sharon Cooney Senior Pharmacy Technician, CMU

SS3 - Revalidation workshop Mary Carter, National Officer for Revalidation, APTUK and Osama Amma, Head of Continuing Fitness to Practise, GPhC

12:35 LUNCH, EXHIBITION AND POSTER VIEWING

13:30 Plenary session from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Dr John McAnaw Chair, RPS Scotland

14:00 APTUK Business Meeting

15:00 REFRESHMENTS, EXHIBITION AND POSTER VIEWING

15:25 SPECIALIST SESSIONS

SS4 - Covert medicines Kassin Yakhlef, Care Homes Pharmacy Technician, NHS Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group

SS5 - Clinical prioritisation Mary Carter, South West Medicines Information and Training (SWMIT) and Frances Evans, Principal Pharmacy Technician, Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

SS6 - Community pharmacy OTC update Babir Malik, Pharmacist, Green Light Pharmacy

16:15 Specialist Session changeover

16:20 SPECIALIST SESSIONS

SS7 - Medicines support service Karen Liles, Medication Reconciliation & Support Technician, East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Carol Pettigrew and Mary Ann Campbell

SS8 - Electronic prescribing and medicines administration Neil Fallan, Senior Pharmacy Technician, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

SS9 - Patient safety in community pharmacy Caroline Boyle, Professional & Regulatory Standards Business Partner, Well Pharmacy

17:15 Closing plenary – Resilience Emma Stroud, Truth Works **NEW FOR 2018**

17:45 CLOSE OF DAY ONE

19:00 LORD PROVOST AND GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL'S CIVIC RECEPTION

19:30 ANNUAL PHARMACY TECHNICIAN AWARDS, DINNER & DANCE



“ It was my first time attending the conference and I felt very welcome – I enjoyed meeting colleagues in the profession, the posters were excellent, and the presentations and workshops covered very current issues. I’ll return to my post inspired and motivated. ”

2017 DELEGATE



MONDAY 18 JUNE

08:30 REGISTRATION, WELCOME REFRESHMENTS, EXHIBITION AND POSTER VIEWING

09:00 Vice president’s welcome and opening remarks Andrea Ashton, Vice President, APTUK

09:05 Keynote address Nigel Clarke, Chair, GPhC

09:35 Plenary session – Pharmacy technicians and professionalism Dr Carol Nairn, Head of Medicines Supply Chain, Pharmacy, NHS Tayside

10:05 Plenary session – Me and my medicines Graham Prestwich, Patient Representative & Lay Member NHS Leeds North CCG

10:35 REFRESHMENTS, EXHIBITION AND POSTER VIEWING

11:00 SPECIALIST SESSION

SS10 - Topic tbc Speaker tbc

SS11 - Pharmacy technicians and their role in the provision of clinical trials Helen Tomlinson, Clinical Trials Pharmacy Technician,

SS12 - Patient safety: an anticoagulant case study Sam Quaye, Lead Pharmacy Technician, Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education

11:50 LUNCH, EXHIBITION AND POSTER VIEWING

12:50 An interview with.....

- Liz Fidler APTUK/AAH Pharmacy Technician of the Year 2017
- Rachel Large, Well Pharmacy
- Ben Smith, APTUK/AAH Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician of the Year 2017

Hosted by Mohammed Hussain, NHS Digital

13:50 Plenary session – Scottish Patient Safety Programme (SPSP) Laura McIver, Director of Pharmacy, Health Improvement Scotland (HIS)

14:20 REFRESHMENTS, EXHIBITION AND POSTER VIEWING

14:45 SPECIALIST SESSION

SS13 - Medication Safety Officer (MSO) Kelly Wood, Medication Safety Pharmacy Technician, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust

SS14 - Digital innovation Mohammed Hussain, NHS Digital

SS15 - Medicines optimisation in care homes Wasim Baqir, National Pharmacy Lead (Care Homes), NHS England

