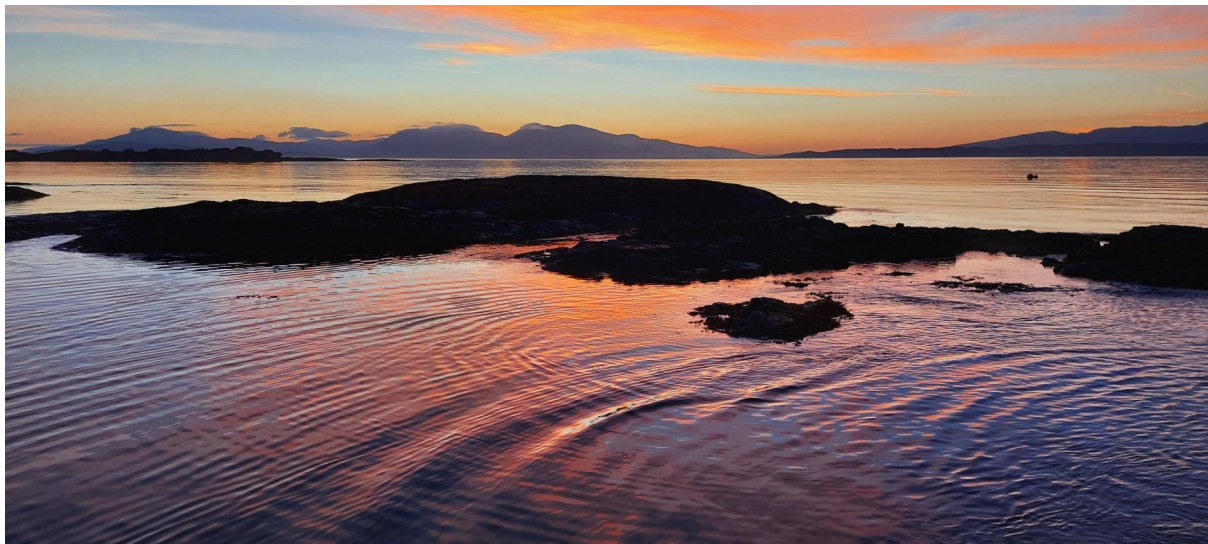


HIPER ALERT Newsletter #11 Festive Season 2025



Newsletter Issue #11



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Our newsletter photograph was taken by our own Sarah Railton in Oban. A beautiful scene, reminding us to take time this Festive Season to enjoy the calm and beauty around us and to breathe.



There has been quite a bit of change within the HIPER team over the last few months - here's an overview:

- **Liz Buist is an Advanced Clinical Pharmacist (Psychiatry) and a Research Pharmacist who is linked with UHI Genetics and Immunology Group. Liz is about to retire this month and we would like to wish her all the very best for long, active and fun-filled retirement! Thank you for all your hard work over the years.**
- **We are delighted to let you know that Gemma Headspeath is on a phased returned to the Team after her maternity leave.**
- **Heather Main has now gone on maternity leave, but her post will be covered by Sarah Hay. Sarah has previously worked in a variety of settings and locations within the UK. Sarah has come from the oncology team in Raigmore.**
- **Jennifer O'Loan continues on her secondment on the PHOENix Randomised Controlled Trial and currently spends 2 days a week on research, and supports Advanced Pharmacist practice for her other HIPER day.**

Simulation Based Education Update



Exploring Pharmacy Simulation: New NES Podcast Episode featuring Jo Garrod from HIPER

Are you interested in advancing your skills through simulation-based learning? NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has launched a new episode in its Pharmacy Simulation podcast series, featuring Jo Garrod and Jennifer Allardyce (NES Simulation Faculty). In this episode, they share their career journeys and discuss involvement in national and local simulation programmes, including scenario development and faculty training. Key topics include:

- **How simulation differs from traditional teaching** and ensures realism through quality-assured resources.
- **The role of learner feedback** in driving continuous improvement.
- **Benefits of joining the simulation faculty**, from supporting learners at all stages to enhancing your professional development and advanced practice portfolio.

If you're curious about getting involved, this episode offers practical first steps and inspiration. 🎧 **Listen now:** Pharmacy Simulation Podcast –

Episode2 <https://nespharmacypodcast.podbean.com/e/s4ep2-pharmacy-simulation-simulation-faculty-joanna-garrod-and-jennifer-allardyce/>

Education & Training Updates

Pharmacy Technician report.

Pre-registration trainee pharmacy technicians (PTPTs)

Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician (PTPT) successes.

