



Qualifications Support Team (QST): HN pharmacy portfolio

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2024 (via Microsoft Teams)

Present:

Carol Neilson	NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Colin Sinclair	NHS Fife
Karen Lilies	NHS Education for Scotland
Laura Gibson	Qualifications Officer
Laura McClelland	Edinburgh College
Monica Hunter	NHS Education for Scotland
Suzanne Thompson	West College Scotland
Yvonne Bayne	Fife College

Welcome, introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from Aileen Begley, Ann White, Jodi Jenkins, Jonathan Gillies and Susan Roberts.

1. GPhC Consultation on Quality Assurance

QST members discussed their concerns on the GPhC consultation on changes to how they quality assure pharmacy education and training. Laura Gibson advised members to feed back their concerns directly to the consultation which remains open until 13 June 2024. Link to the consultation:

[Consultation on the quality assurance of pharmacy education and training | General Pharmaceutical Council \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](#)

2. GPhC Data Collection

QST members discussed their concerns regarding the GPhC's data collection request. Members questioned the legal grounds for such data gathering and highlighted the potential increase in workload this would create. Laura Gibson advised that SQA are waiting for the GPhC to provide clarification on the legal basis for their data request. SQA is currently liaising with its data governance team to determine if it is legally permissible for SQA, as an awarding body, to collect and share this data.

3. GPhC Review IET Standards

Laura Gibson informed QST members that the GPhC plan to make minor amendments to the IET standards. These changes are based on findings of their recent consultation on the current 2017 standards for the initial education and training of pharmacy technicians. Link to the consultation:

[Research publications by date | General Pharmaceutical Council \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](#)

4. Final Accuracy

Monica raised concerns regarding the alignment of the PDA Assessment and Supply of Individual Patients' Medicines (GE7D 47) with current IET standards. QST members agreed on the need to update the PDA Assessment and Supply of Individual Patients' Medicines (GE7D 47) but queried whether there was sufficient employer demand for this revision. QST members inquired if the revision could be achieved by incorporating the revised NOS into the existing framework. Laura Gibson advised she will seek clarification if the PDA can be updated by adding the revised NOS to the framework. Laura Gibson noted differences in level of units may complicate this process and creation of a new PDA may be necessary, which would result in developing a business case for funding that also looks at employer demand and uptake.

QST members also identified the need for further scoping to determine how the current HN Final Accuracy units Final Accuracy Checking by Pharmacy Technicians 1 (H9NP 34) and Final Accuracy Checking by Pharmacy Technicians 2 (H9NR 34) should align with the Pharm28 Undertake the Final Accuracy Check of Dispensed Medicines and Products (J44T 04) unit and what underpinning knowledge would be required.

Colin asked if the PDA Assessment and Supply of Individual Patients' Medicines (GE7D 47) can be used for support staff. QST members discussed the primary criterion is the alignment of their job roles with the PDA requirements. As long as the support workers are engaged in duties that meet the requirements, they could be eligible to pursue the qualification. This alignment must be verified by the employer, who would need to provide reassurance that the support workers' roles indeed match the necessary criteria for the PDA.

Monica highlighted differences in the medication reconciliation process, which may differ significantly between Pharmacy Technicians (PT) and support workers and noted there may be a need for a new NOS specifically for support workers involved in medication reconciliation.

5. AOB

QST members discussed the learning log templates that were developed by the delivering centres and agreed to amend patient to individual. Laura Gibson will update the templates and circulate the final versions.

Action grid

Action	Date completed
QST members to feed back their concerns regarding the GPhC consultation on changes to how they quality assure pharmacy education and training, directly to the consultation: Consultation on the quality assurance of pharmacy education and training General Pharmaceutical Council (pharmacyregulation.org)	
Laura Gibson to liaising with SQA's data governance team to determine if it is legally permissible for SQA, as an awarding body, to collect and share this data.	
Monica to further engage with the sector to determine if there is employer demand for the revision of the PDA Assessment and Supply of Individual Patients' Medicines (GE7D 47) and to assess the alignment of the new revised NOS.	
Monica to explore what is required to bring the final accuracy units up to the new IET standards.	
Laura Gibson to confirm if the PDA Assessment and Supply of Individual Patients' Medicines (GE7D 47) can be updated by adding the revised NOS into the current framework and lapsing out the old versions.	
Laura Gibson to update learning log templates and circulate the final versions.	11/06/2024
Laura Gibson to send QST members an online poll to ascertain the best date/time for the next meeting	