15:40 Plenary session – Professional update APTUK

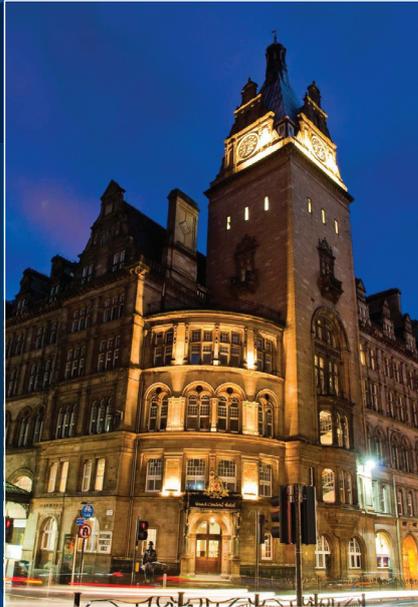
16:00 Closing plenary – “I’m a pharmacist, but why am I an advocate for pharmacy technicians?” Johnathan Laird MRPharmS (IP) Director, PharmacyinPractice.scot and General Practice Pharmacist

16:30 CLOSE OF CONFERENCE



Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK (APTUK)

The Professional Leadership body for Pharmacy Technicians



VENUE

Grand Central Hotel, Glasgow

Located next to Central Station, the Grand Central Hotel is one of Glasgow's most prestigious buildings and at the centre of many of the city's attractions

EVIDENCE FOR REVALIDATION

This year's programme will focus on patient safety, best practice and professional updates and is a great opportunity to collect evidence for revalidation and learn from sessions applicable to your day-to-day role.

HOW TO REGISTER

Registration is open now – book your place at www.aptuk.org/events/conference-2018. Early-bird discounts are available until **Monday 14 May**. Tickets including the dinner & dance and hotel accommodation are available.

Book your place at www.aptuk.org/events/conference-2018
We look forward to seeing you in Glasgow.

CPPE Spring 2018 campaign – Patient Safety

CPPE's *Patient safety* learning campaign begins Monday 26 February



programme is fully funded through the Pharmacy Integration Fund so there is no cost to you or your employer. It's a six-month programme designed to develop your skills in leadership and management through online learning and face-to-face workshops, so that you can support quality improvements to services and really make a difference to the people you see in community pharmacy.

E e-learning CPPE 1

Accuracy checking pharmacy technician programme

If you are a pharmacy technician working in London, Kent, Surrey or Sussex and have always wanted to be an ACPT, now's your chance! The CPPE *Accuracy checking pharmacy technician* (ACPT) pilot programme is fully funded so won't cost your employer any money. Consider applying to access this high-quality training to develop yourself, your team, and most importantly for the benefit of patients.

We offer a blended approach to learning that combines online learning with practical activities in the workplace. Following comprehensive assessment, you will be able to use this learning to support optimisation of skills in the dispensary.

Further information, including FAQs and details of how to apply, can be found on the web page: www.cppe.ac.uk/career/acpt

CPPE are working in collaboration with the NHS Leadership Academy to offer the Mary Seacole Leadership Programme to pharmacy technicians and pharmacists working in community pharmacy. The



Mary Seacole Leadership Programme for community pharmacy



SAMANTHA QUAYE MPharmT

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Twitter: @MrsQuaye

New Legislation for Dispensing Errors

The 16th of April 2018 marked the commencement of The Pharmacy (Preparation and Dispensing Errors – Registered Pharmacies) Order 2018. This is a major step forward for pharmacy professionals, and APTUK hope that this new legislation will lead to greater reporting and learning from errors, further enhancing the care that pharmacy professionals provide.

This change in the law provides a new defence against two of the offences outlined in the Medicines Act 1968 (relating to dispensing errors). The offences still exist, but providing that certain conditions are met (outlined in the FAQ from the Department of Health and Social Care) the new legislation offers a complete defence.