Congratulations to HHSCP Primary Care North's 🎉 **Caitlin Young** and 🎉 **Jillian Tyronney** and 🎉 **Kath Green** who have reached 100% complete on the SVQ8 component of their course. This is a reflection of their hard work and dedication and also that of the dedicated team of assessors supporting the PTPTs. To fully complete their SCQF7 Diploma in Pharmacy Services, Caitlin, Jillian and Kath still have their remaining PDA work (open and closed book exams) to undertake as per West College Scotland's (WCS) timetable.

Well done Caitlin, Jillian and Kath!

PTPTs (pre-registration trainee pharmacy technicians) currently in training:

NHS Highlands and Islands currently have **16 PTPTs undertaking the WCS Diploma in Pharmacy Services and 4 PTPTs undertaking the Buttercups PTP course to give a total of 20 PTPTs in active training.**

A warm welcome to our newest PTPT recruits both of whom are in HHSCP Primary Care North

👋 **Heidi-Maria Holland** (Aviemore)

👋 **Chloe Murray** (Inverness Hub)

Chloe and Heidi-Maria both bring much valued PSW experience to their new PTPT roles. I look forward to supporting them and their assessors as they take this next step on their respective learning journeys.

Nearly all active PTPTs are on track or well ahead of expected targets. There has been an impressive effort over the past quarter to get to this position. Keep up the great work!

Growth: The 2026 PTPT pipeline has 3 potentials for the WCS April intake and further numbers are expected for the WCS September intake.

Foundation Pharmacy Technicians (FPTs)



There are **18 active FPTs** across NSHIs 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.

Several FPTs are making excellent progress and for those who are struggling to move forwards with this, another reminder to please reach out to me/make use of my offers of support. I have been in contact with all and I am here to help you. The key to success with this course is regular engagement with the course material and good communication with your work-based tutors and myself.

Do not forget to book onto the quarterly **Peer Review** sessions that are offered by NES. The sessions are designed to support and empower you.

Starting in Jan 26 I will be trialling 3 monthly Highlands and Islands-specific drop in peer review sessions with the Jan 25 cohort. This doesn't not replace the NES quarterly peer review sessions, so I strongly recommend you still go along to those. However my sessions aim to bring you together in a less intimidating space with 'relatively local' peers. My 121 bespoke support sessions for FPTs and tutors will continue to run in the usual way.

The **NES VTFPPT interim review** work, that I've been part of, will hopefully be launched in the New Year. I will update you all as soon as I am able to.

Growth: no NHHIs FPTs are expected to join the Jan '26 intake but it is likely that there will be more FPTs coming on board in the June '26 intake.

Work-Based Assessors (WBAs)



Welcome to our two newest trainee work based assessors (TWBA)

👋 **Dana Dowie**- Balfour Hospital, Orkney.

👋 **Marie Sinclair** -HHSCP Primary Care North.

Delighted to have Dana and Marie join the ever expanding team of assessors/assessors-in-training across NHHIs.

We now have **9** assessors-in-training and **18** WBAs, including newly-reactivated assessors. That is **27** of you playing an essential work-based role in the learning and development of others.

I am the mentor-assessor for all TWBAs and continue to offer 121 support, workshops, troubleshooting and this is all backed up with my supporting documentation.

For those of you who are beyond your course end date, please utilise my offers of support. I am actively working with WCS to formulate a plan to enable you to cross the finish line sooner rather than later.

*****IMPORTANT UPDATE:***** TWBAs you can now use **any** of the standardisation sessions on offer from WCS to count towards the required TWO standardisation meetings for your L&D9DI awards. These can be **unit specific workshops, generic standardisation meetings or TWBA-specific workshops/meetings which are only offered to TWBAs**. You will need to complete a CPD following attendance on your ePortfolio and please speak to Sarah Railton if you need support with this.

I have been assured by WCS that there will be more of the standardisation meetings coming out soon.

There are several active now and they can be found under the '**News and Events**' section on your **learners'** ePortfolio (not on your L&D9DI ePortfolio).

You will also receive an invite from WCS via email for any upcoming standardisation meetings.

Any questions, speak to me and I can direct accordingly.

- Reminder for all **qualified work-based assessors**, you **MUST** attend a minimum of ONE standardisation meeting per year and complete a CPD. You may also use this for your GPhC CPD too.

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

Growth: there are a potential 2 TWBAs in the pipeline for the next 6 months.

Pharmacy Support Workers (PSWs):



PSW successes:

Congratulations to the following PSWs who have completed their SVQ in Pharmacy Services SCQF6:

🎉 **Megan Philp** New Craigs. Megan is the first PSW in New Craigs to complete this award. Well done Megan and WBA Sierra Harnetty for this impressive achievement.

🎉 **Louise Frasier** in HHSCP Primary Care North. Louise is the third PSW to complete this award in HHSCP Primary Care North, supported by a fantastic team of WBAs. Great work Louise!

