

For immediate release

28 November 2011

National NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey 2011

*Please note that Scotland opted not to take part in the 2011 survey. This press release highlights data from **England only**. Data for Wales and Northern Ireland are available separately. Vacancy rates indicate vacancies on 31 May 2011; 3-month vacancies are also reported in the full report.*

Results from the May 2011 NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey show that in NHS Trusts and PCTs and their former provider arms in England, the NHS has almost the same number of pharmacists posts -0.1% (7.3 FTE) as it had in May 2010, and 2.6% (168.4 FTE) more posts for pharmacy technicians. There is growth in both professional groups across NHS Trusts, but a decrease in pharmacist numbers and an increase in pharmacy technician numbers across PCTs and their former provider arms.

In NHS Trusts in England, pharmacist posts have seen increases at Band 6 (8.3 FTE, 0.7% increase), Band 7 (54.4 FTE, 3.4%) and Band 8a (31.09 FTE, 1.8%); and pharmacy technician posts have seen increases at Band 4 (42.2 FTE, 2.9%), Band 5 (73.7 FTE, 2.6%) and Band 6 (18.7 FTE, 1.7%) over the same period.

Vacancy rates for junior pharmacists in NHS Trusts in England have decreased at Band 6 from 24.4% in 2009 to 15.7% in 2010 and to 11.25% in 2011, and at Band 7 from 19.0 % in 2009 to 17.6% in 2010 and to 11.25% in 2011. The 2011 vacancy rate for junior pharmacy technicians at Band 4 is 11.7% in 2011.

These results are based on a 100% response rate from all NHS Trusts and NHS PCTs/LHBs across England. Data for the 100% response in Wales and Northern Ireland are available separately.

Susan Sanders, survey facilitator on behalf of the NHS Pharmacy Education and Development Committee said "*This annual survey provides us with tremendous insight into the NHS employed pharmacy workforce, providing a robust evidence base for workforce planning and strategy. This year's results show a better position with regard to vacancy rates at Bands 6 and 7 for pharmacists. It is important to ensure that we train the future pharmacy workforce to feed the increasing demand.*

As the NHS landscape changes dramatically, we need to ensure that an appropriate infrastructure continues to be in place to develop the whole pharmacy workforce delivering NHS services, in order to secure safe and effective patient care.

I would like to thank all of the respondents for completing the survey".

The report of the National NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey 2011 is now available on the NHS Pharmacy Education & Development Committee's website at <http://www.nhspedc.nhs.uk/surveys.htm> .

Acknowledgement

The NHS Pharmacy Education and Development Committee thanks the Department of Health in England for providing the resources to make the survey possible.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey

The NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey is carried out by the NHS Pharmacy Education and Development Committee (NHS PEDC) in response to demands from various sources for accurate data on the current state of recruitment and retention in NHS pharmacy. The data collected help to inform workforce strategy, planning and development by various organisations and shape recruitment and retention initiatives and training plans.

For the fourth time this year, a 100% response rate was achieved from all NHS Trusts and NHS PCTs/LHBs across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Scotland opted not to take part in 2011.

About the NHS Pharmacy Education & Development Committee

The NHS Pharmacy Education & Development Committee is a national network of pharmacy colleagues leading on NHS pharmacy workforce development.

The NHS Pharmacy Education & Development Committee undertakes the NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey on an annual basis. See <http://www.nhspedc.nhs.uk/surveys.htm> for previous reports.

NHS Pharmacy Education & Development Committee

<http://www.nhspedc.nhs.uk/>

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