



Chelsea and Westminster Hospital **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust



## **Pharmacy Department**

### **Pre-Registration Trainee Pharmacy Technician**

### **Information Pack**

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*This booklet has been designed to give a brief overview of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, the Pharmacy Department and the experience you may receive whilst working here*

## **1. Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

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Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is comprised of two main hospital sites:

- Chelsea and Westminster Hospital
- West Middlesex University Hospital

We also offer a range of community based services, including our award winning sexual health and HIV clinics across London.

With more than 5,000 staff caring for nearly one million people locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, we provide a range of specialist clinical services as well as general hospital services for people living locally, which include A&E and maternity at both our hospital sites.

Our ambition is to lead the NHS with world class patient focused healthcare, delivered locally. We are driven by a culture of caring, bringing the best from around the world to deliver excellence in research, treatment and care.

### **Chelsea and Westminster Hospital**

Chelsea Site is based on Fulham Road in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, within walking distance of the lively Kings Road and several world famous museums (such as the Natural History and the Science Museums)

The hospital is located in central London with excellent transport links via bus (11, 14, 22, 211, 328, 414, 345 and C3) or tube (Earl's Court, Fulham Broadway and South Kensington, all within a 10 – 15 minutes' walk to the hospital).

Chelsea and Westminster is a teaching hospital linked to the Imperial College School of London. The hospital opened in 1993 following the reorganisation of services from St Stephen's, Westminster, Westminster Children's, West London and St Mary Abbot's Hospital. The hospital has approximately 430 inpatient beds and was ranked one of the top 5 hospitals in England for low mortality rates in the latest Dr Foster Hospital Guide.

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital covers a wide range of specialties, which are divided into the following five directorates: Medicine and the Emergency Department (ED), Anaesthetics and Imaging, Surgery, Women's and Children's and HIV and GUM.

The building is quite unlike any other hospital. As you walk through the entrance, you will understand why Chelsea and Westminster Hospital has been described as having "a feeling of light and space, unusual to most other hospitals". Chelsea and Westminster hospital became a Foundation Trust in October 2006 which has made the Trust more accountable to patients, the public and our staff.

Art, sculpture, photography, music and performance contributed by staff, patients and friends of Chelsea and Westminster are a prominent feature of the hospital and are promoted by the

Arts of Health. Chelsea and Westminster Hospital has excellent educational facilities ranging from the on-site library, research laboratories and lecture rooms.

## **West Middlesex University Hospital**

West Middlesex site is based in the London Borough of Hounslow, near Richmond, the River Thames and Twickenham Rugby Stadium.

The hospital has several transport links via bus (110, 117, 481, 267, H28, H37, 235, 635, 237 and N9), rail (Syon Lane and Isleworth) and tube (Hounslow East on the Piccadilly line which is 1.5 miles away)

West Middlesex has a long history of pioneering, innovative healthcare.

It opened in 1894 as the Brentford Workhouse Infirmary and became known as West Middlesex Hospital in about 1920.

The new building was built between 2001 and 2003, when the original buildings were deemed to be no longer suitable for the needs of the hospital. Approximately half of the original site was sold, allowing refurbishment of two remaining buildings at the east of the site.

Today it is at the heart of the local community: a modern, award-winning hospital with state of the art facilities.

## **Trust Values**

The Trusts values demonstrate the standard of care and experience our patients and members of the public should expect from any of our services. These will underpin the work of the Trust and it is expected that all staff will work to these values on a daily basis. The values are PROUD:

- Putting patients first
- Responsive to, and supportive of, patients and staff
- Open, welcoming and honest
- Unfailing kind, treating everyone with respect, compassion and dignity
- Determined to develop our skills and continuously improve the quality of care.

## 2. THE PHARMACY

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We operate one of the most modern and efficient pharmacy services in the UK with shorter patient waiting times and a safer, more effective service for patients. The spacious department which includes an inpatient dispensary, pneumatic air tubes for fast delivery of medication to wards, directorate specific clinical offices and at the heart of stock control and dispensing there is a state of the art £500,000 robotic dispensing system that dispenses and labels drugs. The robot reduces the risk of dispensing errors and also helps reduce waste by monitoring expiry dates. Using a robot releases pharmacists and technicians from traditional stock control and dispensing duties so that they can spend more time on wards helping patients and sharing their expertise with clinical staff to improve prescribing and clinical administration.

Medication is ordered through the Trust electronic patient record system and using the Trust's computerised dispensing system.

A HIV satellite pharmacy is based in the adjacent St Stephen's Centre, which is of the largest HIV treatment centres in Europe.

