

NEW PHARMACY NATIONAL CERTIFICATES - FAQ's

Q *I've already got the National Certificate, does this mean I need to upgrade to the new version?*

A *No. If you hold the current version, there will be no requirement for you to upgrade. However, we are making all the new modules available to those who wish to take them up, so you will have the option to pick up the bits that may be of interest to you, plus a variety of others as they are developed.*

Q *I'm part-way through my qualification, can I transfer to the new one without losing any credits?*

A *Absolutely. Any units that you've already achieved will remain on your Record of Learning and will be credited against the qualification.*

Q *If I enroll on the upgrade programme now, which certificate will I get?*

A *You will start off on the current units and move on to the new units as they become available. Ultimately, you will achieve the new version of the National Certificate.*

Q *Pharmacy Assistants don't have to have a qualification so why should I bother?*

A *There are lots of reasons, here are a few:*

- 1. If you've been working as a pharmacy assistant for a while, you will have naturally built up a huge amount of knowledge and expertise about the job and a National Certificate gives you public recognition of that knowledge and expertise.*
- 2. The National Certificate in Pharmacy (Assistant) Level 3 is the foundation pharmacy qualification. It will give you a number of options to progress on to if you wish, perhaps leading to a supervisory position or working in the dispensary as a technician, or even managing the retail side of the pharmacy.*
- 3. Surveys have shown that only around 9% of pharmacy assistants hold a relevant qualification. Holding the National Certificate puts you in a stronger position to go for promotion or that new job as it tells your employer or prospective employer that not only do you have the skills, knowledge and experience, but you were prepared to put in the effort to gain the qualification recognising those skills, knowledge and experience.*

4. *A National Certificate is not only recognised in New Zealand, but also overseas in Australia, the UK and a number of other countries. In other words it is a portable qualification that you can take anywhere.*

Q *I've got my National Certificate, when can I start doing the extra modules?*

A *We expect to begin enrolment in the first set of new units from September 2009*