

## Primary Care Funding Allocation for Pharmacists in GP Practices – Allocation for 2016-17

### Summary

1. This circular advises of an allocation of £6.6m from the Primary Care Fund to NHS Boards for 2016-17, to fund pharmacists to work with GPs in GP practices.

### Background

2. The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport announced on 25 June 2015 details of how the Primary Care Fund will be used to support the primary care workforce, including GPs, and improve patient access to these services.

3. Circular PCA (P) (2015) 16 of 27 August advised Boards that over three years £16.2m would be allocated to recruit up to 140 whole time equivalent additional pharmacists with advanced clinical skills training, or those undertaking the training. Boards were advised at that time of Year 1 allocations.

### Detail

4. Annex A provides a breakdown of the Primary Care funding allocated to Boards for the period April 2016 – March 2017 (year 2). £6.6m has been allocated on an NRAC basis weighted for smaller Board areas to ensure at least double the 2015/16 allocation. This is to allow recruitment of up to two whole time equivalent pharmacists in these areas.

24 March 2016

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#### Addresses

##### For action

Directors of Pharmacy, NHS Boards  
Directors of Finance, NHS Boards  
Medical Directors, NHS Boards

##### For information

Director of Pharmacy, NES

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#### Enquiries to:

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5. Boards will be expected to build on the plans already in place to recruit, or enter into arrangements with, pharmacists to work directly with GPs to deliver patient facing care. By year three these pharmacists will be trained to work as Pharmacist Independent Prescribers in line with the vision discussed in Prescription for Excellence, managing caseloads of patients with complex medicines needs, carrying out medicines reviews for a range of patients, and supporting the care of patients with long term conditions.

6. Since 2014, many pharmacists have been undertaking the additional independent prescribing courses and clinical skills training that the Scottish Government commissioned from NES together with advanced clinical skills training, which will allow pharmacists to fulfil this role. As before, NHS Boards have the flexibility to recruit or enter into arrangements with pharmacists from all sectors, which would include community pharmacists as well as managed service pharmacists and hospital pharmacists, who have not yet completed this training but agree to undertake to advance their clinical skills and competence whilst practising within the GP multidisciplinary team.

7. Boards are expected to target resources towards priority areas at a local level based on patient need. Priority populations to be targeted include areas with a greater proportion of elderly patients, deprived areas, and patients with multiple morbidities who receive a significant number of prescriptions and who have been identified as being statistically more at risk of hospital admission or readmission.

8. Boards will be expected to provide regular updates on progress towards recruitment to aid the Scottish Government in reporting progress towards the 140 pharmacists overall. Boards will also be expected to include details of their training plans stating how they intend to ensure the pharmacists are appropriately trained.

9. A short life working group has been set up to discuss and determine outcome measures which will be used to assist in the evaluation process. More details on outcome measures will follow.

**Action**

10. **NHS Boards are asked to;**

- **Note this circular and prepare plans for utilising the Year 2 Primary Care Fund allocation for pharmacists in GP practices;**
- **Submit regular updates to Scottish Government on request, on progress towards recruitment of the 140 pharmacists overall and details of training plans.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rose Marie Parr".

**Rose Marie Parr**  
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer  
Pharmacy & Medicines Division

**2016-17 Primary Care Funding for Pharmacists in GP practices**

Allocation	Primary Care Fund £000
NHS AYRSHIRE & ARRAN	£476
NHS BORDERS	£136
NHS DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY	£191
NHS FIFE	£435
NHS FORTH VALLEY	£352
NHS GRAMPIAN	£644
NHS GG&C	£1,467
NHS HIGHLAND	£422
NHS LANARKSHIRE	£806
NHS Lothian	£951
NHS ORKNEY	£72
NHS SHETLAND	£72
NHS TAYSIDE	£500
NHS WESTERN ISLES	£76
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,600</b>