## 3. SERVICES

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### 3.1 Clinical Services

Clinical pharmacy is tailored to reflect the Trust's directorate structure. There are five teams of pharmacists and technicians which provide a comprehensive clinical pharmacy service to the hospital.

Medicine and ED	Cardiology, Care of the Elderly, Dermatology, Diabetes, ED, Gastroenterology, Microbiology, Neurology, Oncology, Respiratory, Rheumatology.
Surgery	Burns, General Surgery, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, Plastics, Urology, Wound Care, Bariatric.
Women's and Children	Gynaecology, Obstetrics, NICU, Paediatrics, Neonatal and Paediatric TPN.
Anaesthetics and Imaging	Adult TPN, Day Surgery, ITU, Pain and Palliative Care, Phlebotomy, Resuscitation, Theatres, X-ray.
HIV and GUM	Kobler Pharmacy, West London Centre for Sexual Health, 56 Dean Street.

The service is tailored to meet the needs of the individual directorates and focuses on the provision of patient centred care at the bedside. The resident pharmacists provide the vital links and support to deliver an exceptional service 24 hours a day.

All pharmacists are encouraged to participate on ward rounds, write discharge prescriptions following accreditation, undertake pharmacy practice research and further develop clinical pharmacy. Ward based pharmacy technician's duties include taking drug histories, assessing the use of patients own drugs, ordering of medicines, discharge co-ordination and counselling patients on the medication. Pharmacy technicians are also encouraged to undertake the Accredited Checking Pharmacy Technicians (ACPT) course to undertake a final check of prescriptions.

### **3.2 Patient Services**

The supply of medicines is the backbone of the overall of the overall pharmacy service. Considerable investment has been made to ensure that this essential service continues to serve the Trust needs.

In May 2003, the robot was installed as part of a wider pharmacy modernisation programme and electronic prescribing was fully rolled-out in the Trust by Autumn 2010. Our progressive, innovative approach to pharmacy service delivery enables technical staff to spend greater time on wards ensuring efficient patient discharge and comprehensive medicines counselling.

### **3.3 Technical Services**

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital is one of the hospitals in the West London Cancer Network area and provides comprehensive cancer care via a multidisciplinary team to defined patient groups. The hospital is also a national specialist centre for malignancy associated with HIV infection.

As well as providing clinical pharmacy to oncology, the technical services department compounds all cytotoxic chemotherapy using standard isolator technology. In addition, sterile clinical trial products are prepared.

### **3.4 Medicines Information**

A well-resourced Medicines Information centre - supports the safe, effective and efficient use of medicines by the provision of evidence-based enquiry service. Staff in this area respond to all queries around of drug therapy. The service answers a range of enquiries that essentially - supports medicines management within the Trust and supports the pharmaceutical care of individual patients. Medicines Information also has a designated patient help-line for providing medicines information directly to patients. With an increase of HIV-related enquiries, the centre is a UKMI Specialist HIV advisory centre and is able to advise other secondary/tertiary organisations.

The use of unlicensed medicines within the Trust are also managed by the Medicines Information team and support to the Chelsea and Westminster medicines committee is provided through new drug evaluations and the updating of the formulary that is published on the Trust website.

## **4. EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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There is a commitment within the department and throughout the London region to ensure that individuals have the opportunity to develop their skills and strengths. In addition to our own in-house training, we also participate in the region's extensive training programme for pharmacists, technicians, pre-registration graduates and vocational trainees. There is extensive investment in the training for all staff. Post-graduate education is considered a vital part of staff training needs and staff are encouraged to undertake the appropriate preparation required to develop themselves in relation to their professional goals. All staff have personal performance reviews and individualised development plans.

## 5. PRE-REGISTRATION TRAINEE PHARMACY TECHNICIAN (PTPT) TRAINING SCHEME

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### 5.1 PTPT learning and Training overview

PTPT training at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital consists of vocational work based training, knowledge based learning is gained by attending college one day a week. PTPTs are set assignments by college which will need to be completed in their own time. The progress of the PTPTs is assessed at the end of their first year and their contract is extended to the second year if all work-based objectives are met and they have passed all exams and assignments at college. On successful completion of the second year, the PTPTs will become qualified Pharmacy Technicians and are required to register with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).

Please note that this is a 2 year training programme and PTPTs may be offered the opportunity to apply for a permanent post upon completion of the course.

### 5.2 Work-based training

At the beginning of their training PTPTs are assigned an NVQ Assessor who will give them support and advice throughout their training as well as assessing competence and NVQ evidence within their rotational areas. PTPTs will be trained prior to any assessments to gain competence to the standards of the Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Pharmacy Service Skills.

