

**From: Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Mrs Cathy Harrison**



To: All Community Pharmacy Contractors

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Dear Colleague,

PHARMACY PRE-REGISTRATION PLACEMENTS

I am very grateful to you for supporting your pre-registration tutors and students through the last few months and I appreciate this has been a period of uncertainty. I am writing to confirm the arrangements that have been put in place to enable the current cohort of students to register this summer and the future cohort of pre-registration students to commence their training in 2020.

Firstly, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, pre-registration students who began their training in 2019 will not be able to complete their examination in June 2020 as originally intended. This is also the case in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland. It has been confirmed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI) that it is the intention to hold the examination in Northern Ireland in early August. That will ensure that those students who successfully pass the examination, and have completed their 52 weeks training, will be able to join the Register by the end of August. Funding is being made available for up to two months to cover this additional pre-registration period. It will be available for both tutors and those students who were planning to sit the pre-registration examination in June and further information will be provided by the HSC Board.

Also, I am pleased to confirm that the Department will be making a pre-registration grant of **£23,500** available to each contractor for each pre-registration student in 2020/21, subject to the normal regulatory requirements of the PSNI Ireland being met. The grant will continue to be paid to individual contractors and will include a protected employer specific funding allocation of **£5,500** per placement to cover training and employer on-costs associated with each placement. The remainder of the grant is for Contractors to provide a salary of **£18,000** for each pre-registration trainee. These amounts will be reduced on a pro-rata basis in respect of part-time placements.

Finally, the PSNI Council has confirmed that pre-registration students who will be starting their placements in the summer will complete the General Pharmaceutical Council examination from June 2021. This will ensure a consistent approach across the UK.

To assist pre-registration tutors and students in making the transition to the new examination, the Department has commissioned NICPLD to provide additional training for students during 2020/21.

I hope that this information has provided some reassurance about the arrangements for pre-registration training for this year and next.

Thank you for your continued support for our future pharmacists.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Cathy Harrison

CC: Joe Brogan, HSCB