To view the FAQs: http://www.aptuk.org/media/dynamic/files/2018/04/18/9_April_2018_-_QA_for_the_Commencement_of_Dispensing_Errors_Registered_Pharmacies_Order.pdf

At present, this change in the legislation only protects those working in registered pharmacy premises- which will not cover all of our members. The Rebalancing Programme Board has plans to consult shortly on further legislation

2018 No. 181

MEDICINES

HEALTH CARE AND ASSOCIATED PROFESSIONS

The Pharmacy (Preparation and Dispensing Errors – Registered Pharmacies) Order 2018

which will widen the defence to other areas such as unregistered hospital pharmacies, prisons and care homes.

We would advise members to read the FAQ document from the Department of Health and Social Care to gain a greater understanding of the current situation and what this new Order achieves.

APTUK hopes that this new legislation will increase the reporting, learning and sharing from errors in pharmacies. The World Health Organisation's "Medication Without Harm" patient safety challenge is at the forefront of member's minds and this can only help us strive for better, safer patient.

Product Approval Accreditation Programme

Working together to deliver a standardised, high quality training and assessment programme for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians

Background

The MHRA, empowered by the Medicines Act 1968, have the task of protecting the public from any hazards that arise from the preparation and production of medicines. Most of this work is carried out through a system of licensing where producers and products meet stringent standards. There is however, an exemption to this degree of control, whereby organisations may prepare products for individual patients against a prescription. These processes must be carried out under the supervision of a pharmacist within a governance framework which should be open to internal and external audit. This is generally known as working under “section 10 exemption”.

Detailed guidance for professionals and organisations is available through regional Quality Assurance Officers and what is commonly known as ‘The Yellow Guide’ - “Quality Assurance of Aseptic Preparation Services (QAAPS)”¹. Prior to the recent 5th edition in 2016, QAAPS had defined three key roles in Product Approval/release:

- Chief Pharmacist (CP)
- Accountable Pharmacist
- Authorised Pharmacist

There were some challenges with this approach however, for example:

- There are instances where the pharmacist that carries out product approval has also been involved in checks carried out earlier in the process
- The training undertaken by pharmacists may be inconsistent and they may lack experience and confidence
- Placing the focus of pharmacist input on product approval sometimes means that the “clinical check”, which should ideally be carried out at a very early stage of the process, is combined with the final step of “product approval”
- The pharmacist may not have sufficient knowledge or information about the contemporaneous conditions within the unit that has prepared the medicine, or be in a position to take account of operational problems that may affect the integrity of the product.

The need to develop a specific training package to address these issues was identified. It was also recognised that there were advantages to pharmacy technicians carrying out product approval. Some pharmacy technicians may have more technical and operational experience in this area of practice and it may also allow the use of an additional individual within the process which, according to the theory of safe systems, should add an additional barrier to errors.

In order to introduce accredited pharmacy technician product approvers to a unit, it is necessary for accountable pharmacists to address the way that the overall process is supervised and to ensure that the level of pharmacist supervision meets the standards of the Yellow Cover Document, the ‘National Framework for the definition of supervision as applied to Section 10 aseptic preparation activities’.²

South West Medicines Information & Training (SWMIT) developed a training and assessment programme which, when applied alongside an operating framework that ensures pharmacist supervision and appropriate governance and safety requirements, addresses the training needs of both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to carry out product approval under section 10 exemption. The South West Product Approval Accreditation Programme (PAAP) was launched in 2011. Following

this, the ‘Nationally Recognised Competency Framework for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians: The Assessment of Product Approval (Release) in Aseptic Services under Section 10 exemption’³ and a formal application and approval process was developed by the National Aseptic Services Accreditation Group (ASAG) to ensure that any future training programmes that might be developed complied with the same robust quality assurance and governance frameworks.

