

Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists-Unite-Amicus section

PRESS RELEASE

13th August 2007

NHS Pay Offer 2nd August 2007

The Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists issues the following statement in relation to the offer from the Secretary of State for Health made in respect of staff in England.

We welcome the extra £400 for staff on pay points 1-7 payable from the 1st April for some of the lower paid NHS staff including pharmacy assistants. The additional £25 per member of staff in post who does not require clinical professional registration, available to Trusts to develop long term training opportunities in partnership, will, in part, address the impact on training budgets in England.

The recommended pay award from the NHS Pay Review Body of 2.5% in 2007/08 which has been implemented in full in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland still however remains phased in England at 1.5% from April 1st 2007 with another 1% from 1st November.

The support for clinical registration fees was arrived at by reference to the recent increase in Nursing and Midwifery fees. It equates to half the fee paid by nurses to the Nursing and Midwifery Council and by most of the other health professionals covered by the NHS Pay Review Body to the Health Professions Council. It however only equates to around 25% of the planned increase for pharmacists and it is only available to staff in bands 5 to 8a inclusive. It is unclear whether this will be available for Pharmacy Technicians as they do not require registration. These annual payments will be available in England from 1st April 2007 and from 1st November 2007 for the rest of the UK. They will be paid until 1st November 2010 by which time they should have been reviewed.

The option of multi-year pay talks without commitment by either side are noted and the commitment to review the pay scales with reference to the number of incremental pay points, the opportunities for incremental progression and appropriate structure at the bottom of the pay spine could address some of our concerns on junior pharmacist vacancies and turnover if implemented on a national level.

Anthony Oxley – President of GHP said “Collectively we are extremely disappointed that the independence of the Pay Review Body has been compromised, and the inequality of awarding differential pay awards in the UK is not in the interest of the NHS as a whole”.

David Miller – Chair of Terms and Conditions noted “The £38 would only benefit junior staff and do nothing to offset the costs which more senior pharmacists face following the proposed 50% hike in fees proposed by the Royal Pharmaceutical

Society” “It sadly appears that increases in pay have been targeted at those staff groups considering Industrial Action”.

The offer will be subject to a ballot by Unite shortly and all parties to the Staff Council believe that this formal offer represents the best that can be achieved through negotiation.

Notes for Editors

The Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists represents, UK wide, 4,000 pharmacists including the majority of hospital pharmacists, pharmacists employed by Primary Care Trusts and pharmacists employed by other public bodies such as the Healthcare Commission, and is part of the health sector of the union Unite, Amicus section.

Unite (Amicus section) is the third largest union in the NHS. It has seven professional sections: the Community Practitioners’ and Health Visitors’ Association, the Mental Health Nurses Association, the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists, the Society of Sexual Health Advisers, the Medical Practitioners’ Union, College of Healthcare Chaplains, and the Hospital Physicists Association.

Unite was formed by an amalgamation of Amicus and the Transport and General Workers’ Union in May 2007.

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