🎉 **Jenna Johnson** in Shetland Primary Care (demonstrator site initiative). This is a first for this area and brilliant work from both Jenna and her TWBA, Keiran Groat.

PSWs currently in training:

Welcome to our newest PSWs undertaking the SVQ in Pharmacy Services SCQF6.

👋 **Athira Shenoj** – Gilbert Bain, NHS Shetland, supported by WBA Wendy Mudie

👋 **Sophie Williamson**, Gibert Bain NHS Shetland, also supported by WBA Wendy Mudie

👋 **Nicola Wilson**, Balfour, NHS Orkney, supported by TWBA Dana Dowie and WBA Yvonne Rendall

Delighted to see you all starting out on your PSW learning journey.

This now takes **NHSHIs PSWs-in-training numbers to 19** at this point in time. This remains one of the fastest growing areas of pharmacy E&D in NHSHIs.

Officially, my role is an advisory one for PSWs; they are nonetheless being actively supported by me as I work with PSWs and their assessors/TWBAs.

Growth: The next WCS SVQ in Pharmacy Services SCQF6 intake is February '26 with around 6 PSW places in the pipeline.

Pharmacy Technicians



In other news:

There are two Employability Career Inspiration dates coming up in the next few months in NHS Highlands

In November, **Lead Pharmacy Technician, Lorraine Thain** (HHSCP Primary Care North) worked alongside a PSW, PTPT and a pharmacist to fly the flag for pharmacy careers. This event is aimed at S2-S3 school pupils

Lead Pharmacy Technician Hayley MacKintosh (New Craigs) and Raigmore PTPTs **Kerry Morrison** and **Natalia Nowobilska** will be waving the flag for pharmacy technician careers at a similar event in December to raise the profile of pharmacy technician careers for S4-S6 school pupils.

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

Foundation Trainee Pharmacists

Donal Bremner and **Juliett Nwagwu-Michael** have now finished their time with the Raigmore pharmacy team. We wish them both good luck for the future.

Georgia Ventura and **Stella Waddington** have recently finished their 4 months in Primary Care. They both really enjoyed their time with the teams there, thanks for supporting them! They will now spend 4 months with the Raigmore Pharmacy team, and are excited to see a variety of different hospital based specialities.

Alongside the Raigmore FTP's (**Hannah Fraser** and **Aya Freiguon**), Georgia and Stella recently spent a day at the UHI careers fair. With a variety of different members of the pharmacy team, they promoted the role of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to school pupils from across Inverness. All of their enthusiasm with the hands on activities definitely helped inspire some potential future pharmacy team members!

Post Registration Foundation Pharmacists



🎉 Congratulations!

Lara Reid (Specialist Rotational Pharmacist, Raigmore) has recently passed her Independent Prescribing Course - congratulations Lara! She is now working on the last section of her Post Registration Foundation Pharmacist Portfolio.

 **Welcome!**

Nawmi Khan and **Marwa Naeem** have also both recently joined the Raigmore Clinical Pharmacy Team, and have both begun working on their Post Registration Foundation Pharmacist Portfolio.

Advanced Pharmacists



Are you working on your Advanced Practice portfolio? We're here to help!

What is Advanced Practice?

Advanced Practice in pharmacy is about developing and demonstrating higher-level skills across the four pillars of practice:

- Clinical Practice – delivering expert patient care
- Leadership – influencing and improving services
- Education – supporting learning and development
- Research – contributing to evidence-based practice

Completing an Advanced Practice portfolio helps you showcase your expertise, progress your career, and meet professional standards. If you would like support in completing your portfolio, please get in touch with Jennifer O'Loan at jennifer.oloan@nhs.scot. For more information and resources, visit the Turas Learn pages:

- [Core advanced pharmacist curriculum | Turas | Learn](#)

Research



PHOENIX Randomised Controlled Trial (Pharmacy Homeless Outreach Engagement in Non-medical and Independent Prescribing)

The HIPER team has been actively involved in the Phoenix Project for the past nine months, and we're now approaching the end of the intervention period for some participants.

We're excited to share that a paper detailing the protocol for this study has been published in BMJ Open. You can read the full article here: [e106640.full.pdf](#)

This publication marks an important milestone for the project and highlights the collaborative work being done to improve patient care.




Thank you to the teams in Primary Care who helped out with data collection - your support is very much appreciated.

We'd love to hear your thoughts or feedback on the study and its approach, please get in touch with any thoughts or feedback.

Open access

Protocol

BMJ Open Protocol for a multicentre randomised controlled trial of the Pharmacy Homeless Outreach Engagement Non-medical and Independent Prescriber (PHOENIx) intervention for people facing severe and multiple disadvantages

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The HIPER Team would like to wish you all a happy Festive Season.



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We are also contactable via **TEAMS**.