

Stakeholder Briefing

Pharmacy Technician Qualification Development

This paper provides information on the above HEE funded project.

Background

Health Education England (HEE) exists for one reason only: to support the delivery of excellent healthcare and health improvement to the patients and public of England by ensuring that the workforce of today and tomorrow has the right numbers, skills, values and behaviours, at the right time and in the right place.

The Pharmacy Technician workforce has been recognised through various national policies and white papers as being essential. This workforce supports the required skill mix and service transformation in community and hospital pharmacy to ensure the Medicines Value Programme, Five Year Forward View and Community Pharmacy Forward View become a reality.

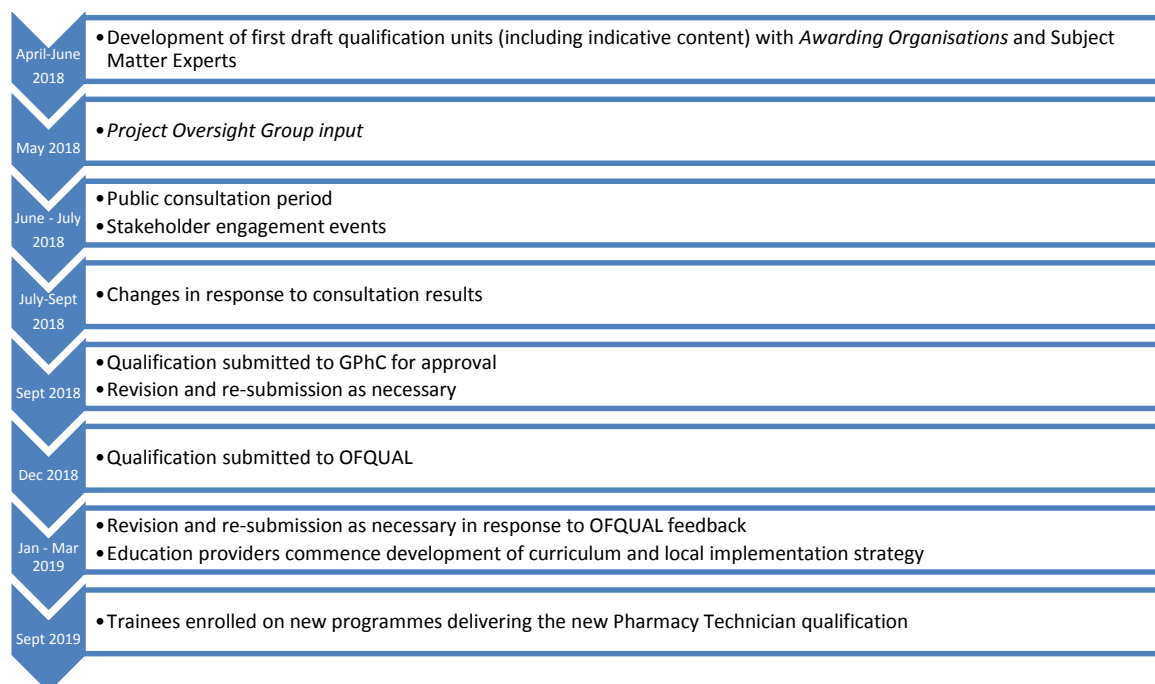
Pharmacy Technician education is fundamental to underpin the transformation and up-skilling of a large pharmacy technician workforce, enabling appropriate skill mix to support the infrastructure changes required to enhance the roles of clinical pharmacists and services across sectors. The recently revised General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) [Initial Education & Training Standards for Pharmacy Technicians](#) (IET) will ensure that pharmacy technicians have the knowledge and skills at the right level for current and future workforce requirements at point of registration.

The development of a new qualification which meets the IET is a key enabler to NHS and Pharmacy policy. The qualification will need to be robust, cost effective and transferable across home countries and will need to be developed in such a way that it will be able to be utilised across a range of funding models. To support the timely access to fit-for-purpose education programmes for pharmacy technicians, HEE is funding the collaborative development of a Pharmacy Technician qualification that meets the recently revised General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) IET Standards, and which will be able to be utilised from September 2019.

Project overview and timelines

Health Education England have commissioned Skills for Health to establish and manage the collaborative development of the qualification. The project was initiated in March 2018, commencing with a market engagement event for Awarding Organisations and the Regulator.

The indicative project timeline is as follows:



Stakeholder engagement

The project engages with key stakeholders from home countries to align qualification development to ensure it meets the requirements for GPhC registration or transferability of this workforce within the United Kingdom.

Public consultation and stakeholder engagement – facilitated by S4H, supported by HEE.

Links to other workstreams

This project is consistent with all relevant Pharmacy Integration Fund workstreams, whereby HEE is supporting the legacy workforce (those that have undergone the current qualification(s) route to register) with education programmes and pathways that will enhance their skills over the next 2-3 years. Information on this work is available here <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/developing-our-workforce/pharmacy-education-training/pharmacy-integration-fund>.

The HEE Mandate is committed to growing the numbers able to access education via the apprenticeship route and regional strategies are being built to support employers with this. Through the HEE Professional Lead for Apprenticeships, this project is engaged at a strategic level with the Institute for Apprenticeships, General Pharmaceutical Council, Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK and the employer-led Pharmacy Trailblazer Group. These organisations will be fully consulted and engaged with during the development of this qualification to ensure alignment with pharmacy technician apprenticeship standard development and related government policy.

March 2018