The PTPT training at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital follows a rotational format, with the length of rotations ranging from 1 week to 12 weeks, depending on the learning outcomes for the NVQ, BTEC and the GPhC standards.

The rotations available are:

- Inpatients Dispensary (including team lead & time spent working in CD room)
- Medicines Information
- Medicines Management
- Technical Services at both C&W and WMUH sites
- Buying Office/Purchasing
- Goods Receipt
- Distribution
- Boots Outpatients
- WMUH Outpatients
- Clinical Governance and Audit
- Clinical Trials
- Clinical

PTPTs are expected to attend monthly PTPT meetings and training sessions. PTPTs will be expected to give presentations at some of these meetings/sessions.

### **5.3 College based learning**

College is attended one day a week during term time. When PTPTs are not at college (during college holidays) they will attend work and use this time to complete college assignments, complete NVQ work, and attend progress review meetings with their assessor or line manager. PTPTs are assigned a college tutor who will provide support for college work assigned by the lecturers. Time at college teaches the theory required for the Level 3 Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sciences, learning is delivered through a variety of subjects including Human Physiology, Pharmaceutics, Actions & Uses of Drugs, Pharmacy Law & Ethics. Knowledge is assessed by exams and assignments all of which must be passed.

### **5.4 Registration**

Upon completion of both qualifications trainees will need to register with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) if they wish to practise as a Pharmacy Technician. Please refer to the GPhC website for further information.

### **5.5 Continuous Professional Development (CPD)**

It is a mandatory requirement from the GPhC that all Pharmacy Technicians must undertake CPD. CPD is the continuing learning and development that a pharmacy technician undertakes throughout their career. It enables technicians to develop their career and demonstrate competence in their area of practice.

The GPhC requires all pharmacists and technicians to carry out, record and submit four CPD records, a peer discussion record and a reflective account record. Once registered with the GPhC each individual will receive a personal timeline with the details of when they are expected to submit their CPDs by.

Within the pharmacy department we have CPD facilitators to help and support individuals in the process of completing their CPD.

### **5.6 Career Development**

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital prides itself on its positive approach to staff members' career development. Pharmacy Technicians are offered the chance to undertake a variety of courses which in turn will help to develop their career. Examples of these are:

- Accredited Checking Pharmacy Technician (ACPT)
- Medicines Optimisation Programme
- Management and Leadership study days

We also offer a comprehensive, structured training programme for band 4 rotational technicians where clear objectives are set for different rotations throughout the department including dispensary, technical services and medicines management.

Within the department we have Pharmacy Technicians who specialise in the following areas:

- Dispensary
- Medicines Information

- Medicines Management
- Clinical Trials
- Technical Services
- Information Technology
- Sexual Health/HIV
- Education and Training

## 5.7 Terms and conditions

Hours of work:	37.5 hours per week
Annual Leave Entitlement:	27 days
Salary Scale:	Year 1 - 70% of the top pay point of band 4 Year 2 - 75% of the top pay point of band 4
Notice Period:	4 weeks

## 5.8 Departmental meetings

A programme of continuing education meetings runs throughout the year and you will be expected to attend.

### CPD agenda meetings

Weekly sessions presented by various pharmacists on current areas of interest or development. Outside speakers also give presentations.

### Departmental meetings

Occur weekly, various departmental and staffing matters are discussed. PTPTs will be required to participate actively.

## 5.9 Appraisals and performance reviews

As part of the PTPT training, there will be regular appraisals and reviews to monitor performance and ensure your development is of an acceptable standard. There are many opportunities to discuss your own individual learning and developmental needs. Performance reviews will be conducted by the Lead Pharmacist Technician Education and Training and Medicines Management on a monthly basis. Practice Supervisors will conduct appraisals at the end of each rotation.

## 5.10 Conclusion

Completion of the PTPT training at Chelsea and Westminster hospital will provide trainees with an all-encompassing start to their career and give them the opportunity to work in a unique healthcare environment in one of London's teaching hospitals.

Chelsea and Westminster guides trainees through the two years with a comprehensive training programme, allowing trainees to make the transition from trainee to professional.

## **6. MISCELLANEOUS**

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### **6.1 Social Activities**

The Pharmacy has a strong tradition of being a social bunch! The department has seen it as a challenge to make the very most of the extensive restaurant and bar facilities along Fulham Road. Other local sports and fitness clubs are available at a reduced subscription e.g. Virgin Active. Staff can also take advantage of the various discounts available at local shops, restaurants and bars located in the area.

### **6.2 Accommodation**

It may be possible to provide accommodation within the staff residences during the year, located in a prime position on the lively Fulham Road. This may be on a short or long term basis and is subject to availability.

## **7. Contact Details**

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For further information, please contact:

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