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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

The self-reported consultant-level practice development needs of pharmacists working across the United Kingdom: A national cross-sectional survey

Invitation to Participate

You are being invited to take part in a national cross-sectional survey on the self-identified consultant-level practice development needs of pharmacists working across the United Kingdom.

You will be asked to rate your confidence against each of the outcomes of the RPS consultant pharmacist curriculum. The data generated will help to identify the development needs of pharmacists currently working at an advanced level, which will inform commissioning decisions by the education commissioning bodies in each of the devolved nations (NES, HEIW and HEE).

By participating you are helping to shape the available educational support for advanced pharmacists as they further develop in their career.

We want to hear from you, even if you do not currently aspire towards a consultant pharmacist post, as the development needs of advanced pharmacists in all types of roles are of interest.

This information sheet tells you the purpose of the survey and what will happen if you decide to take part.

Please contact us if there is anything that is unclear or if you would like more information. Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

You should complete this survey if:

- You are a pharmacist registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) or the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and work as a pharmacist in the UK
- You identify yourself as working at an advanced level of practice or in an advanced pharmacist role.

You should not complete this survey if:

- You are an existing consultant pharmacist
- You have been credentialed at consultant level (via the RPS credentialing process)

If you are unfamiliar with the consultant pharmacist and advanced pharmacist titles additional information is provided below.

Consultant pharmacist practice

Delivering care to individuals and/or populations, with the most complex needs; influencing care beyond traditional healthcare boundaries across systems through leadership, education and research. Individuals have demonstrated that they have the level of competence expected of a consultant pharmacist and they are working in an approved consultant pharmacist post.

Advanced pharmacist practice:

Experienced pharmacists, delivering care autonomously to individuals and/or groups with complex needs, influencing services within your organisation and/or locally.

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1. Who is conducting the study?

The study is being carried out collaboratively by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) and the education commissioning bodies across great Britain (NHS Education for Scotland (NES), NHS Health Education England (HEE), and NHS Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW)). Three pharmacists from NHS Scotland (Paul Forsyth, Andrew Radley & Fiona Marra) and the University of Dundee are also collaborating on the design, methods, analysis and write-up of the survey.

2. What is the purpose of the study?

The aim of this survey is to measure the self-reported consultant-level practice development needs of pharmacists across the United Kingdom against the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Entry-level Consultant Pharmacist Curriculum. It thereafter aims to determine whether any of the participant characteristics are associated with self-reported development needs from the curriculum. The results of the survey will be used to inform regional and national discussions on support structures and commissioned projects required to develop consultant-level practice.

3. Why have I been chosen?

You have been invited to take part in this study as you are a pharmacist registered with General Pharmaceutical Council and you work or reside in the United Kingdom.

However, please do not complete the survey if you are a pharmacist already formally credentialed as 'consultant-pharmacist ready' or already in-post as a consultant pharmacist or you do not consider yourself to be working at an advanced level of practice.

4. How was I identified to take part?

This survey and accompanying information has been circulated widely by the collaborating partners. You may have received it because you are a member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, or via local or regional networks supported by the education commissioning bodies (HEE, NES, HEIW).

Because of this approach to dissemination you may receive the invitation to participate more than once. Please only complete the survey once.

You may also receive a reminder request to participate.

5. Do I have to take part?

No. Your participation is entirely voluntary. If you decide not to take part, you do not need to tell us why.

6. What will happen to me if I take part?

If you are interested in taking part, please click on the following [link](#) which will take you to the survey; the link is also included in the email that this Participant Information Leaflet was appended to. If taking part, please only complete this survey once.

You will be asked a series of questions including:

- Your demographics and characteristic details
- Whether you are interested in 'consultant-level practice', including being asked to justify your response
- Your self-reported confidence in being able to evidence the 20 outcomes in the curriculum

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- You will be asked to rate your self-identified confidence in being able to evidence each competence using a simple 5 point Likert Scale; Really confident, Confident, Neutral, Unconfident, Really Unconfident

Survey completion is expected to take 10-15 minutes.

7. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

You may not benefit directly from taking part. However, the information gained will help to assess how many pharmacists self-report as practicing at or approaching the consultant-level and to inform regional and national discussions on support structures and commissioned projects required to develop 'consultant-level practice' and potentially the formation of new training programmes.

8. Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Yes. No participant-identifiable data will be collected; all data will be collected anonymously.

9. What will happen to the information I provide?

All data collected is anonymous and is stored on password-protected RPS computer systems.

The RPS will lead on data collection. The data will be owned by the RPS with a data-sharing agreement in place with NHS NES, NHS HEE and NHS HEIW for co-ownership of their country's data.

The University of Dundee will lead on undertaking a statistical analysis of the data. This statistical analysis will determine if any of the participant's demographics and characteristics are associated with self-reported training needs. The University of Dundee will only share their analysis with the project steering committee.

The qualitative data on participants reasons for being interested, or not, in consultant-level practice will be analysed separately at a later stage for common themes.

The RPS take data protection seriously. Please read our [privacy policy](#) for information on how we handle your data and what your rights are.

10. What will happen to the results of the study?

A report of the findings will be produced. The results of this study will be presented to senior pharmacy teams across NHS England, NHS Scotland, & NHS Wales, may be published in a peer-reviewed journal, and may also presented at various meetings and conferences (e.g. Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Government, NHS etc).

11. If you have further questions?

If you would like more information, please email education@rpharms.com

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet and for considering taking part in the survey.