

## **Briefing Paper: GPhC Pharmacy Technician Register Analysis 2012**

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## **1. Background to the analysis**

This is the first baseline analysis of the pharmacy technician part of the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) register (Part 2 of the register). See Appendix 1 for background to the mandatory registration of pharmacy technicians.

The analysis was undertaken by examining the register of pharmacy technicians on a set date (31<sup>st</sup> July 2012) and analysing according to gender, age, location of registered address and ethnic origin.

## **2. 2012 pharmacy technician register analysis**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012, there were 21,361 pharmacy technicians on Part 2 of the GPhC register. Of those on Part 2 of the register in 2012, almost two-thirds (65.0%) had joined the register prior to mandatory registration on 1 July 2011. The remainder, the majority of which were received prior to 1 July 2011, were processed onto the register during the year July 2011 to July 2012.

### **2.1. Characteristics of registered pharmacy technicians**

#### **2.1.1. Gender of registered pharmacy technicians**

In 2012, 90.2% (n=19,273) of all registered pharmacy technicians were female. When each of the three countries is examined separately in 2012, male pharmacy technicians represent a smaller proportion of the technicians registered in Scotland and Wales (7.0% (n=138) and 5.8% (n=85) respectively). See Appendix 2 for details. Male pharmacy technicians constitute 14.7% (n=22) of pharmacy technicians with a registered address overseas (i.e. outside England, Scotland or Wales) in 2012.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

Women constitute 90% of the pharmacy technician workforce. Male pharmacy technicians represent a smaller proportion of the registered technician population in Scotland and Wales than in England.

#### **2.1.2. Age (group)**

The mean age of pharmacy technicians on the register is 41.4 years. Female pharmacy technicians are on average older than male pharmacy technicians (41.9 years versus 36.4 years respectively). The modal age group in 2012 for male pharmacy technicians is the 30 to

39 year olds (see [Table 1](#) for details), accounting for 44.4% of all male registered pharmacy technicians. The modal age group for female pharmacy technicians is the 40-49 age group (31.6%). This is also the modal age group for all pharmacy technicians.

**Table 1: Age group by gender of all registered pharmacy technicians in 2012 (%)**

Age group	Male	Female	Total
≤29 years	24.4	14.5	15.5
30 – 39 years	44.7	27.0	28.7
40 – 49 years	21.2	32.8	31.6
50 – 59 years	7.4	22.4	20.9
≥60 years	2.3	3.3	3.3
Total (n)	2,088	19,273	21,361

#### KEY FINDINGS

The mean age of pharmacy technicians on the register is 41.4 years. Female pharmacy technicians are on average older than male pharmacy technicians (41.9 years vs. 36.4 years respectively). The modal age group for all pharmacy technicians is 40-49 years.

#### 2.1.3. Location of registered address

In 2012, the majority (83.2%, n=17,772) of pharmacy technicians on the register have a registered address in England. Less than one percent of registered pharmacy technicians had a registered address outside England, Scotland or Wales ('overseas' in [Table 2](#)).

**Table 2: Location of registered address**

England	83.2
Scotland	9.3
Wales	6.8
Overseas	0.7
Total (n)	21,361

When the countries are examined separately, Scotland has proportionally fewer older pharmacy technicians (aged 60 years or above) than England or Wales (see Appendix 2).

#### 2.1.4. Ethnic origin

In 2012 the majority of registered pharmacy technicians are of white ethnic origin (89.5%). Pharmacy technicians from an Asian background represent the largest single non-white group (7.6%). See [Table 3](#) for details.

**Table 3: Ethnic group of registered pharmacy technicians in 2012**

White	89.5
Black	1.8
Mixed	0.6
Asian	7.6
Chinese	0.1
Other ethnic group	0.4
Total (n)	20,690 <sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Ethnic origin not recorded for 671 technicians

When ethnicity is compared by region it becomes clear that the proportion of pharmacy technicians from a non-white ethnic background is greater in England. Non-white pharmacy technicians represent a smaller proportion of the overall technician population in Scotland, Wales and overseas (outside England, Scotland and Wales). See [Table 4](#) for details.

**Table 4: Ethnic origin by location of registered address**

	England	Scotland	Wales	Overseas
White	87.6	98.5	99.1	95.8
Black	2.1	0.2	0.1	3.5
Mixed	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.7
Asian	9.0	0.9	0.6	0.0
Chinese	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0
Total (n)	17,222*	1,928*	1,399*	141*

\*671 missing values

#### KEY FINDINGS

The majority of pharmacy technicians on the register are of white ethnic origin. The proportion of pharmacy technicians from a non-white ethnic background is greater in England. Non-white pharmacy technicians represent a smaller proportion of the overall technician population elsewhere.

### **3. Summary of key findings**

- As of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012, there were 21,361 registered pharmacy technicians on Part 2 of the General Pharmaceutical Council Register.
- Of those on Part 2 of the register in 2012, almost two-thirds (65.0%) had joined the register prior to mandatory registration on 1 July 2011. The remainder, the majority of which were received prior to 1 July 2011, were processed onto the register during the year July 2011 to July 2012.
- In 2012, 90.2% of all registered pharmacy technicians were female. Male pharmacy technicians constituted a lower proportion of the technician populations in Scotland and Wales. Male pharmacy technicians constitute 14.7% of pharmacy technicians with a registered address outside England, Scotland or Wales in 2012.
- The mean age of pharmacy technicians on the register is 41.4 years. Female pharmacy technicians are on average older than male pharmacy technicians (41.9 years versus 36.4 years respectively).
- In 2012, the majority (83.2%) of pharmacy technicians on the register have a registered address in England. Less than one percent of registered pharmacy technicians had a registered address outside England, Scotland or Wales.
- In 2012, the majority of registered pharmacy technicians are of white ethnic origin (89.5%). Pharmacy technicians from an Asian background represent the largest single non-white group (7.6%).
- The proportion of pharmacy technicians from a non-white ethnic background is greater in England. Non-white pharmacy technicians represent a smaller proportion of the overall technician population elsewhere.

## **Appendix 1: Background to the mandatory registration of pharmacy technicians**

The pharmacy technician register is a relatively new development. A voluntary register for pharmacy technicians was established by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) in January 2005. Under voluntary registration there were four types of application with different entry requirements. These entry requirements were referred to as 'transitional arrangements'. Following the Privy Council's approval of the Health Care and Associated Professions (Miscellaneous Amendments and Practitioner Psychologists) Order 2009 on 13th May 2009 the statutory registration of pharmacy technicians across Great Britain commenced on 1st July 2009. Registration was voluntary for two years after this date. On 1st July 2011 registration with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) became mandatory for those who wished to continue practising as a pharmacy technician. Individuals who did not apply to the register before mandatory registration are not able to call themselves a pharmacy technician or obtain work as such. Individuals who applied to register after mandatory registration had started had to meet post-transitional education and training requirements before being eligible to register.

**Appendix 2: Demographic data on registered pharmacy technicians, by country of registered address (2012)**

<b>Table 1: Age Group of registrants in England, by gender (%)</b>			
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>All</b>
≤29 years	24.0	14.7	15.6
30 to 39 years	45.1	26.8	28.6
40 to 49 years	20.8	32.4	31.2
50 to 59 years	7.6	22.7	21.2
≥60 years	2.5	3.4	3.4
Total (%)	1,843(10.4)	15,929(89.6)	17,772

<b>Table 2: Age Group of registrants in Scotland, by gender (%)</b>			
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>All</b>
≤29 years	29.7	13.8	14.9
30 to 39 years	39.9	28.6	29.4
40 to 49 years	24.6	34.5	33.8
50 to 59 years	5.1	21.1	20.0
≥60 years	0.7	2.0	1.9
Total (%)	138 (7.0)	1,847 (93.0)	1,985

<b>Table 3: Age Group of registrants in Wales, by gender (%)</b>			
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>All</b>
≤29 years	29.4	13.4	14.3
30 to 39 years	38.8	27.6	28.3
40 to 49 years	22.4	34.6	33.9
50 to 59 years	8.2	21.0	20.3
≥60 years	1.2	3.4	3.2
Total (%)	85 (5.8)	1,369 (94.2)	1,454