

A critical exploration of pharmacy technician's opinions on professionalism and professional identity

My name is Aileen Begley. I am a specialist pharmacy technician working with pharmacy public health in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHS GG&C).

I am in 4th year of a graduate apprentice Business Degree at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU), and my honours project is to carry out research into pharmacy technician's views of pharmacy technician professionalism and professional identity. This research project is based in NHS GGC, and will contribute to a larger research project involving pharmacy technicians based in other Scottish Health boards.

I chose this as my research topic because we are a relatively young profession, and this is an opportunity to find out if pharmacy technicians recognise themselves as being part of a profession and what contribution pharmacy technicians make to the health service. I will conduct interviews at a number of different Scottish health boards. All interview information will be used to help inform the research study's findings and recommendations.

If you do agree to take part in the research study, I will come to your workplace (or other suitable venue) so I can interview you in a room pre-arranged so we talk without being interrupted.

Please read the information below before deciding if you want to take part in the research study.

The aim of this project is to identify pharmacy technicians' views of pharmacy technician professionalism and professional identity.

DATES FOR DATA COLLECTION/ANALYSIS

23rd May to 31st July 2023

You are invited to take part in a research study. Before you agree, it is important for you to understand why the study is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask if there is anything that is unclear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you wish to take part.

Purpose:

- Your colleague or line manager proposed that you take part in this research study because we don't know each other. Therefore, the answers you give to the questions can't be potentially influenced by previous conversations.
- The interview will be a one-to-one, in-person interview carried out in a pre-booked room in your workplace to ensure we have a quiet space to take openly. The interview will be conducted by me and will last for approximately 30 minutes. You will be given a study number to protect your identity and the information you give in the interview will be checked to ensure that you cannot be identified by the information you provide.
- The interview will be audio recorded and transcribed verbatim, (word for word), so I can more easily use the information you provide. The digital recording will be stored securely on my NHS password-protected laptop and will be deleted once the analysis of the information provided is carried out. Hand-written notes taken by me during interviews and paperwork generated during the analysis of information provided will be disposed of by me in NHS GG&C confidential waste.
- This research is being carried out to gather pharmacy technicians' views of pharmacy technician professionalism and professional identity. Information you provide for this study will be incorporated into a larger study asking the same questions of pharmacy technicians in other health boards in Scotland.
- The ethical aspects of this research study have been given approval by the West of Scotland Research Ethics Service and Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) and have the support of pharmacy services in NHS GG&C where this research study is based. Your workplace have given permission for you to take part in the study.
- There are no anticipated risks associated with participation in the study, and GCU and NHS GG&C policies on undertaking research and data protection will be observed throughout the study.

- Contact details for enquiries about the research:

Aileen Begley, Specialist Pharmacy Technician, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
aileen.begley@ggc.scot.nhs.uk Mob: 07970007624