



Dear Members,

Following on from our recent webinar with the RPS and GPhC, we would like to clarify our current stance on what the GPhC's response means for pre-registration training, registration and employment going forward.

For context, we are in regular contact and have attended both stakeholder meetings, with the GPhC and relevant bodies, representing the views of our members. We have had our support line (support@bpsa.co.uk) open, whereby members can submit feedback, questions and concerns that we can then take forward as the national representative body of pharmacy students and pre-registration trainees. For more information on the work we have done on this so far, [please see our previous statements on our website.](#)

The GPhC have stated that final details will be released at the end of May, in light of this we have summarised the questions we have posed that still need to be answered, as well as the information we know for certain at this point:

Questions and concerns we have put to the GPhC that will be answered at the end of May:

- How will those on 2nd and 3rd sittings be affected?
- What will provisional registration entail and entitle current trainees to do?
- What will the "sign-off for practice" process entail?
- When will the pre-registration assessment be?
- Who will be the supervisor/preceptor?
- Will provisionally registered pharmacists be entitled to locum?
- Will provisionally registered pharmacists be entitled to begin the clinical diploma/CPPE PCN pathway in October as they had originally planned?
- What happens to those who don't get "signed off" to practice?

We understand that it's frustrating having to wait for these answers, you have been extremely patient in very challenging times and thankfully will have the information you need in just a couple of weeks. **In the meantime, let us focus on what we do know:**

- **Provisional registration is not an extension of your pre-registration training**, your training should be carried out and completed at the time it was intended to. You will no longer be a pre-registration pharmacist at this point.
- Pending satisfactory sign off, **pre-registration trainees will register as pharmacists on the 1st of August.** To remain on the register, you will need to pass the exam when it takes place, hence the term "provisionally registered".



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- Provisionally registered pharmacists will have a supervisor/preceptor, much like the medicine model, to offer support and guidance during the provisionally registered period.
- Those having to self-isolate will not be affected by the 40 days of absence rule.
- As you will be a registered pharmacist this should not affect earning potential, however it will be up to individual employers to determine contract specifics.
- **The pre-registration assessment will not take place in June or September**, it will most likely take place at the end of 2020/beginning of 2021 when lockdown restrictions allow. The GPhC are considering online alternatives if at that point social restrictions are still in place.
- As a result of our joint letter with the RPS, those people requiring a visa will be entitled to one under the one year extension granted by the Home Office, providing they meet the salary requirements that they would have had to meet anyway. For those that may be out of employment we are in discussions, along with the RPS, with the Department of Health and Social Care to advocate for your protection.

We'd encourage all students and pre-registration trainees to [sign up for free BPSA membership](#) on our website to receive the most up to date information. We would like to thank you all for your engagement, we have received hundreds of emails so far, and would like to reiterate that we want to hear from you at support@bpsa.co.uk. We are currently working with the RPS, the GPhC, HEE, Pharmacist Support and the PDA, amongst others, to ensure we get the best outcome for our members. We have always represented and advocated for you, and will continue to do so.

Kind Regards,
On Behalf of the British Pharmaceutical Students' Association

Regan McCahill
President 2019 - 2020