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20 October 2020

Dear Liz

World Pharmacy Technician Day

I wanted to write an open letter to your members and all pharmacy technicians on World Pharmacy Technician Day.

First, to thank everyone for their incredible contribution to and support for excellent patient care throughout the COVID-19 pandemic so far. I have been impressed by the many examples of leadership, delivery and sheer fortitude that have been shown by pharmacy technician colleagues across all parts of the NHS and these are deserving of great praise. We are sharing some of these in our communications today.

I also want to highlight how the profession has a great future ahead. The NHS Long Term Plan identifies a strong and growing role for the pharmacy team across the NHS which won't be achievable without the appropriate clinical deployment of pharmacy technicians. The role of the pharmacy technician is critical to the functioning of the pharmacy team and pharmacy and medicines optimisation services in the NHS. The professional contribution of pharmacy technicians during the pandemic further confirms that this is the right approach.

Thanks to the impressive leadership and contribution of the Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK, together we have made great progress recently with the development of several new initiatives:

- The inclusion of the pharmacy technician role in the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme so that primary care networks are able to recruit pharmacy technicians into general practices meaning there will be hundreds more in post in the next four years.
- The inclusion of pharmacy technicians in the Primary Care Pharmacy Education Pathway.
- The expansion of training places and the piloting of the Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician role, in a system approach including primary care.
- The publication of the National Competency Framework for Primary Care Pharmacy Technicians.



- A national framework procurement process to facilitate access to apprenticeship funding to train pharmacy technicians in all settings.

Now, with the help of APTUK, we need to go further to ensure we really deliver on these challenges. This means working together to increase recruitment, maximise the potential of the clinical role of pharmacy technicians in the NHS, increase the numbers of those seeking professional registration and ensure support for APTUK as the professional body.

To do this I propose we need to strengthen the advice, feedback and opinion from senior pharmacy technicians currently working within the NHS including primary care. This letter invites you and your Committee to work with us to develop a sustainable approach that will be beneficial to pharmacy technicians in terms of career progression and professional development.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts and discussing with you and your colleagues,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. W. Ridge', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Keith Ridge CBE
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer