

HIPER ALERT # 9 Summer 2025



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Pharmacy Homeless Outreach Engagement Non medical Independent prescribing (PHOENIX TRIAL)



Jennifer O'Loan, Lead Pharmacist E&T is working with the PHOENIX trial and updates us on its recent progress.

The **Pharmacy Homeless Outreach Engagement Non medical Independent prescribing (PHOENIX)** trial in the Highlands has successfully met its recruitment target—thanks to a compassionate, community-first approach.

Working closely with the NHS homeless outreach teams and community partners, Inverness foodstuffs and Cafe 1668, the recruitment team from Edinburgh University and New Start Highland adopted flexible, patient-centred methods to connect with participants.

By meeting people where they felt safe and comfortable they built trust and rapport that made all the difference. This inclusive strategy ensured a diverse range of participants for the study which will help to generate meaningful data and drive real progress in tackling health inequalities in this population.

This success is a powerful reminder of what's possible when research is rooted in empathy and collaboration.

Education and Training Updates



Foundation Training Year (FTY)



Foundation Training Year (FTY)

We have welcomed our new cohort of managed sector and modular FTY trainees to NHS Highland for 25/26 on 28th July. They are:

- Anna Close (Modular trainee: New Craigs, Primary Care, Dalneigh Pharmacy)
- Georgia Ventura (Modular Trainee: Raigmore, Primary Care, Alness Pharmacy)
- Stella Wadington (Modular Trainee: Raigmore, Primary Care, Lochardil Pharmacy)
- Aya Freigoun (Acute Trainee: Raigmore)
- Hannah Fraser (Acute Trainee: Raigmore)

Please say hello to them if you see them out and about around NHS Highland!

We are also welcoming other FTY trainees across the community sector and across our other health boards. We hope they are all settling in well and enjoying getting to know their local teams.

The 25/26 FTY cohort will be the first group of trainees to qualify as prescribers when they complete their FTY. NES are producing lots of helpful information, which can be found here:

[Pharmacy GPhC Initial Education and Training reforms for 2025-26 - Communications page | Turas | Learn](#)

Post-Registration Foundation Programme



Post-registration Foundation Programme

We continue to hold drop-in sessions for those completing their foundation programme.

These sessions are a chance for our foundation pharmacists to network and support each other, and also an opportunity for them to present case studies or journal clubs, which can be hard to find time to do in the work place. **The next session will be on 5th August.**

After this, sessions will be paused until staffing allows them to start up again. If you would like to get added to the distribution list for these sessions, please contact me at heather.main@nhs.scot until 15/8/25. After this, please

contact gordon.rushworth@nhs.scot, who will note your interest until sessions are back up and running again.

Nationally, there is a lot of work going into reviewing the programme to allow it to be updated and relevant to those qualifying as prescribers at the point of registration. RPS are renewing the curriculum and NES are looking at renewing their programme to complement this and best meet the need of the service across Scotland.

Please look out for opportunities from both the RPS and NES to contribute to these reviews.

Lead Pharmacy Technician E&T Update



I was invited to present at the extremely successful HHSCP Primary Care North, Pharmacy, 'Pharmacy Technician and Pharmacy Support Worker Development Day' held in the Village Hall, North Kessock, Inverness in June.

This was a vibrant and inspiring day with a variety of presenters (of which I was one). There were also educational and fun activities throughout the day designed to engage and stimulate.

Congratulations to HHSCP Primary Care North organisers Hayley MacKintosh, Louise MacLean, Lorraine Thain, Deborah Tuckwell and Margaret Walker for putting together such a fantastic event.-

Please contact Sarah Railton sarah.railton@nhs.scot for any pharmacy technician IET needs you may have.

Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician (PTPT)



Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician (PTPT) successes.

No PTPT completion successes to report for the last quarter which is entirely expected and in line with our active cohorts.

The numbers of successful PTPTs completing since Jan 2023 remains at 17 and of these, 15 have remained in NHS Highlands and Islands. This number has increased from the previous quarter's figure of 14 with the return of pharmacy technician Craig Cameron. Craig undertook his Diploma in Pharmacy Services in NHS Western Isles and took up a post outwith NHSIs upon successful completion. It's a pleasure to welcome Craig (and all his valuable experience) back to Western Isles Hospital.

PTPTs currently in training.

NHS Highlands and Islands currently have 15 PTPTs undertaking the WCS Diploma in Pharmacy Services and 3 PTPTs undertaking the Buttercups PTP to give a total of 18 PTPTs in active training.

- A particular welcome to our newest PTPT 🎉 Danielle McCafferty 🎉 who is newly enrolled onto the Buttercups PTPP course. Danielle is based in Lorn Medical Centre HSCP Argyll & Bute. Wishing Danielle all the best as she begins her learning journey.

The majority of PTPTs are on track or well ahead of expected targets. For those who need to catch up, you are all on my radar and I will continue to provide targeted support for you.

We have had one PTPT leave before completion and that means that our numbers remain steady.

Our Cohort 7 PTPTs (April 25) have made an excellent start and are all progressing nicely. The key to success is keeping up the momentum and regular communication with assessors and training providers.

Growth: The PTPT pipeline continues with interviews for the September WCS Diploma intake happening imminently. More news on this in the next quarter.

Foundation Pharmacy Technicians (FPTs)



Foundation Pharmacy Technicians (FPTs)

There are 16 active FPTs across NHSIs who are working through the VTFPPT (Vocational Training Foundation Programme for Pharmacy Technicians) which forms the second half of the pharmacy technician initial education and training.

