

For immediate release

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## National NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey 2012

- *In 2012 the data sets were changed. 'NHS trusts' became 'NHS service providers', and now include former PCT provider arm activity, (see below). PCT data now focus on PCT commissioning activity. A corresponding increase in NHS service provider numbers and decrease in PCT numbers would therefore be expected.*
- *This press release highlights data from **England only**. Data for Wales and Northern Ireland are available separately. Scotland opted not to take part in the 2012 survey.*
- *Vacancy rates indicate vacancies on 31 May 2012; 3-month vacancies are also reported in the full report.*

Results from the May 2012 NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey show that in **NHS service providers and PCTs** in England, there has been a slight increase in pharmacists from 7,329 FTE in May 2010 to 7,346 FTE in May 2011 and 7,394 FTE in May 2012. Pharmacy technician posts have risen even more, from 6,436 FTE in May 2010 to 6,607 FTE in May 2011 and 6,629 FTE in May 2012. The anticipated drop in posts due to NHS financial pressures was not seen.

In **NHS service providers** in England, pharmacist posts have seen increases at Band 6 (9 FTE, 0.7% increase) and Band 7 (96 FTE, 5.3% increase); and pharmacy technician posts have seen increases at Band 4 (33 FTE, 0.9% increase) and Band 5 (14 FTE, 0.8% increase) over the same period, although there are considerable regional variations.

Vacancy rates for junior pharmacists in **NHS service providers** in England have decreased at Band 6 from 24.4% in 2009 to 15.7% in 2010, 11.2% in 2011, and 12.1% in 2012, with 3-month vacancy rates at 6.7% in 2012. Band 7 pharmacist posts have decreased from 19.0% in 2009 to 17.6% in 2010, 11.3% in 2011 and 10.1% in 2012, with 3-month vacancy rates at 5.4% in 2012. These 3-month vacancy rates are fairly stable but have regional variation. The 2012 vacancy rate for junior pharmacy technicians at Band 4 is 9.0% in 2012.

These results are based on a 100% response rate from all NHS service providers and NHS PCTs across England.

Susan Sanders, survey facilitator on behalf of the NHS Pharmacy Education and Development Committee said " *The results of the 2012 annual survey provide accurate data on the pharmacy workforce employed within the NHS and associated organisations providing NHS services, and trend data for comparison with previous years. It provides a robust evidence base to inform workforce planning and strategy. It is important to ensure that we train the future pharmacy workforce to sustain the recognised input of the pharmacy workforce in delivering on QIPP and emerging medicines optimisation initiatives.*

*The NHS landscape is changing dramatically; this work will inform the activities of the emerging LETBs. We need to ensure that an appropriate infrastructure continues to be in place to develop the whole pharmacy workforce delivering NHS services, wherever they may be, in order to secure the provision of 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 2012 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 fifth time, this year a 100% response rate was achieved from all NHS service providers and NHS PCTs/LHBs across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Scotland opted not to take part in 2012.

Please note that in 2012 the data sets were changed. 'NHS trusts' became 'NHS service providers', and now include former PCT provider arm activity, which is now delivered by a plethora of organisations, including NHS acute, mental health and community health trusts, social enterprises and community interest companies. PCT data now focus on PCT commissioning activity. In comparing 2012 data with 2011 data, a corresponding increase in NHS service provider numbers and decrease in PCT numbers would therefore be expected.

### **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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