The Product Approval Accreditation Programme is made up of the following components:

- Completion of pre-course tasks and learning
- Face to face taught course
- Period of experience, supervised checking and collection of evidence (Missed errors would require restart of this process)
- Summative practical and viva voce examination (Failure would require re-sit or restart)
- Accreditation and commencement of probationary period
- Reaccreditation every 2 years

To date, the SW programme has successfully accredited 53 Product approvers:

- o 28 pharmacists (1 commenced the programme as a pre-reg pharmacist)
- o 25 pharmacy technicians

Rolling out the programme

Following the successful implementation of the national framework and the SW programme, a decision was made by the Chief Pharmacists in the East Midlands (EM) to support the provision of a similarly approved course hosted in the East Midlands.

In order to achieve this, an application to host the course would need to be made to the National Aseptic Services Accreditations Group and accepted as meeting the national framework standards.

To facilitate this piece of work I attended the South West PAAP as a candidate and worked through the process of completing the course and becoming an accredited product approver. Since being accredited I regularly approve products for use, and lead in house-product approval training and competency assessment for junior pharmacists.

Working Together

Having the insight into the delivery of the course I began the process of making an application to the national committee to provide the course in the East Midlands. It became apparent early on in this process, that in order to meet the criteria required, some form of joint working would be necessary. Although it would be theoretically possible to “start from scratch”, if we were able to borrow from Ellen and her team’s experience, course format, presentations and paperwork it would ensure that the national criteria were met and also provide consistency across the country.

Therefore, I approached Ellen Williams, the Training Programme Director at SWMIT for the SW Product Approval Accreditation Programme, to seek permission to adapt the SWMIT paperwork for use in the EM. In the spirit of cooperation and promotion of excellence and standardisation, SWMIT kindly agreed to allow me to do this. At the same time, I approached the various speakers on the SWMIT course to get permission to use their materials and invite them to teach on the EM course should it be approved. Again, in great generosity of spirit, all the speakers were happy to support a course in the EM.

Delivering the East Midlands Course

To deliver the course I needed to assemble an EM team. The key personnel are the regional quality assurance lead (Bernie Sanders), a chief pharmacist (Duane McLean) and an Accountable Pharmacist (Dhiren Bharkhada). In addition, as I wished to promote this course as widely as possible I also sought the support of an Accountable Pharmacist from outside the region (Maloni Talbot). Admin support was provided by the admin team at Kettering General Hospital.

Kettering General Hospital has close links with a hotel venue (Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth) and I was supported by their conference organiser Katrina, who organised a suitable room, catering and teaching materials etc.

The First East Midlands Cohort

The first cohort dates were advertised on the PASG website and via Chief pharmacist and QA regional specialist links. I received seven suitable applications which was just enough to make running the course financially viable.

Rachel Whitely (RUH Bath) who has a wide experience of facilitating the SWMIT course, kindly agreed to co-facilitate the first cohort with me and the other speakers (Tim Sizer and Dr Lynette James) were booked. Dr James was not able to attend in person so arranged for a video of her presentation to be sent.

The candidates were all sent their pre-course work and attended the two-day induction at Kegworth in September 2016. All candidates fed back positive experiences at the end of the course. They all returned to their base hospitals to complete the supervised practice period. Three candidates (pharmacy technicians) have so far been accredited by submitting completed portfolios and attending a Viva Voce to the satisfaction of a panel and are now able to practice product approval in their aseptic units.

Benefits of the programme

The delivery of the Product Approval Accreditation Programme in both the SW and the EM is demonstrating many benefits. Some of these are:

- To patients:
 - o A safer, more efficient service
- To pharmacy technicians:
 - o Role enhancement/professional development
 - o A new challenge
 - o Contributing to improving the workflow and preventing delays to patients
 - o An enhanced view of their Pre and In Process Checking role – they now see ‘the bigger/whole picture’
- To pharmacists:
 - o Increased confidence
 - o Increased interest in pursuing careers in technical services
 - o Increased awareness of the whole process and all the factors they need to consider when approving/releasing products

The Future

Aseptic preparation is a high-risk activity, with strict adherence to national standards and the training and competence of those pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in the position of approving these products being critical for ensuring patient safety.

Both Ellen and myself are committed to doing all we can to ensure that the product approval standards set out in the National Framework and reflected in the “QAAPs 5th edition are performed across the country, by providing the opportunity to access either the SW or EM courses and supporting the development of potential additional programmes around the country.

Therefore, we have agreed a joint working arrangement by allowing the EM course to be made available on the SW website for bookings.

At the beginning of this article it was stated that prior to 2016, editions of the QAAPS outlined three key roles in product approval. As a result of the work undertaken by the ASAG and the successful implementation of the PAAP schemes, the latest 2016 5th edition now describes *four* key roles within chapter 14 which is dedicated to Product Approval:

- Chief Pharmacist (CP)
- Accountable Pharmacist
- Authorised Pharmacist
- Accredited Product Approvers

The addition of this role and the detailed definition within the QAAPS reflects a huge achievement in the recognition of the skills and competencies of pharmacy technicians who have and will take up this accredited role and the benefits of this training and assessment programme to aseptic units, their teams, and ultimately to patients.

We are confident that the greater the uptake of this course, the safer the practice of product approval will be. Both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are invited to apply and we would encourage those staff and their managers to take up this opportunity. By gaining a nationally recognised qualification you will be showing best practice in your professional role, accepting a new challenge and contributing to greater levels of patient safety.

Details of the programme and how to apply can be found on the SWMIT website at: <http://www.swmit.nhs.uk/education-training/technical-pharmacy-services/product-approval.aspx>



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Scott qualified as a pharmacy technician at Bristol Royal Infirmary in 1989 and has worked in aseptics and production at the BRI, The Royal Marsden (Sutton), Eastbourne DGH Pharmaceuticals and is currently the Aseptic Service and Specialist Products Manager at Kettering General Hospital. He completed the PTQA MSc (Leeds) in 2012.



ELLEN WILLIAMS FPharmT
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Ellen qualified in 1999 and following an early career in a rotational post at Weston General Hospital, went on to manage medicines management services at Bristol Royal Infirmary before specialising in the provision and development of post registration pharmacy accreditations for the South West, including Medicines Management and Final Accuracy Checking, along with Pre and In-Process Checking and Product Approval for Aseptic Services staff. Ellen is currently Interim co-director of the South West Medicines Information & Training team.

Declaration of interests

Scott and Ellen are members of the national Aseptic Services Accreditation Group (ASAG)

1. Quality Assurance of Aseptic Preparation Services (2016), Ed A.M. Beaney Pharmaceutical Press (London) <https://www.rpharms.com/resources/professional-standards/quality-assurance-of-aseptic-preparation-services>
2. National Framework for the definition of supervision as applied to Section 10 aseptic preparation activities (2018) <http://www.swmit.nhs.uk/education-training/technical-pharmacy-services/product-approval.aspx>
3. Nationally Recognised Competency Framework for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians: The Assessment of Product Approval (Release) in Aseptic Services under Section 10 exemption (2014) <http://www.nhspecd.nhs.uk/NRCF%20-%20PAAP.htm>

Primary Care Pharmacy Association (PCPA) Care Homes Symposium 31st January 2018

The Primary Care Pharmacy Association (PCPA) is the UK's largest primary care pharmacy network. It is a not for profit unincorporated association funded through membership fees and corporate sponsorships, supporting all members working in Primary Care Pharmacy. Professional partners include APTUK, CPPE, NHS England, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, the UK Clinical Pharmacist Association, and the National Institute for Healthcare and Excellence (NICE).

The PCPA held their annual Care Homes Symposium in Birmingham on 31st January and were joined by committee members of the recently formed PCPA Pharmacy Technicians Group. See below for more details on the group

The Care Homes Symposium

The Care Homes Symposium, held on 31st January 2018 provided a platform for networking with fellow pharmacy professionals and disseminating information applicable to care home service providers.

Information in terms of the NHS England Pharmacy Integration fund was cascaded and it was valuable to learn further the proposed plans to deploy pharmacy technicians and pharmacists into care homes nationally.

