**Eligibility Criteria and Guidance - applying for a grant**

The Charity aims to take a holistic approach to requests for support and will also look at what other services may be appropriate for the client. The Charity also aims to encourage financial independence and will work with the client to identify solutions that support this wherever possible.

Any grant provided by the Charity is done so at the discretion of the Charity’s Trustees and there is no statutory or other right for an individual to receive a grant.

**Who is eligible**

The following people are eligible to apply for a grant to Pharmacist Support: -

1. **Pharmacists**- any individual whose name is or has ever been on the Register of Pharmacists maintained by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) (or formerly maintained by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain)
2. **A widow/widower or former long-term partner** of the above (see dependant definition below)
3. **A dependant of the above** – a dependant is defined as follows: -

* The spouse/civil partner of the applicant. In assessing whether the relationship is long-term, consideration will be given to a range of factors, including whether the partners share a household, the length of time the relationship (minimum five years) has existed and any joint commitments or responsibilities (financial or other)
* a child for whom the pharmacist (or their partner) is legally responsible and who is under 18 or under 19 if in further education and is dependent on their parent or guardian for financial support
* the son or daughter of a pharmacist who is over 18 but, due to physical or mental disability, is dependent on his/her parent for financial support

1. **Trainee Pharmacist** - someone who is undertaking foundation training registered with the GPhC leading to qualification as a pharmacist and is experiencing unexpected hardship. A trainee will be required to satisfy the charity that they are currently a trainee.  This may be by way of confirmation of a current training placement, or registration for a forthcoming registration assessment.
2. **Pharmacy Student** – a person undertaking a GPhC accredited course in Great Britain leading to eligibility to enter accredited foundation training and register as a pharmacist **(The grant is capped at a maximum amount of £1500 per academic year).**

The following people are ineligible to apply for a grant from Pharmacist Support: -

* Those who have failed the pre-registration assessment three times.
* Those who meet eligibility criteria but are living outside of GB

**What grants can be given for:**

Grants are given to cover a range of circumstances. We give here some examples of situations in which we can help but the list is not prescriptive and we will consider any specific need you have.

Grants may be given as a one off amount or on a fixed term basis, for example, a monthly grant for an agreed period. Regular grants can be awarded to widows/widowers or pharmacists with

long term health problems and paid on a monthly basis for a year, at which point the grant will be reviewed. Continued grant support will be considered subject to completion of a new application form and provision of all relevant supporting documentation.

**Specific one off items**

Where someone cannot meet a specific one off cost we may provide assistance, for example, to purchase a washing machine, pay a winter fuel bill, pay for essential car or minor household repairs or cover the cost of the GPhC registration fee or return to practice training costs.

**Supporting mental or physical quality of life**

We can provide financial assistance to help someone’s mental or physical quality of life. For example, funding might be given for respite care, for counselling or therapy, for convalescence or home help while recovering from ill health or an accident. Help may also be given to purchase a particular disability aid or adaptation.

**Living on a low income**

For people on a very low income or those who are finding it difficult to make ends meet without getting into debt, we may provide a regular top up grant. For example, we make regular grants to widows/widowers or retired pharmacists, or to pharmacists of working age who have an illness or disability which prevents them from working, either on a temporary or permanent basis. We will also consider contributions towards care home fees where a financial shortfall is evidenced.

**Student hardship grants**

We recognise that university is a financial challenge for many students. Budgeting and being careful with money is all part of the learning curve. However, some students face unexpected hardship that’s out of their control due to unforeseen circumstances or events such as ill health, bereavement or sudden loss of income through no fault of their own. Grants are to help, during the academic year, with general living costs only, **we cannot help with tuition fees**.

**Exclusions:**

The Charity does not generally provide financial assistance to help with the following costs: -

* legal costs
* tax arrears
* business expenses or debt
* long standing non-priority debts
* debts to family members
* large household repairs (beyond remedying a particular issue), such as replacement windows, roofs, brickwork, new bathrooms or kitchens
* property maintenance and service charge costs for landlords
* university tuition fees
* costs for items that have already been purchased.
* costs associated with pharmacists undertaking second or higher degree.