

PHARMACY WORKFORCE NEWSLETTER

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August 2025



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The roles of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are expanding rapidly and to realise our full potential within an evolving healthcare landscape we must build a vibrant, research-active culture that generates the evidence to support our practice, drive innovation and champion patient care.

This is a challenge the UK Pharmacy Research Advisory Group (PRAG) is seeking to address collectively. The UK Chief Pharmaceutical Officers set up the Group in 2024 with a wide-ranging membership involving all areas and sectors of pharmacy practice.

The Group has now co-produced a draft UK Pharmacy Research Strategy with input from colleagues from across the pharmacy professions. It proposes a framework to strengthen research leadership and embed research more widely in both professions.

They're seeking to engage as widely as possible to gain insights and feedback from stakeholders.

The closing date is 23:59 on Friday 12th September 2025 and the UK PRAG will consider the feedback from the engagement exercise and prepare an updated strategy this autumn.

We're grateful to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for hosting this exercise on behalf of the UK PRAG: the [draft strategy](#) and [online survey](#) are on its website.

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Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Programmes 2027–28

To help grow the pharmacist workforce across Norfolk & Waveney ICB, the Pharmacy Workforce team is keen to hear from you about potential Foundation Training Pharmacist placement opportunities. We'd like to know whether you plan to continue hosting Trainee Pharmacists, are considering introducing new programmes, and what challenges you may be facing in doing so.

Please complete the following form if you're interested in discussing this further:

- [Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Programmes](#)
- Alternatively contact the Pharmacy Workforce Team email: nwcb.pharmacyworkforce@nhs.net

Practice-based Pharmacist Workforce Survey

The role of PCN and GP practice-based pharmacists in England has expanded rapidly in the past 6 years however, there is very little known about practice-based pharmacists' experience of working in general practice/PCNs and what is required to improve the service they deliver. A national survey is being co-ordinated by a research team at the University of Exeter and they are inviting all practice-based pharmacists in England to complete and share their brief, anonymous online survey. Please complete and share the survey below with any practice-based clinical pharmacists you may know and with your professional networks on social media. It only takes about 8-9 minutes, and will provide really useful research insights into this part of the pharmacy workforce:

https://exe.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_40LOPvFIHL5Nfng



Save the Date



Advanced Practice Learning & Networking Event

Tuesday 2 December 2025, 9:00 - 16:00

Wensum Valley Hotel, Norwich

Inviting all multi-professional experienced, trainee and aspiring Advanced Practitioners (Nurses, Paramedics, Pharmacists, Physiotherapists) working within General Practice in Norfolk and Waveney, to our bi-annual Learning & Networking Event. Enjoy shared learning and networking with fellow advanced practitioners from across the region.

Agenda & Guest Speakers to be announced

RSVP by Sunday 16 November 2025: [Click here](#) to book.

For queries please email: nwcb.primarycareworkforce@nhs.net

CPPE Accuracy Checking Pharmacy Technician (ACPT) Programme Open for NHS England Funded Applications 2025 / 2026

NHS England has funded CPPE to offer the Accuracy checking pharmacy technician (ACPT) programme for pharmacy technicians working in community pharmacy, NHS hospitals, and in health and justice for 2025 / 2026.

A total of 240 NHS England-funded places are available and funding will end when all 240 places have been allocated or by the end of March 2026.

The ACPT programme is a 3-12-month training and development programme available to pharmacy technicians, with employer support. The course is designed to support pharmacy technicians in meeting a range of competencies during their training in order to deliver safe and effective patient care.

The scope of the programme is to train and assess pharmacy technicians, working in community pharmacy, health and justice and NHS hospitals, to perform the final accuracy check of dispensed items on prescriptions that have been clinically screened/ approved by a pharmacist.

The ACPT programme is open to any pharmacy technician in England, from any sector, who provide NHS services and who qualified pre-2017 GPhC Initial Education & Training Standards. Those who have train on the current standards, receive the knowledge and competencies required to carry out a final accuracy check.

For more information, including further eligibility criteria, please visit:

<https://www.cppe.ac.uk/career/acpt>

Virtual education opportunity: Diet & high blood pressure

Wednesday 24 September 2025, 13:00 to 14:00

Dietitians from Norfolk and Waveney ICB Medicines Optimisation Team are offering 1-hour lunchtime tutorials aimed at all staff involved in the screening/care/management of people with high blood pressure (BP).

May be of particular interest to Pharmacy Teams, GP Assistants, Practice Nurses, Nursing Associates, Health Care Assistants, students or apprentices but all staff welcome.

Learn to confidently explain how dietary choices can affect the risk of developing high BP, and understand which foods and nutrients can help to lower high BP. Alongside lifestyle changes, these dietary changes can improve overall cardiovascular health. This session gives ideas for a holistic approach to managing high BP which may reduce the need for medical interventions or be used alongside them.

To sign-up please email helen.carter38@nhs.net

Post-qualification development for Pharmacy Technicians: Level 6 Enhanced Clinical Practitioner Apprenticeship

The pharmacy workforce continues to evolve, and with it, the opportunities for pharmacy technicians to enhance their clinical capabilities. The Level 6 Enhanced Clinical Practitioner (ECP) Apprenticeship from Buttercups, is designed to elevate the role of pharmacy technicians in delivering person-centred, evidence-based care across diverse clinical settings.

Programme Overview

The Level 6 ECP apprenticeship is a 15-month programme (plus 3 months for end-point assessment) that supports pharmacy technicians in:

- Providing enhanced clinical care
- Supporting pharmacists with clinical activities
- Developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Delivering person-centred care
- Optimising medicine use

The programme is non-degree level, with a blended learning model that eliminates the need for day release. This includes e-learning, virtual classrooms, expert videos, workplace activities, and an e-portfolio.

To enrol, applicants must:

- Be GPhC-registered pharmacy technicians in a clinical setting
- Have the right to work and live in England
- Work at least 21 hours per week
- Be supervised by a registered healthcare professional
- Not hold a Level 7 qualification in a similar discipline
- Have access to suitable IT equipment



For more information, visit www.buttercupstraining.co.uk or contact the team at Sales@buttercups.co.uk