The following presentations were also included in the workshops and are available to full PCPA members:

- When to start and when to stop. Nutrition Support in Care Homes
- Ten ways to engage community pharmacy in care homes support
- Polypharmacy & De-prescribing Safely
- Development of the Care Home Charter for Swallowing and Medicines
- CQC Myth Buster & Top Ten Practical Tips
- Chronic Pain Management in the Elderly
- Acute Kidney Injury

The Primary Care Technicians Group was formed to provide a network for pharmacy technicians to share information, best practice and offer peer support to each other; enabling the pharmacy team to work at the top of their license collaboratively across all areas of primary care.

Want some support?

PCPA Pharmacy Technicians Telegram Group
The personal opinions shared and voiced in this Support Network does not represent the views of PCPA. We hope you find this forum helpful.
<https://tinyurl.com/PCPAPTG>

Whilst focusing its support on fellow pharmacy technicians working in Community Pharmacy, CCG and GP Practices, it also aims to engage with those across all sectors. Real-time support and advice is provided via a forum on 'Telegram', a web-based app which can also be used on laptops and PCs and is available to PCPA members and non-members. Discussion topics are normally pharmacy-themed but have digressed to some amazing cake-making skills! Follow the tinyurl link below to join the forum.

PCPA Pharmacy Technicians Group Committee Members

- Chair – Helen Birchall
 - o Pharmacy Operational Manager at Livewell Southwest
- Vice Chair & London Lead - Helen Pinney
 - o Senior Pharmacy Technician at Argyle Health Group
- London Lead - Sam Soulsby
 - o Medicines Optimisation Pharmacy Technician at Islington CCG
- South West Lead - Helen Belben
 - o GP Medicines Management Technician, Somerset
- South East Lead - Salmia Khan
 - o GP Pharmacy Technician, Woking Surrey
- Northern Lead - Shelley Mannion
 - o Pharmacy Professional Development Lead, Bradford College
- Midlands Lead - Sophie Liggat
 - o Practice Support Pharmacy Technician, Gloucestershire CCG

The Pharmacy Technicians Group committee members have been pulling together a variety of resources which it hopes members will find useful, such as examples of job descriptions and how-to guides. These, and other resources such as presentations and posters from PCPA events are available to members only via the PCPA website.

Membership costs **£39 (or £3.29/month) year for pharmacy technicians** and £48 per year for pharmacists.

Benefits of membership include:

- FREE attendance at all PCPA symposia, workshops and webinars: **Normal price £199 for Non-Members**
- Access to the national steering committees for all PCPA groups
- Access to local networks
- Access to all resources, forums, blogs and networks
- Use of post nominal MAPCPharm (members must be GPhC registered to use post nominals)

Please see the PCPA website for more details <https://pcpa.org.uk/>

Acknowledgements:

Shelley Mannion, PCPA Technicians Group Northern Lead.
Helen Belben BSc (Hons), RegPharmTech, MAPHarmT, MAPCPharm. GP Medicines Management Technician, Symphony Healthcare Services, Buttercross Health Centre, Somerton, Somerset. helen.belben@nhs.net

PCPA
Pharmacy
Technician
Group
Committee
Members





Are you ready to countdown and step up to Revalidation? Well...are you?!

So, you have heard about revalidation and it's finally here, but do you really know what all is about and what you need to do? It is your responsibility to complete revalidation in order to maintain your registration as a pharmacy technician so pay attention! This is really important!

On 1st April 2018, the General Pharmaceutical Council introduced revalidation for all pharmacy professionals. This change to CPD requirements wants the registrant to engage in a new process that ensures that they keep their professional skills and knowledge up to date, reflect on how to improve and show how they provide safe and effective care as set out in the standards for pharmacy professionals.

Whilst APTUK believe that it is the professional responsibility of the individual registrant to engage with revalidation, we will be there to help you along the way and make the process as worry free as possible. In this article I hope to banish fears and instil confidence in revalidation. You can do it!

