



National Pharmacy Technician Group Scotland

Key Messages – June 2020

Return to Business	After a brief hiatus due to the pandemic, NPTGS met (virtually) on Friday 26 th June. We have a number of significant work streams and short life working groups (SLWGs) that have resumed or are about to resume. In order to support members to balance the demands of their substantive roles and enable contribution to work streams/SLWGs, NPTGS will continue to meet every two months. Updates on our work will be provided to our key stakeholders, cascaded by members and shared on our social media channels; your continuing support of NPTGS is much appreciated as we adjust to working differently over the coming months.
Acute Requests SLWG	The development of Acute Request Guidance for Pharmacy Technicians in Primary Care was progressing well until the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to this, there were several meetings and some very good discussions with input from all Boards. The SLWG intend to make the guidance as robust as possible covering all aspects of the process and provide a national approach for pharmacy technicians that can be adopted by all Boards, while recognising the guidance may require minor local adjustment. The guidance has three levels of competency for processing acute requests with each competency having an individual accreditation process. It was previously agreed three Boards would pilot the guidance and since, a further two Boards have expressed an interest in being involved. The feedback from the pilot will facilitate identification of any gaps or issues. The SLWG will be resuming activity shortly in a virtual format.
Development of a Clinical Qualification	The new training programme for the initial education and training of pharmacy technicians has been approved by the GPhC; this is a higher SCQF level than the previous qualification (Diploma in Pharmacy Services comprised of PDA in Pharmacy Services SCQF Level 7 and SVQ in Pharmacy Services at SCQF Level 8) and has therefore, created a gap for post registration qualifications. Following support from the Director's of Pharmacy, NPTGS in conjunction with SQA and key stakeholders will commence work on the development of a clinical qualification for post-registration pharmacy technicians, relevant to all pharmacy sectors. A Stakeholder Group will be set up in due course to identify the mode of delivery, the qualification structure and content including the knowledge, skills and understanding required to meet Scottish pharmacy practice.



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Sharing Experience – Louisa Jordan Hospital

NPTGS member Linda Henderson shared her experience of helping to set up the Pharmacy Department in the Louisa Jordan Hospital:

'This was a once in a lifetime experience which I will never forget. The experience was made extra special by the cross Health Board co-operation and the way all the staff involved both clinical and non clinical worked effectively and efficiently together to achieve the goal of the hospital being operational in such a short timescale. It was hard work due to the constant decision making and uncertain environment caused by COVID. We managed to make a difficult situation manageable because of excellent leadership and how well the team worked together. We were also very fortunate in that we had Pharmacy Staff who had volunteered to help if the hospital had accepted patients. I try hard not to use what we achieved in the timescale for the Louisa Jordan as a way of making projects happen faster but it's difficult!'

Comments, suggestions or further information:



Local NPTGS member



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