



Pharmacy technician registration: Guidance on relevant work experience

You should read this document if you are intending to apply for registration as a pharmacy technician. This document provides guidance on relevant work experience.

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We recommend that you also read the guidance notes in the application packs and frequently asked questions. These documents are on the pharmacy technician page of our website www.rpsgb.org

If you still cannot find an answer to your question in our documents you can:

- Email us at pharmacytechnician@rpsgb.org or
- Phone us on **020 7572 2610**

Our definition of relevant work experience

We define relevant work experience as carrying out the roles and responsibilities of a pharmacy technician in the United Kingdom, Isle of Man or Channel Islands under the supervision, direction or guidance of an accountable pharmacist. This may include work experience during your pharmacy technician course but cannot include work experience before the start of your course.

Applying under transitional (voluntary) arrangements before 1 July 2011

We have four types of application under our transitional arrangements, route a and route b for applicants with UK qualifications, overseas (non-EEA) and EEA for applicants with overseas qualifications.

To apply through route a you must have an acceptable UK pharmacy technician qualification (these are listed in the application pack guidance notes) and relevant work experience as a pharmacy technician for

- at least 14 hours a week for four out of the last eight years or
- at least 28 hours a week for two out of the last four years.

If you have an acceptable UK qualification but do not meet the work experience requirements for route a you may still be able to apply through route b. To apply through route b you must have two years relevant work experience as a pharmacy technician and have worked at least 14 hours per week during that time.

If you are applying through route b you will be required to provide additional information about your work as a pharmacy technician. This information is then assessed by our evaluators to see if you meet our requirements.

To apply through our overseas (non-EEA) route you must have an overseas pharmacist or pharmacy technician qualification and relevant work experience as a pharmacy technician in the United Kingdom for

- at least 14 hours a week for four out of the last eight years or
- at least 28 hours a week for two out of the last four years.

To apply as an EEA applicant you must be a European (EEA) national with a European pharmacy technician qualification and work experience.

Types of job role

Most pharmacy technicians will be working in a community or hospital pharmacy under the supervision, direction or guidance of an accountable pharmacist, but there are other areas where pharmacy technicians work. The following section provides guidance on relevant work experience and how to apply if you are a pharmacy technician working in another area of practice.

If you are working for an NHS primary care organisation (PCO)

You may be working in any one of a number of different roles within a PCO such as prescribing advice, medicines management and formulary development. Your work experience is considered relevant as long as it was carried out under the supervision, direction or guidance of a PCO pharmacist and we would expect that the PCO pharmacist to countersign your application. In this situation your application can be submitted under route a.

If you are working in primary care but are not working under the supervision, direction or guidance of a pharmacist, your application for registration must be countersigned by a pharmacist who has a professional relationship with your supervisor or line manager. In this situation your application must be submitted under route b.

If you are working within the pharmaceutical industry

Your work experience is considered relevant as long as there are UK registered pharmacists working for the same company at the same site. In this situation your application should be countersigned by a pharmacist working for the same company at the same site and can be submitted under route a.

If you are working on a site where no pharmacists are employed your application may be countersigned by a pharmacist working at a different site for the same company, provided that the pharmacist has a professional relationship with your supervisor or line manager. In this situation your application must be submitted under route b.

If you are working for a pharmaceutical wholesaler

Your work experience is considered to be relevant for registration provided that it is undertaken under the supervision, direction or guidance of a pharmacist. In this situation your application should be countersigned by a pharmacist working for the same company at the same site and submitted as under route a.

If you are working on a site where no pharmacists are employed your application may be countersigned by a pharmacist working at a different site for the same company, as long

as the pharmacist has a professional relationship with your supervisor or line manager. In this situation your application must be submitted under route b.

If you are working for a provider of health information or pharmacy-related IT systems

You are employed by a company providing health information services and systems, for example suppliers of pharmacy management or patient medication record systems. Your work experience is considered to be relevant provided that it is undertaken under the supervision, direction or guidance of a pharmacist. In this situation your application should be countersigned by a registered pharmacist working for the same company at the same site and submitted as under route a.

If you are working on a site where no pharmacists are employed your application may be countersigned by a pharmacist working at a different site for the same company, provided that the pharmacist has a professional relationship with your supervisor or line manager. In this situation your application must be submitted under route b.

If you are a military pharmacy technician

Your work experience is considered to be relevant since you are working under the guidance of the Senior Pharmacist for the Defence Medical Services Department who will countersign your application.

If you are working in a civilian post for the Ministry of Defence (MoD)

The MoD does not have any registered pharmacies, but currently employs civilian pharmacists and pharmacy technicians on NHS terms and conditions. The Army has recently introduced regional and practice pharmacists into primary care whom it is anticipated will countersign applications for registration. If you work for the RAF and Navy, who do not employ pharmacists, your application for registration will need to be countersigned by the Senior Pharmacist for the Defence Medical Services Department or another pharmacist providing formal pharmacy services to the Service at the time of registration.

If you are working in a school of pharmacy, further education college, are involved in pharmacy technician education and training or working with a pharmacy training provider

Your work experience to be relevant as you will be familiar with the roles and responsibilities of pharmacy technicians working in the community and hospital pharmacy and the legal framework within which they work. In most situations we would expect your application to be countersigned by a pharmacist working in the same organisation and submitted under route a.

If you are working where no pharmacist is employed, your application may be countersigned by a pharmacist associated with a course provided by that organisation, for example a member of the course board or a pharmacist purchaser. In this situation your application must be submitted under route b.

If you are working within a pharmacy organisation, a national health-related organisation, professional body or employment agency

Your work experience is considered to be relevant as you will be familiar with the roles and responsibilities of pharmacy technicians working in hospital and community pharmacy and the legal framework within which they work. In most situations we would expect your application to be countersigned by a pharmacist working in the same organisation and, submitted under route a.

If you are working where no pharmacist is employed, your application may be countersigned by a pharmacist associated with that organisation who has a professional

relationship with your supervisor or line manager. In this situation the application must be submitted under route b.

If you are employed within a hospital environment but not accountable to the chief pharmacist

You would fall in this category if you are employed by medical physicists to undertake radiopharmaceutical dispensing. Although you may work within a hospital environment you are not an employee of the pharmacy department. You are eligible for registration with the Society provided that the following conditions are met:

- you work within a hospital environment or NHS Trust;
- your supervisor must have a professional relationship with a pharmacist working within the same hospital/NHS Trust who would be prepared to countersign your application for registration.

In these situations your application for registration must be submitted under route b.

If you are working as a journalist

Your work experience will only be considered to be relevant if you are working for a pharmacy-related publication and are able to maintain a working knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of pharmacy technicians in hospital and community pharmacy and developments in practice. In most situations we would expect your application to be countersigned by pharmacist working in the same organisation at the same site and submitted under route a.

If you work where no pharmacist is employed, your application may be countersigned by a pharmacist associated with the publication with whom you have a professional relationship, for example a member of the editorial board or commissioning body or by a pharmacist working for the same company who has a professional relationship you're your supervisor or line manager. In this situation your application must be submitted under route b.

If you are working as a locum

Your work experience is considered to be relevant if it falls within the scope of any of the work areas described previously. Your application may be countersigned by a pharmacist who has commissioned services or with whom you have had a previous professional relationship. In this situation your application must be submitted under route b.

If you are working as a consultant

Work experience will be considered to be relevant if it falls within the scope of any of the work areas described previously. The application for registration may be countersigned by a pharmacist who has commissioned work or services or with whom the applicant has had a previous professional relationship. In this situation your application must be submitted under route b.

If you qualified as a pharmacy technician but are now working for a GP or dispensing GP

If you are working in a GP practice or dispensing GP practice and are not working under the supervision, direction or guidance of a pharmacist, you are able apply for registration as long as you can identify a pharmacist who has a professional relationship with your practice and who is prepared to countersign your application for registration. In this situation your application must be submitted under route b.

Applying under post-transitional (mandatory) arrangements from 1 July 2011

If you intend to apply after the register has become mandatory you must have:

- A UK qualification (or qualifications) meeting our mandatory requirements. The current requirement is:
 - S/NVQ level 3 in Pharmacy Services; and
 - An accredited underpinning knowledge programme; and
- Work experience as a pharmacy technician carried out under the supervision, direction or guidance of a pharmacist or an accountable pharmacist for at least 14 hours per week for at least two years.

During these two years, you must have completed at least 1260 hours of work experience (excluding sickness absence, maternity leave and holidays) and at least 315 hours of work experience in each year.

If you want to register after the register has become mandatory you should contact us on 020 7572 2610 for the up to date advice on the post-transitional entry requirements.