What do you need to do now?

By now hopefully you should have received contact from the GPhC to log onto the new 'my GPhC'. This is where you need to record your entries for revalidation.

It is really important that you log into the new 'my GPhC' as soon as possible after receiving your correspondence from the GPhC. You will not be able to renew your registration unless you have logged in, this is really important! If you have not received any correspondence and everyone around you has then please get in touch with the GPhC as soon as possible. It may be that they have the incorrect contact details for you and unless you contact them they have no other way to reach you and rectify this.



The old system for recording CPD entries (uptodate.org) will no longer be available from 1st June 2018, so you MUST ensure that you remove any records that you wish to keep and save them elsewhere. Many people have asked if they need to do this. Personally, given the effort taken to complete my records I don't like the idea of them disappearing into cyberspace! On a more serious note, you need to consider the circumstances under which you may require these records in the future perhaps for return to register application, evidence of self-development or to demonstrate competence so it is advisable to keep a record of some kind.

Now is a really good time to get to grips with revalidation requirements in readiness for your first submission. If you are prepared you are less likely to have a last-minute panic and risk that you can't proceed with submission of records at renewal. Remember that revalidation is now linked to renewal of registration and you have to undertake it annually. I strongly advise you to read the Revalidation Framework and the excellent revalidation resources for registrants provided by Osama Ammar and his team at the GPhC. It really isn't that tricky to understand, the guidance is clear and unambiguous, you just need to take the time to read and digest it.

Another important document you should have received is your personalised revalidation timeline. This tells you what you need to do and when. Please remember that this is a personalised timeline and yours may look different to your colleagues (unless of course you share the same registration date!). Again, if you have not received your revalidation timeline then please contact the GPhC, it may mean that they have the incorrect contact details for you.

What are the new revalidation requirements?

- four continued personal development (CPD) records, at least two of which must be planned learning activities
- one reflective account
- one peer discussion

Revalidation will be introduced in stages.

In the first year that you submit revalidation records, you will need to carry out, record and submit four CPD records.

In the second year that you submit revalidation records, and in all following years, you will need to carry out, record and submit four CPD records, a peer discussion record and a reflective account record.

Each time your registration renewal is due from 31 October 2019, you will need to submit records of these activities which you've carried out over the previous year, to meet the revalidation requirement as part of your registration renewal.

This process encourages a more regular and consistent approach to CPD recording and learning activities. This marks the end of the prospect of a letter from the GPhC having your CPD called after you return from a lovely two-week holiday or wondering if you will get a calling letter when everyone else around you at work has got one! I am sure most registrants will welcome this more predictable approach to submission of CPD records - I know I will.

The reduction of the number of CPD entries from nine to four has left room for the introduction of two new elements, a peer discussion and a reflective account. These could perhaps be regarded as the 'unknown factors' in revalidation and the source of biggest anxiety amongst registrants. The truth is that they are pretty straightforward and the GPhC have provided plenty of guidance around these two new elements to help us get it right and APTUK are on hand to help members manage these new requirements.

What is a Peer Discussion?

It's important to remember that you will not need to submit a peer discussion record for your first submission, but you can start to think about peer discussion in preparation for this.

Peer discussion is an open and honest conversation about aiding your development; it is NOT an

assessment of you. Peer discussion encourages engagement with others in reflection on learning and practice and reduces professional isolation. Reflection is encouraged by drawing on third party perspectives. A peer is anyone who understands your practice but you must ensure that there is no conflict of interest in your peer choice. You could use a trusted colleague, line manager, another health care professional or even a group of peers. Your peer discussion can take place in person, over the phone, online or by webchat. You have the responsibility and right to choose your own peer. A peer can't be allocated, unless of course you are comfortable with this choice. An employer can't force you to have a certain peer and can't require that you have the discussion as part of annual appraisal but you can use this as a peer discussion if you are agreeable with this.

Once you have had your peer discussion, you just need to describe how this peer discussion changed your practice for the benefit of the people using your services. You do not need to record the detail of the subject you discussed with the peer just how the discussion has helped you reflect on and develop your practice.

