



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Exploring pharmacy technician practice in meeting unmet pharmaceutical care needs in the United Kingdom (UK) to inform the development of a UK post-registration pharmacy technician career pathway

*Research delivered by the University of Bath and Pharmacy Workforce Development South (PWDS) on behalf of The Association of Pharmacy Technicians United Kingdom (APTUK).
Sponsored by the Conference of Pharmacy Deans (CoPED)*

This information sheet forms part of the process of informed consent. It should give you the basic idea of what the research is about and what your participation will involve. Please read this information sheet carefully and ask one of the researchers named below if you are not clear about any details of the project.

1. What is the purpose of the project?

The purpose of this project is to explore pharmacy technician practice in the context of meeting the pharmaceutical needs of the UK population. The anticipated outcomes from this research will contribute to knowledge and inform future policy regarding the role development of a pharmacy technician and inform a programme of work in the development of a UK post-registration career pathway for pharmacy technicians.

2. Why have I been selected to take part?

We would like to gather information from pharmacy technicians, pharmacists and employers of pharmacy technicians who have knowledge of the role of a pharmacy technician in UK healthcare settings about the development of the pharmacy technician role to meet the pharmaceutical needs of the UK population.

Participants are eligible to take part if they reside in the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales) and are a pharmacy technician, pharmacist or an employer of a pharmacy technician (including non-pharmacy professions) and have knowledge of the role of a pharmacy technician.

3. Do I have to take part?

No. It is completely up to you to decide if you would like to participate.

4. What will I be asked to do?

If you decide to participate in the study, you will be invited to take part in a focus group. The purpose of this discussion is to share experiences and/or views of the role of a pharmacy technician focusing on meeting pharmaceutical needs and role development. Each focus group will have between 6-10 participants and we expect will be a maximum duration of 90 minutes. The focus group will be conducted by an experienced researcher from the University of Bath. The researcher will have an assistant who will help ensure that the focus group runs smoothly. The focus group will be arranged via teleconference (online) using a tool called Microsoft Teams. The focus groups will be scheduled at the following dates and times:

- **Pharmacy Technicians** (focus group 1): 7pm, Tuesday 30th July 2024
- **Pharmacists** (focus group 2): 7pm, Wednesday 31st July 2024
- **Employers of pharmacy technicians**, including non-pharmacy professions (focus group 3): 7pm, Thursday 8th August 2024

The focus group conversation will be audio and video recorded. Before the focus group begins the researcher will explain the purpose of the study and the reasons for undertaking it. The researcher will

also answer any questions you might have about being involved. You will then be asked whether you would still like to participate and that you agree to the recording. Making an audio and video recording enables the research team to transcribe the focus group discussion. If you would prefer not to appear in the recording, you are free to turn off your camera.

5. What are the exclusion criteria? (are there reasons why I should not take part)?

If you have no relevant and appropriate knowledge of the role of a pharmacy technician and/or pharmacy services in the UK, you would not be appropriate to take part in this study. As this study is being conducted online, you must have access to the internet. If you are not based in the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales) then you cannot participate in this study. If you are less than 18 years of age you are not eligible to take part.

6. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no anticipated direct benefits to you taking part in the study. The expected outcomes from this research will contribute to knowledge and inform future policy regarding the role development of a pharmacy technician. This will potentially benefit the pharmacy community and patient care in the future.

7. What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no anticipated risks to you in taking part. The topic of discussion is pharmacy technician roles and pharmaceutical needs, so very unlikely to cause any physical or emotional harm. If you do not wish to answer a particular focus group question, you do not need to do so.

8. Will my participation involve any discomfort or embarrassment?

We do not expect you to feel any discomfort or embarrassment if you take part in the project. If, however you do feel uncomfortable during the focus group, you can choose to exit the discussion at any time, by leaving the Teams meeting.

9. Who will have access to the information that I provide?

Due to the real-time nature of focus groups, all focus group participants as well as the researcher facilitating the discussion will have access to the information that you provide. Once the focus group has been recorded, transcribed and anonymised, only the research team will have access to this information. All such records will be treated as confidential.

10. What will happen to the data collected and results of the project?

All research data collected during the project including personal, identifiable data will be treated as confidential and kept in a password protected file on the University of Bath's secure server. Once data analysis has been completed all personal data will be destroyed. The storage of data will be managed in accordance with current UK data protection legislation. The final anonymised dataset collected in this project will be stored securely for 10 years and then destroyed. Your name or other identifying information will not be disclosed in any publication of the research.

Once this project is completed, other researchers at the University of Bath may conduct related research projects which would benefit from the use of the data that you have provided. Further use of anonymised data will only occur with the University of Bath's approval where data will continue to be stored in accordance with current UK data protection legislation. Your name or other identifying information will not be disclosed in any presentation or publication of the research.

11. How can I withdraw from the project?

If for any reason you wish to withdraw your participation you may do so up to and during the focus group by notifying an identified researcher.

If for any reason you wish to withdraw your data prior to participation in the focus group, please contact an identified researcher, any forms containing identifiable data e.g. consent form will be destroyed.

Participant Information Sheet v5 (Kerry Street)

Comments made during focus group participation will be anonymised, individual comments will not be identifiable in any way in any presentation or publication. Once you have participated in a focus group it will not be possible to withdraw your comments.

12. Who has reviewed the project?

This project has been given a favourable opinion by the University of Bath, Research Ethics Committee [reference: 1831-3374].

13. Will expenses be paid for participation in the project?

There are no fees for people participating in this research project. By hosting the project online costs will be kept to a minimum; there will be no travel expenses incurred by participants.

14. University of Bath privacy notice

The University of Bath privacy notice can be found here: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/university-of-bath-privacy-notice-for-research-participants/>.

15. What happens if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of the project you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer any questions. If they are unable to resolve your concern or you wish to make a complaint regarding the project, please contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Approval Committee for Health: Professor James Betts, Email: health-ethics@bath.ac.uk

16. If I require further information who should I contact and how?

Thank you for expressing an interest in participating in this project. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like some more information.

Name of Principle Investigator: Kerry Street
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Name of Academic Supervisor: Dr Tim Rennie
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