

For immediate release

24 November 2010

National NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey 2010

Results from the 2010 NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey show that the NHS has 2.5% (222 FTE) more posts for pharmacists and 1.7% (128 FTE) more posts for pharmacy technicians than it did in 2009 - with significant increases in both NHS Trusts and PCTs/LHBs.

There have been small decreases (56.5 FTE) in the number of Band 6 pharmacist posts (3.5% decrease) and for Band 4 pharmacy technicians (63.7 FTEs, a 3.1% decrease) over the same period.

Vacancy rates for junior pharmacists have decreased at Band 6 from 24.7% in 2009 to 16.2% in 2010, and at Band 7 from 19.0% in 2009 to 17.6% in 2010; and for junior pharmacy technicians at Band 4 from 12.2% in 2009 to 10.8% in 2010.

These results are based on a 100% response rate from all NHS trusts and NHS PCTs/LHBs across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Susan Sanders, survey facilitator on behalf of the NHS Pharmacy Education and Development Committee said "*This annual survey provides us with tremendous insight into the NHS pharmacy workforce, providing a robust evidence base for workforce planning and strategy. This year's results show a better position with regard to vacancy rates at Bands 6 and 7 for pharmacists. However the slight decreases in Band 6 posts available could be a worrying development for the future, as the numbers of posts at Bands 7, 8a and 8b increased by a greater amount.*

Pharmacy staff are key enablers of the NHS delivering patient safety and the QIPP agenda; it is important to ensure that we have the appropriate staff in place. I would like to thank all of the respondents for completing the survey".

The report of the National NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey 2010 is now available on the NHS Pharmacy Education & Development Committee's website at <http://www.nhspecd.nhs.uk/surveys.htm> .

Acknowledgement

The NHS Pharmacy Education and Development Committee thanks the Department of Health in England for providing the resources to make the survey possible.

ENDS

Notes to editors overleaf.

Notes to editors:

NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey

The NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey is carried out by the NHS Pharmacy Education and Development Committee (NHS PEDC) in response to demands from various sources for accurate data on the current state of recruitment and retention in NHS pharmacy. The data collected help to inform workforce strategy, planning and development by various organisations and shape recruitment and retention initiatives and training plans.

For the third time this year, a 100% response rate was achieved from all NHS trusts and NHS PCTs/LHBs across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

About the NHS Pharmacy Education & Development Committee

The NHS Pharmacy Education & Development Committee is a national network of pharmacy colleagues leading on NHS pharmacy workforce development.

The NHS Pharmacy Education & Development Committee undertakes the NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey on an annual basis. See <http://www.nhspecd.nhs.uk/surveys.htm> for previous reports.

NHS Pharmacy Education & Development Committee

<http://www.nhspecd.nhs.uk/>

Facilitator of the National NHS Pharmacy Staffing Establishment and Vacancy Survey 2010

Susan Sanders, Director, London Pharmacy Education & Training

susan.sanders@chelwest.nhs.uk

020 7725 2725