PHARMACY TRAINING
SOUTH WEST REGION

BRISTOL
WILTSHIRE

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
DEVON

CORNWALL

SOMERSET
DORSET

ADVANCED MODERN APPRENTICESHIP / PHARMACY SERVICES
TRAINING SCHEME FOR HOSPITAL PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

Further copies of this leaflet are available from:

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The Work of a Pharmacy Technician

The role of a pharmacy technician is very challenging and rewarding. It provides an opportunity to work as part of a team to support the care of patients.

The dispensing of medicines for in and out patients is the aspect of the work most seen by the public. However, there are many roles that are performed by pharmacy technicians including; purchasing, final accuracy checking of dispensed medicines, providing pharmacy services at ward level, counselling of patients regarding their medication, answering medicine information queries, training of junior staff and having responsibility for managing sections of the Pharmacy Department.

As a pharmacy technician you may also be required to work in technical services preparing complex formulations of medicines or feeds for patients, and preparing medicines that are used to treat cancer.

The title “Pharmacy technician” is protected. All qualified Pharmacy technicians are required to be registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)

The Training Scheme

The two-year training scheme is provided as an Advanced Modern Apprenticeship framework consisting of a Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Pharmacy Service Skills (QCF) and a BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science. These are nationally recognised qualifications (which on completion will allow you to register as a Pharmacy Technician), essential for anyone who wants to work in a hospital pharmacy as a registered pharmacy technician.

Workplace training and assessments for the NVQ will be provided in the hospital pharmacy. The BTEC, which provides the underpinning knowledge to support the NVQ programme, will require college attendance. This will take the form of a weeks block release course, 6 times a year at Somerset College, Taunton.

College fees and travelling costs are paid by the hospital employing the student.

Minimum Educational Requirements for entry to the Course:

1. Four GCSE passes OR equivalent in:
   a) Mathematics
   b) English
   c) A science subject and
   d) At least one other subject

For mature students and students with previous hospital experience other entry qualifications may be acceptable. As the acceptability of alternative qualifications is solely at the discretion of the College their permission must be obtained before making a formal job offer.

Students sitting examinations in June or July are welcome to apply for posts even though they will not know their results at the time of interview. Any offer made will be subject to them obtaining the necessary passes before the course begins in September.
Conditions of Service and Pay

Hours of duty are 37 ½ hours per week excluding meal times, usually spread over a working week of 5 days, with some Saturday and/or Sunday working on a rota basis. Where extra hours are worked, time is given in lieu. In certain circumstances overtime may be paid. Annual leave is 27 working days per annum (based on a 5 day week) plus Bank Holidays.

The appointment is made for a fixed term of two years to coincide with the training period.

Current rates of pay (as of April 2015) for staff employed in NHS Trusts are dependant on pay banding under Agenda for Change. The rates listed are an indication of current pay rates (as of April 2015).

Pre-registration trainee Pharmacy Technician £15,565 - £16,677

Registered Pharmacy Technician (Band 4) on completion of training £19,027 - £22,236

Higher grades and salaries are also achievable, usually for specialised work and extra responsibilities.

Prospects

After successfully completing the course you will be a qualified pharmacy technician eligible to apply for hospital vacancies anywhere in the country. Alternatively, you may wish to work in a community pharmacy or use your qualifications to enter a higher education course.

Following several years’ experience, there is a possibility of promotion to a more senior grade where you would have responsibility for managing other staff or a 'specialised' area of work. You may also have the opportunity to become an Accredited Technician Checker or a Medicines Management technician.

How do I apply?

The list of hospitals who appoint students are listed on the reverse of this leaflet. Decide where you would like to work and write to them asking for an application form. If you wish to apply to several hospitals, you will have to write to each of them individually.
Enquiries and Applications for Training Posts
Enquiries and applications should be addressed to the Hospital in which you wish to train.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOSPITALS NHS TRUST
Pharmacy Operations Manager, Cheltenham General Hospital, Sandford Road, Cheltenham GL53 7AN
Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Great Western Road, Gloucester GL1 3NN

EAST SOMERSET NHS TRUST (Yeovil)
Chief Pharmacist, Yeovil District Hospital, Higher Kingston, Yeovil BA21 4JT

NORTH BRISTOL NHS TRUST:
Director of Pharmacy Services, Southmead Hospital, Bristol BS10 5NB

NORTHERN DEVON HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST (Barnstaple)
Director of Pharmaceutical Services, North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple EX31 4JB

PLYMOUTH ACUTE HOSPITALS TRUST
Director of Pharmacy, Derriford Hospital, Crownhill, Plymouth PL6 8DH

ROYAL CORNWALL HOSPITALS TRUST (Truro)
Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro TR1 3LJ

ROYAL DEVON & EXETER HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST (Exeter)
Chief Pharmacist, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Barrack Road, Exeter EX2 5DW

SALISBURY HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST
Chief Pharmacist, Salisbury District Hospital, Odstock, Salisbury, SP2 8BJ

SOUTHERN SOMERSET HEALTHCARE TRUST (Torquay)
Chief Pharmacist, Torbay Hospital, Lawes Bridge, Torquay TQ2 7AA

SWINDON & MARLBOROUGH NHS TRUST (Swindon)
Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Great Western Hospital, Marlborough Road, Swindon SN3 6BB

TAUNTON & SOMERSET NHS TRUST
Chief Pharmacist, Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton TA1 5DA

UNITED BRISTOL HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST (Bristol - South)
Director of Pharmacy Services, Bristol Royal Infirmary, Marlborough Street, Bristol BS2 8HW

WESTON HEALTH SERVICES TRUST
Chief Pharmacist, Weston General Hospital, Grange Road, Uphill, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4TQ

POOLE HOSPITAL NHS TRUST
Chief Pharmacist, Poole Hospital, Longfleet Road, Poole BH15 2JB

ROYAL BOURNEMOUTH & CHRISTCHURCH HOSPITALS NHS TRUST
Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Castle Lane East, Bournemouth BH7 7DW

WEST DORSET GENERAL HOSPITAL NHS TRUST
Chief Pharmacist, Dorset County Hospital, Williams Street, Dorchester DT1 2JY

ROYAL UNITED HOSPITAL NHS TRUST
Pharmacy Manager, Royal United Hospital, Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG

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