

FAQs

Why are Rowlands doing this now?

Workforce development in the sector is moving at pace and over the past few months, we have seen a number of changes in relation to the Education and Training standards of pharmacists and the introduction of a Foundation year which will replace the current pre-registration year (year 5) with the aim that all newly qualified pharmacists who start their course from 2021 will become an Independent Prescriber at the point of registration with the GPhC by 2026. All nations are currently finalising what their framework will look like and how we transition over the next few years.

Across Scotland and Wales, we have seen a real push and commitment from the Government and Health Boards to upskill our workforce and are providing financial support to help this happen. A remuneration package is also available where Independent Prescribers are using their skills to provide the much needed services.

What if I am a Pharmacist in England?

In England, discussions are ongoing and it is not yet clear on the direction of travel, there is limited funding available currently however we are keen on finding ways to support IP upskilling and seeking any funding opportunities available. We are also keen to support 'time to study' and backfill where this is self-funded by colleagues. We will continue to keep a close eye on England and update you in due course.

How do I know if I am eligible to undertake the Independent Prescriber Course?

Currently, the GPhC requires that pharmacists applying to undertake an independent prescribing programme must:

- be a registered pharmacist with the GPhC or the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI)
- have at least two years' appropriate patient-orientated experience in a UK hospital, community or primary care setting following their pre-registration year.

What support will I receive?

You will be given study time to undertake your Independent Prescriber Course. Dependent on which country you live and work, you will also be provided with financial assistance to undertake your course through the Health Board. PHOENIX are keen to explore all funding opportunities available for you. We will also support you to find a Designated Medical Practitioner.

When on the course and once qualified, we will help support your ongoing CPD and provide peer support forums. You will also have access to resources via

How much will I earn as an Independent Prescriber?

We are currently finalising the details in relation to remuneration for IPs who are providing services, this will be confirmed in due course

The answer to my question is not here?

We will continue to develop our FAQ's, if your question has not been answered, please email pharmacydevelopment@phoenixdevelopment.co.uk and we will be happy to help you.