



# Association of Pharmacy Technicians United Kingdom

January 2017

## Response to the discussion paper on supervising pharmacist independent prescribers in training

Discussion paper response form **APTUK- Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK**

First, we would like to ask you for some background information. This will help us to understand the views of specific groups, individuals and organisations and will allow us to better respond to those views.

Are you responding: as an individual – please go to section A on behalf of an organisation – please go to section B

### Section B – Responding on behalf of an organisation

Please tell us your:

Name: Tess Fenn

Job title: President

Organisation: Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK

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A contact name for enquiries: Tess Fenn

### Is your organisation a:

pharmacy organisation

non-pharmacy organisation

Please choose the option below which best describes your organisation:

Body or organisation representing professionals

Body or organisation representing patients or the public

Body or organisation representing a trade or industry

Community pharmacy

Corporate multiple pharmacy

Independent pharmacy

NHS organisation or group

Research, education or training organisation

Government department or organisation

Regulatory body

Other (please give details)

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### Discussion paper questions

We set out three core reasons for changing the current supervision requirements for PIPs in training:

- It is right in principle to extend supervision rights to experienced non-medical independent prescribers.
- It makes sense to be supervised by other PIPs – people who are already working in that role.
- Supervision capacity needs to increase to allow pharmacist independent prescribing courses to grow to meet service demands.



## Association of Pharmacy Technicians United Kingdom

1. Do you think current supervision requirements should be changed for these reasons?

**Yes** No

Please add your comments here:

APTUK feel that it is timely to address the issues raised to allow Pharmacy to support the increased demands on healthcare provision.

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2. Do you agree that supervision rights should be extended to experienced pharmacist independent prescribers?

**Yes** No

Please add your comments here:

APTUK believes that supervision rights should be extended to experienced pharmacist prescribers who are deemed competent to 'supervise' others training, development and assessment. This would be beneficial to the trainee PIP as it would give the context to their practise whilst working within the competences set out in the single competency framework for all prescribers.

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3. Do you agree that supervision rights should be extended to other experienced independent prescribers?

**Yes** No

Please add your comments here:

APTUK believes that extending supervision rights to other IPs would be beneficial, as they all should have a common set of skills and this would potentially provide confidence across multidisciplinary teams. As one of the barriers identified was lack of support from other healthcare professionals this could help build inter professional relationships and understanding of specific professionals knowledge, skills and behaviours. It would also benefit the PIP by integration into the healthcare team and potentially provide more opportunities to utilise their IP status.

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We are proposing that four measures should be put in place if supervision rights are extended:

- Supervisors must have worked in the area in which a PIP in training wishes to learn to prescribe before becoming their supervisor.
- Supervisors must be trained for the role before they begin.
- Supervisors must be mentored for a period of time once supervising.
- Course providers must support supervisors throughout their time as supervisors linked to an accredited course.

4a. Do you agree that they are the right measures?

**Yes** No

APTUK believes that these are the right measures and this mirrors systems that the Pharmacy Technician profession are familiar with when assessing competence of Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technicians. Evidence and quality assurance systems that monitor the effectiveness of this demonstrate the 'supervisors/assessors' competence.

However, there appears to be a gap concerning requirements 'continuing competence and fitness to practise'. Also if the course providers set the training and 'signing off' there could be a lack of consistency across all providers. This could be detrimental to the training of some supervisors. APTUK believes there should be a common requirement for training supervisors for providers to work within to ensure a standardised approach across all providers.

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4b. Should there be any other measures? If 'Yes', please explain what they should be.



## Association of Pharmacy Technicians United Kingdom

**Yes** No

Please add your comments here:

APTUK feel, based on recent published evidence from the GPhC survey of pre-registration trainee pharmacy technicians, that there should be a measure that supports the continuation of the same supervisor throughout the training/assessment wherever this is realistically possible.

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5. Are there any equality, diversity or inclusion issues you think have been raised by our proposals?

**Yes** No

Please add your comments here:

No apart from ensuring that selection entry onto the IP training is in keeping with ensuring patient safety and safeguarding patients

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Equality monitoring

At the GPhC, we are committed to promoting equality, valuing diversity and being inclusive in all our work as a health professions regulator, and to making sure we meet our equality duties.

We want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to respond to our discussion paper. This equality monitoring form will provide us with useful information to check that this happens.

You do not have to fill it in, and your answers here will not be linked to your consultation responses.

What is your sex?

Please tick one box

Male

Female

Other

What is your sexual orientation?

Please tick one box

Heterosexual/straight

Gay woman/lesbian

Gay man

Bisexual

Other

Prefer not to say

Do you consider yourself disabled?

Disability is defined in the Equality Act 2010 as “physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on a person’s ability to carry out normal day to day activities”. Please tick one box.

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

What is your age group?

Please tick one box

16 – 24 years

25 – 34 years

35 – 44 years

45 – 54 years

55 – 64 years



## Association of Pharmacy Technicians United Kingdom

65 + years

What is your ethnic group?

Choose the appropriate box to indicate your cultural background. Please tick one box.

White

British

Irish

Gypsy or Irish traveller

Other white background (please give more information in the box below)

Black or Black British

Black Caribbean

Black African

Other black background (please give more information in the box below)

Mixed

White and black Caribbean

White and black African

White and Asian

other mixed background (please give more information in the box below)

Asian or Asian British

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

other Asian (please give more information in the box below)

Chinese or Chinese British

Chinese or Chinese British

Other ethnic group (please give more information in the box below)

Arab

Arab

Other ethnic group background (please give more information in the box below)

What is your religion?

Please tick one box

Buddhist

Christian

Hindu

Jewish

Muslim

Sikh

None

Other (please give more information in the box below)

Prefer not to say

Equality data not completed as response is on behalf of an organisation that includes all of the above.

Consultation completed by

Tess Fenn

APTUK President on behalf of the Board of Directors and Professional Committee