

**Free Tips  
On  
How To Become  
A Locum Community Pharmacist  
In The  
United Kingdom.**



Becoming a Locum Community Pharmacist can be overwhelming. It presents challenges such as obtaining an NHS smartcard, Medicine Use Review accreditation, finding locum shifts and much more. There is a mountain of information scattered across various websites and finding the exact solution to all the challenges can be overwhelming. This article combines accurate and useful information on how to become a Locum Community Pharmacist.

Following a successful registration onto the General Pharmaceutical Council register, below are appropriate steps to follow.

## PREPARATION

- **NHS Smartcard**

Electronic Prescription Service is fast emerging and taking over the entire community pharmacies. Being digital will improve effectiveness and safety of care provided to the general public.

Every area has a local Registration Authority (RA) responsible for issuing smartcard.

RA Contact List [Here](#)

- **Medicine Use Review (MUR):** Not applicable in Scotland.

It is a highly required skill for a pharmacist in a community sector in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Every pharmacy with approved premises for MUR will only employ locum pharmacists able to provide this service.

In Northern Ireland pharmacists do not need a formal accreditation to conduct MURs, but need to achieve the agreed competencies for the service. [Click Here](#) for the Health and Social Care Board Guidance.

In England and Wales, a national contractual framework base assessment is required. It tests the individual's clinical knowledge, the law relating to MUR and most importantly applying this useful knowledge during an MUR consultation.

Here are a few higher education institutions that provide MUR assessments:

1. [University of Manchester/CPPE Online Assessment](#)
2. [Skills for MUR Medway School of Pharmacy](#)
3. [Cardiff School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Practice Certificate in Medicines Use Review](#)

After successful completion, pharmacists must send certificates to Primary Care Trust (England) and Local Health Board (Wales).



- **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)**

This is not a regulatory requirement when providing NHS essential and advanced service. However some locally commissioned services impose DBS as a precondition. Some big chain pharmacies require a valid DBS before they provide employment. To apply [Click Here](#).

Pharmacists in Scotland: [Disclosure Scotland](#)

Pharmacists in Northern Ireland: [Access NI](#)

- **Professional Indemnity Insurance**

Getting a professional insurance is a must. This will ensure you have cover for legal cost and expenses for alleged claims if any arises. Below are two trusted association to consider.

1. [Pharmacists' Defence Association \(PDA\)](#)
2. [National Pharmacy Association \(NPA\)](#)

- **Finding Shifts**



Finding locum jobs has never been easy, using the online platform [Locate a Locum](#). In three easy steps you will be ready to make bookings across United Kingdom. This service connects pharmacists with employers seamlessly. Sending instant locum alerts when a work opportunity is available matching individual preference.

This service is designed by pharmacists for pharmacists.

## **BEING A PHARMACIST**

You have secured a job, well done!!!

For more useful information on retaining regular locum shifts, download this e-book titled:

[How To Survive Your First Year As A Pharmacist.](#)

[DOWNLOAD E-BOOK](#)

## AFTER WORK



- **Tax**

Locums are responsible for keeping accurate records of earnings, to ensure appropriate tax is paid each year. A useful tip will be to set aside money every month towards tax return at the end of the financial year. For more information on tax refunds [Click Here](#)

- **Pension**

As a locum (self-employed) you will only be entitled to basic state pension, currently the state pension is £155.65 per week in England. These highlights the importance of planning for retirement and make adequate preparations for the future. [The Pensions Advisory Service](#) provides unbiased information on how to save and invest. Some options to consider are:

1. National Saving Investment
2. Buy To Let Properties
3. Buy Shares and Stock

- **Personal Development**



Everyone looks up to the responsible pharmacist for answers. A wise pharmacist once said, “it is not possible to know it all, but it is possible to know where to find all the answers”. Below are some useful sites to bookmark:

1. The Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education ([CPPE](#)): this provides learning opportunities targeting pharmacy workforce.
2. Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee ([PSNC](#)): this provides information about services offered in community pharmacy.
3. Electronic Medicine Compendium ([eMC](#)): this contains up to date information on medicine characteristics
4. Pharmacist Support: an independent charity providing help and support in times of need. ([Contact Link](#)).

This is a basic guide to getting started.

*Remember Locum pharmacists are a key piece of the pharmaceutical puzzle.*

By Kaka Osagie  
[Pharmacistdiary.com](#)  
[Journals Of A Young Pharmacist](#)