- A particular welcome to newest FPT 🎉 Maya Darrel-Hewins 🎉 Maya is based at Gilbert Bain Hospital, NHS Shetland.

A reminder to ALL FPTs and tutors to reach out to Sarah for support. To date, she has undertaken group support sessions with a mix of FPTs and tutors, 121s, evidence checks and lots more. All her support comes backed up with 'NHSIs-centric support sheets' that she has designed to make it all simpler.

Sarah is now fully trained as a NES VTFPPT assessor and has assessed 3 VTFPPT ePortfolios (outwith NHSIs as per NES assessing standards) to date. This has served to enhance her support for you all. Sarah is here to make the FPT learning journey as pleasant as possible.

In other news, NES VTFPPT interim review is progressing very well. The work in the Task and Finish group that I'm part of, has been constructive, positive and very pacey. Sarah will update you all as soon as possible.

Lastly, a shout out to all the FPTs (and their tutors) that are plugging away with the VTFPPT. There is some great progress being made. You know who you are. Keep going!

Growth: The next VTFPPT intakes will be Jan '26 and June '26 and we would be expecting the bulk of our next wave of FPTs to be in June '26.

Work-based Assessors (WBAs)



Work-Based Assessors (WBAs)

A cheery welcome to our newest trainee work based assessor (TWBA) 🎉 Sharon McMann 🎉 Sharon is based at Raigmore Hospital (NHS Highland) and we are delighted to have her join the ever expanding team of assessors/TWBAs. Sharon has already made a very positive start and we look forward to supporting her during her training and beyond

We currently have 17 active assessors and 8 more in training (25 in total)

Sarah is working with the two new L&D9Di assessors at West College Scotland (Reid Kerr) to support you all.

Several TWBAs are beyond their course end date, so please catch up with Sarah in response to her emails so she can help you move forwards to completion.

Sarah will continue to support and help with all aspects of the TWBA and assessing in general.

Pharmacy Support Workers (PSWs)



Pharmacy Support Workers (PSWs):

There are now 17 PSWs undertaking SVQ6 qualifications either with WCS or Edinburgh College. This is currently one of the fastest growing areas of pharmacy E&T across NHSIIs.

It is also heartening to see increased numbers of PSWs and workplaces taking advantage of the access courses offered by the colleges to enable SVQ6 PSW learners who do not have the minimum National 5 A to C grades (or equivalent) in Maths, Chemistry, English and Biology to enter the competitive interview process for PTPT posts (should they so wish).

All our PSW to PTPT candidates have fared very well to date, making excellent progress with their PTPT Diploma in Pharmacy Services or their Buttercups Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician (PTTP) course.

Whilst Sarah's role remains simply an advisory one for PSWs, they are nonetheless being actively supported by her as she works with PSWs and their assessors/TWBAs.

PSW successes

Hearty congratulations to the following PSW who has recently achieved her SVQ6 in Pharmacy Services.

- 🎉 Paula Polson- ADU, Raigmore Hospital 🎉

Paula has been supported by assessor Lisa Bain and TWBA Jenny Stewart. A much deserved success for Paula who is also the first PSW in ADU to complete this award. Great work Paula, Lisa and Jenny.

Growth: There are potentially another 6 PSWs in the pipeline for 2025 with the next intake being Sept 25.



RPS Assessors Wanted



I am happy to share with you that we have received submissions for our latest diet and this our largest cohort yet, which we are very excited about. The team is busy organising panels and we would very much appreciate your help with recruiting more assessors.

We hope to complete this window of assessments by the end of this month, so we do still have some time to onboard new assessors who you feel would be suitable for the role.

If you know of anyone, please share the expression of interest form link below and we will do the

rest: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=YTWZmY1ldkCVLwfDRaO-l2Wklrehl3FOgYvat8l7Q9hUQVA4VEdKUUZnWUUhKN0U3RFFSV1dTVjdKTS4u>

Anna Davies-Muir | Head of Assessment and Credentialing Royal Pharmaceutical Society

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PhD Funding Opportunity



This is a fantastic funding opportunity open to NMAHPs, Psychologists, Pharmacists and Healthcare Scientists. Full-time **PhD salary funding** and research costs.

These PhDs are specific projects that have been designed by the supervisory teams in 4 Scottish Universities - Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and St Andrews. There are lots of interesting projects - all focussed on different aspects of multimorbidity.

[University of Glasgow - Postgraduate study - Centres for Doctoral Training - Multimorbidity PhD programme for Health Professionals - Research Projects](#)

Webinar

There is an applicant information webinar session on 6th August 11.00 - 12.30, link to register as below:

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/doctoraltraining/multimorbidity/>

Entry requirements

Minimum 2 years post-registration. Evidence of research activity before application (for example, as an undergraduate; by completion of a relevant Master's degree or other postgraduate qualification; or by participating in research including writing papers) or other relevant activity (for example, working in policy or management). Applicants would benefit from holding an intercalated BSc or research Master's degree or an equivalent postgraduate research related qualification in an area of clinical relevance.

Application timeline

Job Applications Closes - 14th September 2025

Interviews - 27th-28th October 2025

Pre-programme run-in period start - 1st February 2026

Programme Starts - 1 August 2026

Contact Us



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- Gordon Rushworth

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- **Lead Pharmacist Education & Training (ACTm):**
 - Jo Garrod
 - joanna.garrod1@nhs.scot
- **Lead Pharmacist Education & Training (ACTp & Foundation):**
 - Gemma Headspeath (CURRENTLY ON MATERNITY LEAVE)
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- **Lead Pharmacist Education & Training (Advanced & GPCP):**
 - Jennifer O'Loan
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We are also contactable via **TEAMS**.