So, peer discussion is actually pretty straightforward and if you take a moment to think about the kinds of discussions, coaching, development conversations that you already have with your peers then I am sure that you can see how they relate to the peer discussion requirements so in essence it is probably not a new concept to most. The process of reflecting on these discussions will make peer discussion more meaningful and provide evidence of how the discussion will impact on your practice and the people using your services.

What is a reflective account?

Again, it's important to remember that you will not need to submit a reflective account record for your first submission, but you can start to think about this element in preparation for this.

The GPhC standards for Pharmacy Professionals sit at the heart of revalidation. The reflective account encourages you to think about how you meet the GPhC standards for Pharmacy Professionals in your role. This element increases awareness of standards and demonstrates reflection on how you apply them in your practice. You will be told which standard(s) to include in your reflective account at the beginning of your registration year. You will be asked to write a reflective account of how you met the professional standard(s) giving a real example from your practice to illustrate this.

In the next edition of the PTJ I will explain more about what happens when you submit your records at renewal of registration. The first group of registrants will be doing this from 31st October 2018. So until then make sure that you get yourself ready to step up to revalidation.

If you have any questions regarding revalidation for pharmacy professionals please feel free to e-mail me.

For further information see the GPhC website at: <https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/revalidation>



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Membership Information

If you have not received any information via email regarding the APTUK National Conference then please contact Lynn Ali, Membership Coordinator via membership@aptuk.org with your current email address. This will ensure you receive all the latest news from APTUK.

78th FIP World Congress of Pharmacy & and Pharmaceutical Sciences

International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) & Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) host the 78th FIP World Congress of Pharmacy & and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Pharmacy: Transforming outcomes!

2nd - 6th September 2018 Glasgow, UK

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is the global body representing pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences, founded in 1912

The annual congress also includes 7th Global Pharmacy Technicians' Symposium: Partners In Health and this is being held on 1st to 2nd Sept 2018

APTUK are pleased to be supporting the Pharmacy Technician Symposium and further details on the programme and speakers can be found on <https://www.fip.org/glasgow2018/> and <https://www.fip.org/glasgow2018/programme-day/>

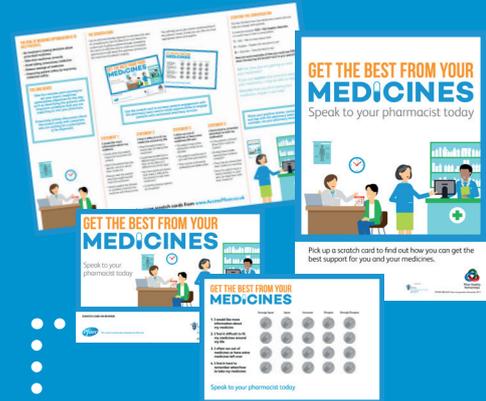
Smoking Cessation Toolkit

because **66%** of smokers want to quit¹



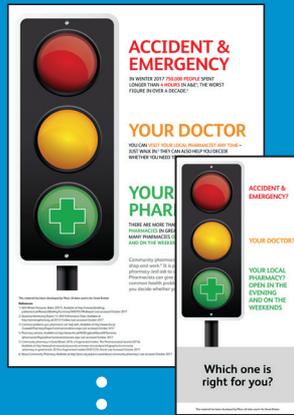
Oral Anticoagulation Toolkit
11% of medication incidents causing severe harm or death are attributable to anticoagulants³

Medicines Optimisation Campaign
Working toward yearly savings for the NHS of **£150 Million**²



RIGHT ROUTE: RIGHT CARE
Campaign Around

11% of patients who attend A&E are discharged without requiring treatment and a further **38%** receive guidance or advice only⁴



Pharmacy training resources accredited by the **RPS**



Therapy area training modules available **24/7**

Tools and resources for pharmacists available on **AccessPfizer.co.uk**

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