



Press Release

For immediate release
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A Professional Development Framework for Pharmacy Staff involved in Education, Training & Workforce Development

The NHS Pharmacy Education and Development Committee and UKCPA Education and Training Special Interest Group are collaboratively working on a professional development framework for all those in pharmacy who are involved in education, training and workforce development.

The drivers for the work include:

- an increased emphasis on capability and competency-based approaches in all areas of practice.
- a need to support all groups of pharmacy staff with the education and training elements of their role.
- the need for detailed guidance for people who want to develop an expert professional role in education, training and workforce development.

The framework provides clarity and consistency for those seeking to achieve an expert role in education, training and workforce development. It will also be of use to those for whom education and training is an important, but less substantial part of their role, as it takes account of other frameworks and approaches used by different pharmacy groups.

Susan Sanders, who is leading the group, said "Competence in education and training is vital for our profession today and tomorrow, and the clarity, consistency and focus of this framework will enable the development of the necessary underpinning competencies".

David Webb, who represents the Skills for Health pharmacy project on the group, said "This work provides a focus for the various groups involved in pharmacy training and creates an opportunity to consider National Occupational Standards in that context".

Representatives of all sectors of pharmacy practice are actively involved in this work to ensure applicability. Next steps are to test and validate the work with a view to completion in late 2007.

Further information can be obtained from Susan Sanders susan.sanders@chelwest.nhs.uk

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Notes for editors

UKCPA has 2000+ members from all areas of practice, mainly NHS managed care. UKCPA aims to help pharmacists to refine their skills and their levels of practice in order to create new and effective working relationships with other disciplines. Through a programme of conferences, workshops, practice interest groups and publications, UKCPA provides facilities for pharmacists to develop, share and exchange ideas, research findings and practical experiences. The Association intends to contribute to pharmaceutical care by encouraging the development and evaluation of new services to patients. The Association offers a supportive network to help pharmacists to engage with the demand for better health care and to meet public health needs. www.ukcpa.org

The NHS Pharmacy Education and Development Committee exists to provide co-ordination in pharmacy education, development, and training within National Health Service organisations primarily, but not exclusively, in secondary care. This co-ordination leads to a single point of contact on all matters relating to NHS pharmacy education and training. Members of the committee usually have responsibility for education and training across a geographical area equivalent to several counties and between them cover all staff groups within pharmacy and the whole of the UK. www.nhspedc.nhs.uk