

## FAQs: Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme (IFPP)

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Thank you for your interest in the Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme (IFPP). Please keep sending your questions to the team at [fpp@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:fpp@hee.nhs.uk).

### *What is the IFPP?*

The IFPP is a Health Education England funded 12-month education and training programme starting in September 2020.

### *Who is it for?*

The IFPP is for provisionally registered pharmacists and pre-registration pharmacists who have completed their training, are signed off as competent and are eligible for provisional registration in England.

### *Does it replace the GPhC registration assessment?*

No. The IFPP does not replace the GPhC registration assessment, nor is it an extension to the pre-registration pharmacist programme.

You will find more information about provisional registration and the registration assessment on the [General Pharmaceutical Council's website](#).

### *What will the IFPP provide?*

The Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme (IFPP) will provide provisional pharmacists with foundation support.

The programme aims to:

- Support provisionally pharmacists registered in England transition to full GPhC registration and beyond
- Develop pharmacists' ability to achieve high quality outcomes for patients and improve patient safety
- Inform the next stage of pharmacist education and reform.

### *Is it mandatory?*

No. The programme is not mandatory. We encourage all eligible participants to opt into the programme when registration opens. Registration dates will be confirmed in subsequent updates.

### ***Do you need to be enrolled on the IFPP to take the GPhC registration assessment?***

No. It is not a requirement of the GPhC assessment that candidates are enrolled on the IFPP.

### ***What does IFPP cover?***

There are two elements, or parts, to the programme:

- Part 1: Educational support to develop a Foundation Portfolio of practice.
- Part 2: Resources to support all provisionally registered pharmacists (irrespective of employment status).

The IFPP is predominantly a vocational training programme, in which provisionally registered pharmacists use work-based experiences and reflection to identify areas of good practice and further development opportunities. It is expected that personal learning objectives are managed by the provisionally registered pharmacist.

### ***Will provisional pharmacists be given protected time to complete the programme?***

The programme will not be mandating time out of practice for training.

There will be an emphasis on using online resources within the programme to enable a flexible delivery and access to content, to help provisionally registered pharmacists balance personal development whilst working.

### ***Who will have access to IFPP resources?***

All provisionally registered pharmacists (irrespective of employment status) will be given access to a library of resources, including OpenAthens, e-Learning for Healthcare, *SCRIPT* (e-learning for prescribing and therapeutics) and CPPE resources. These resources will help provisionally registered pharmacists maintain and develop their clinical knowledge and assist with registration assessment revision.

HEE will be extending access to these resources to pre-registration pharmacists who have previously sat the registration exam but are not eligible to become provisionally registered pharmacists.

### ***How do I register for the programme?***

Enrollment details will follow shortly.

If you and your colleagues wish to receive further updates about the programme, please email [fpp@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:fpp@hee.nhs.uk), stating 'IFPP Updates' in the subject header.

## Background to the IFPP

On 23 July 2020, Health Education England with NHS England and NHS Improvement published a joint letter setting out the context for accelerating the reform of pharmacist education. This letter also announced that Health Education England, in partnership with key stakeholders, is establishing an **Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme** to help provisionally registered pharmacists transition to full GPhC registration and beyond. This is because the training and registration of the 2019/20 cohort of pre-registration pharmacists has been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first phase of the reform and the purpose of the Interim Foundation Programme is to provide provisionally registered pharmacists with the foundation training support they need.

This new Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme, known as IFPP, is an HEE funded 12- month education and training programme, starting in September 2020. The IFPP has three aims:

- To support provisionally registered pharmacists in England transition to full GPhC registration and beyond.
- To develop pharmacists' ability to achieve high quality outcomes for patients, improve patient safety and reduce medication errors.
- To inform the next stage of pharmacist education and reform.

Health Education England with NHS England and NHS Improvement published [a joint letter on 23 July 2020, setting out the context for accelerating the reform of pharmacist education](#) and announcing the Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme.

Health Education England published [a letter to the 2019/20 cohort of pre-registration pharmacists, announcing the Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme](#).

The UK Chief Pharmaceutical Officers, the General Pharmaceutical Council and the Pharmaceutical Society NI published [a joint letter on 28 July to provide an update on the major reforms to the initial education and training of pharmacists that are being taken forward across the United Kingdom](#).

Regular updates are available from the Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme team by emailing [fpp@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:fpp@hee.nhs.uk) stating 'IFPP Updates' in the subject header.