



Dear colleague,

Re: Participating in the Foundation Pharmacy Technician Role Analysis

The NHS Long Term Plan sets out the ambitions for the NHS over the next 10 years, and the Interim People Plan describes how pharmacy professionals will play an increasingly important role in delivering clinical care to patients and the public through improving safety and optimising medicines.

New training approaches to include a structured, cross-system experience through the foundation stages of the career will be critical.

The Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK (APTUK) and Health Education England are leading on a joint project to better understand the knowledge, skills, and competencies required of pharmacy technicians in the early years of their careers. The research will guide the design and review of a UK-wide Foundation Pharmacy Technician Framework that defines the professional attributes that are required for foundation pharmacy technicians across the UK, across sectors.

This will support the new qualifications based on the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) Initial Education and Training Standards (2017) due to launch in February 2020.

The Work Psychology Group (WPG) is delivering the work in partnership with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS), which will look at roles across the health systems in the UK. WPG will be carrying out research with a range of pharmacy stakeholders, starting with virtual focus groups this December. A survey will follow in early 2020, to capture views on a range of behaviours and attributes considered important for early-career pharmacy technicians to possess.





We are keen to ensure a wide breadth of perspectives and are asking for your support to reach current Foundation Pharmacy Technicians for a series of virtual focus groups.

- What:** Current Foundation Pharmacy Technicians to participate in a focus group as part of the Foundation Pharmacy Technician Role Analysis.
- Where:** Virtual Focus Groups via conference call (60–90 minutes) – led by WPG.
- When:** December 2019.
- Why:** To discuss the skills required as an early-year technician to support the development of an attributes framework.
- How:** Register your interest at this link by November 30th: <http://bit.ly/PTFocusGroup>

We welcome your help in cascading this information to early career pharmacy technicians via your channels. Feel free to use the ready-made email and poster to promote the research. Please note that as a thank you for contributing to this important work, participants will receive a £25 Amazon Gift Voucher from WPG.

If you have any queries about the role analysis and focus groups, please contact us via Jessica Pickard: j.pickard@workpsychologygroup.com

Yours sincerely,

Liz Fidler FAPharmT
President
Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK

