

A quick overview of hospital pharmacy specialisation in EAHP member countries not present



HP specialisation in Europe: A clear case of variety

Within EAHP membership the **definition** of a “specialist hospital pharmacist” varies e.g.

- Whether it is a legally protected title or not
- Requirements to practice in a hospital pharmacy environment or not
- Requirements for specific roles/positions within a hospital
- The scope of additional training required (content/duration)

20 out of 34 EAHP members have *'some form'* of specialisation.



SWITZERLAND

A 3 year specialisation programme covers all the aspects and activities of hospital pharmacies

- Theoretical part (min 400 hrs): management, production, purchase & logistics, pharmaceutical services and personal skills
- Practical part (min 500 hrs)
- Research project (approx. 6 month)

This specialisation is not mandatory; however GSASA is working with the Federal Council to accredit the programme in the near future. In addition a 1 year specialisation in clinical pharmacy also exists.

AUSTRIA

To become an ‘*approved hospital pharmacist*’ a **3 year course** is required at the place of work which also requires at least 240 hours of additional study in areas including:

- management
- production
- clinical pharmacy.



Completion of this course is **not a mandatory requirement** of practicing as a pharmacist in an Austrian hospital.

Upon completion the pharmacist can use the title “approved hospital pharmacist’

CROATIA

There is a **legally defined** hospital pharmacy specialisation **lasting 3 years** (1 year theoretical and 2 years practical/clinical experience).

The program promotes and provides knowledge (theoretical and practical) and aims to:

- Increase effectiveness of treatment by using the most effective drug for the individual patient;
- Reduce the risks associated with the therapy, supervision of the prescribed doses and drug dosing intervals, prediction and prevention of any possible drug interactions and other medication errors,
- Reduce the cost of pharmacotherapy in line with national policy, trying to provide the best choice for most patients at the same time.

It is **not mandatory** to complete this training to work as a hospital pharmacist

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

There is a **legally defined** hospital pharmacy specialisation of **4 years** includes the topics:

- Pharmacotherapy
- Technology/compounding
- Quality Assurance
- (Pharmaco)economic issues
- Management
- Legislation



Completion of the specialisation is **not mandatory** to practice as a hospital pharmacist

However, **it is required to work as a hospital pharmacy manager,** head of department or in specific clinical environments.



GERMANY

A legally defined specialisation in hospital pharmacy has existed since 1994. To complete the 3 year course it is necessary to take modules in:

- Pharmaceutical care and service
- Manufacture and testing of medicinal products, medical devices and in vitro diagnostics, particularly in batches
- The German hospital system
- Drug therapy and drug information
- Hygiene and Microbiology
- Selected medical devices, in vitro diagnostics, dietary foods and food supplements
- Hospital pharmacy relevant legal bases
- Quality Management



It is not mandatory to practice as a hospital pharmacist.



HUNGARY

There is a legally defined “general” hospital pharmacy specialisation is conducted over a 3 year period. (e.g. ‘Foundation’)

It is also possible to study a further *advanced* 2 year programme in these areas:

- pharmacy management,
- oncology pharmacy,
- pharmaceutical technology,
- drug & therapeutic counselling,
- parenteral therapy and toxicology.



Both qualifications are non-mandatory to work as a hospital pharmacist in Hungary.

UNITED KINGDOM



Pharmacists (MPharm) registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council can work in hospitals in the UK.

Dependent on experience and job, additional qualifications may be necessary, especially in advanced roles. For example, senior positions within the NHS (Band 7) require individuals to undertake a **clinical pharmacy diploma (2-3 years)**.

There are also further opportunities for prescribing qualifications.

Recognition of competence is currently being developed by the Faculty of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS).



IRELAND

In Ireland hospital pharmacists can undertake a diploma or Master's degree (TCD) in hospital pharmacy practice or clinical pharmacy practice.

In a report by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland in (2012) of 76.6% of hospital pharmacists had postgraduate qualifications

44.6% with an Msc,
28.2% have a clinical diploma
15.5% have a postgraduate certificate.



Postgraduate qualifications however are not mandatory to practice in Ireland.



FINLAND

Finland has 3 year programme available for senior positions within hospital pharmacy. However it is not legally defined.

The programme includes:

- clinical pharmacy
- medicines in hospital setting
- medication information
- medication safety
- research methodology and economics administration of hospital pharmacy



FARMASIALIITTO

It is not mandatory to complete this programme for ordinary practice



NORWAY



The education of pharmacy students in Norway includes the B.Sc.Pharm (assistant pharmacist) and M.Sc.Pharm (pharmacists)

Additional hospital pharmacy programmes (**3 year duration**) are available to both assistant pharmacists and pharmacists.

It is **not mandatory** to undertake hospital pharmacy specialisation to practice as a hospital pharmacist in Norway.



SLOVAKIA



In Slovakia it is **not mandatory** to have a specific hospital pharmacy specialisation to practice as a hospital pharmacist.

Specialisation programmes do exist, over 3 years which includes aspects such as legislation, the basic and clinical pharmacology, the preparation of non-sterile and sterile medicines and practical training.



SLOVENIA

It is possible to study postgraduate Programmes (3 years) in various disciplines including clinical pharmacy:

1. Medicinal design,
2. Medicinals testing,
3. Clinical pharmacy,
4. Pharmacognosy,
5. Community pharmacy,
6. Clinical chemistry (Medical Biochemistry)



It is not mandatory to have a specific hospital pharmacy specialisation to practice as a hospital pharmacist in Slovenia.



SERBIA

Training programmes of 3 years are possible in Serbia.

The key features of the Clinical pharmacy and Pharmacotherapy programs are advanced education and training with an emphasis on the clinical competencies necessary to practice in team-based environment. This is in order to deliver comprehensive medication management that optimise patient outcomes.

It is not required to practice as a hospital pharmacist.

Polish Pharmaceutical Chamber



Currently there is no mandatory requirement for hospital pharmacist specialisation to practice as a hospital pharmacist.

However there are postgraduate training programs lasting 3 years in hospital pharmacy (basic) in clinical pharmacy, industrial pharmacy and public health.



GREECE

There are no requirements for a hospital specialisation to practice as a hospital pharmacist in Greece.

A 3 year postgraduate course "Clinical Pharmacy" is available as a Master degree in the University of Athens, the University of Thessaloniki and the University of Patras.

P.E.F.N.I.

CONCLUSIONS

- Plenty to scope to develop a framework of *at least* 10 EU countries (plus EEA and Switzerland)
- The development of the framework therefore needs to include the input of these countries
- A question for the afternoon workshops!
- Gaps in EAHP's information remain however, and data on European specialisation programmes needs to be continually updated