

English Pharmacy Board 25th Nov 2009

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Pre-registration placement availability

Purpose

To discuss and gain an understanding of the views of the EPB on the availability of future pre-registration training placements.

Action Required

The Board is asked to:

- I. Consider the available information,
- II. Agree that there is not an urgent need for action, but that this situation needs to be kept under scrutiny.

1. Background

- 1.1. As more Schools of Pharmacy have been accredited the numbers of graduates emerging will increase. This increase is illustrated in the table below and has been extracted from the *NHS Pay Review Body 24th Report 2009* (Table 3.3, page 26 full report available at: <http://www.ome.uk.com/review.cfm?body=6>), and is based on statistics originally from the RPSGB.

YEAR	Pharmacy graduates entering pre-registration (estimate)	Increase on 2008 (%)
2008	2,137	
2009	2,209	3
2010	2,495	17
2011	3,241	52
2012	3,500	64
2013	3,550	68

- 1.2. There are 4,060 registered pre-registration training premises in 2009 across the UK (155 in Northern Ireland). The 294 placements within the hospital sector are allowed to accommodate multiple graduates.
- 1.3. There is, therefore, sufficient theoretical capacity within the system to accommodate the increases.
- 1.4. Many of the community pharmacy premises may not have a suitable tutor in place and the current constraints upon remuneration may lead to fewer offers. At this time the payment to contractors in the future is unknown.
- 1.5. Pre-registration placements are used by employers in all sectors as a recruitment tool. The need to use this method to recruit pharmacists may reduce, as vacancies decrease.
- 1.6. The General Pharmaceutical Council may have an impact upon placements in two ways. Firstly they may introduce more monitoring of the quality of the tutor, which may deter some pharmacists from becoming tutors. Secondly they intend to be more flexible in how they interpret the suitability of places for pre-registration places, i.e. making it easier for mental health or primary care trusts to take on pre-registration graduates for part of the year.

2. Conclusion

The impact of these factors cannot be accurately assessed, however there is sufficient current capacity. There is some risk that there will be insufficient placements for the increasing numbers of graduates emerging from Schools of Pharmacy in the coming years. This does not seem to be highly likely from the information that we have currently available. Given that there are many factors that could influence the availability of places, the matter should be kept under review.

Author

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