

# Product Approval Accreditation Programme

Transitional Period for the Recognition  
of Prior Learning and Previous Checking  
Experience for Registration onto the  
Programme (May 2021 till May 2023)  
Guidance for Pharmacy Technicians



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# PWDS Product Approval Accreditation Programme - Recognition of Prior Learning and Previous Checking Experience

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## Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Previous Checking Experience - Guidance for Pharmacy Technicians

### Introduction

This document is intended to provide guidance for pharmacy technicians who wish to enrol onto the Product Approval Accreditation Programme (PAAP) using recognition of prior learning and previous checking experience in the absence of having completed a nationally recognised Pre and In-process Checking (PIPC) accreditation.

This option has been put in place for a period of two years (a similar agreement has been in place for and since the pilot scheme) to support employers with maximising the knowledge and skills of their existing workforce and with future workforce planning. This period will end May 2023 after which time holding a full nationally recognised PIPC certificate will become the only accepted route to enrolment onto the PAAP course for pharmacy technicians.

The process outlined in this document is aimed at Pharmacy Technicians that are very experienced in technical services and that have completed in-house pre and in-process checking training/competency. These staff members must have been demonstrating their pre **and** in-process checking skills on a regular basis and have the PIPC role written into their job description.

**Please note: all elements of the site and candidate entry criteria must be met before application for the Product Approval Accreditation Programme (PAAP).** Please see PWDS website for further details [www.PWDS.nhs.uk](http://www.PWDS.nhs.uk)

### *PAAP Entry Criteria for Pharmacy Technicians*

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- The pharmacy technician is allocated to an aseptic unit for a suitable minimum period of time sufficient to complete the programme (minimum of 3 months).
- They should have at least 2 years full-time or 3 years rotational aseptic experience and be accredited, in line with the national framework, to perform pre & in-process checks in aseptic preparation.
- The individual should be committed to the process.

### PIPC Recognition of Prior Learning and Previous Checking Experience - Accreditation Process

If an individual **and** their Accountable Pharmacist agree that there would be no further gain in knowledge or skills from completing a full nationally approved PIPC programme prior to entry onto the PAAP programme they may apply for RPL by completing and submitting the following to the PWDS PAAP Training Programme Director;

1. Documented evidence of completion of local pre **and** in-process checking training and competency assessment
2. A declaration from the applicant outlining their experience to date, their current role and any errors made in the last 12 months and consequent learning.

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3. A signed letter from the Accountable Pharmacist and Chief Pharmacist to support the application that includes the following;
  - Declaration of the number of hours in aseptic service role per month
  - Declaration of a minimum of 8 hours per month the candidates spends as a PIPC
  - Declaration that any errors made by the applicant have been recorded and monitored and remain within departmental parameters
  - Declaration of support for the applicant to gain entry onto the PAAP course under the transitional period arrangements
4. Copy of the applicant's job description which must include the pre and in-process checking role

An assessment of the applicant's suitability to enrol on the PAAP course under the transitional period arrangements will be made by the PAAP Training Programme Director. Recommendations for any additional evidence requirements will be provided if necessary.

**Please note:** This process supports the recognition of prior learning and experience as a route to enrolment onto the PAAP course during the transitional period. This route does not provide the applicant with a nationally recognised PIPC certificate.