

## **Press statement following GPhC announcement 21<sup>st</sup> May**

*On 21 May 2020, the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) agreed a policy for registering pharmacists on a provisional basis as part of the regulator's response to the pandemic.*

*Professor Wendy Reid, Acting Chief Executive for Health Education England says:*

*"Health Education England (HEE) recognises the uncertainty for many pre-registration pharmacists about provisional registration and the postponed registration assessment.*

*"We acknowledge the complexity to develop a timely, suitable and practical solution, for current trainees to join the pharmacy workforce in summer 2020.*

*"HEE and NHSE&I note the General Pharmaceutical Council's decision (GPhC). GPhC's primary statutory function is to ensure patient and public safety. During the next stages of development, we will continue to work closely with the GPhC and others, to support provisional registrants so that they receive the additional support they need to help them provide safe and effective patient care and NHS services. This will require the development of a system where the quality of training is assured. We will also continue to work to identify how trainees can be supported across the system during this period.*

*"We understand that pre-registration pharmacists and tutors will continue to have many queries. These questions and concerns are important to us and will continue to shape our ongoing guidance and support for trainees, provisionally registered pharmacists and tutors. [Our Pre-registration Pharmacy Questions Portal](#) will remain open to anonymously submit questions and concerns. We will continue to use this to update [our FAQs for pre-registration trainees, tutors and employers](#), and to share with key stakeholders, including the GPhC.*

*"Pharmacy teams are demonstrating an essential role in dealing with the impact of COVID-19 and providing patient care. We would like to extend our appreciation to all pre-registration pharmacists as part of the team, who have worked with their tutors to deliver care outside of their scheduled training pathways and usual duties with both flexibility and professionalism during this time."*