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Planning

Toxicology Services - Drug and Alcohol Testing

General Pharmaceutical Council

UK3: Planned procurement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-050008

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-058ae7 ([view related notices](#))

Published 20 August 2025, 9:03am

Scope

Reference

GPhC145

Description

The GPhC wishes to inform the market of our intention to procure the provision of Toxicology Services - Drug and Alcohol Testing.

Where there are concerns regarding physical or mental health, specifically drug and alcohol misuse, the GPhC may necessitate a Pharmacy Registrant (donor) undergo medical assessment, forming part of a wider Fitness to Practise investigation.

In such cases, Toxicology Services (drug and alcohol testing) will be required to ascertain:

- i. if substance(s), as specified by the GPhC, have been used by the donor.
- ii. if substance(s), as specified by the GPhC, are being used by the donor.

Moreover, a Registrant may also be required to enter a period of 'medical supervision' - monitoring to confirm compliance with any restrictions on their registration. Here, Toxicology Services (drug and alcohol testing) will be required to verify fulfilment of conditions set.

The purpose of this notice is to raise awareness of our upcoming Request for Quotation sourcing activity, gauge accurate levels of market interest, and receive feedback on prospective plans/requirements in advance of the formal procurement process; to be announced in October 2025.

Scope of services will include, the:

1. Supply of Phlebotomists and Specimen Collectors -throughout Great Britain- to collect donor samples: hair (head and body), nail, saliva, blood and urine.
2. Undertaking of sample drug testing for, but not limited to amphetamines, benzodiazepines, cannabinoids, cocaine, hallucinogens, hypnotic substances, ketamine, mephedrone, methadone, methamphetamines (including MDMA and MDEA), novel psychoactive substances, opiates, opioids, sedatives, steroids and tramadol.
3. Undertaking of sample alcohol -ethanol- testing; including phosphatidyl ethanol (PEth), carbohydrate-deficient transferrin (CDT) and fatty acid ethyl esters (FAEE) biomarkers, and ethyl glucuronide (EtG).
4. Undertaking of liver blood testing, formerly known as liver function tests (LFT).
5. Undertaking of full blood count testing (FBC), including mean corpuscular volume testing (MCV).
6. Secure email provision of sample analysis results within 3 working days; including the provision of supplementary reports which interpret results in an accessible (free from technical jargon, where possible), clear and concise manner.
7. Provision of a Certificate of Analysis (CoA).
8. Provision of testimony in the capacity of an Independent Expert Witness (where donor samples are tested for legal purposes). N.B. the Service Provider remains responsible for ensuring staff are adequately trained to undertake this requirement, if requested.

Please note, samples are to be collected at a donors' home residence, or a neutral site as determined by the Service Provider.

We kindly ask that all interested suppliers complete and submit this response form to Anna Kitoki, at procurement@pharmacyregulation.org by 17:00 on 02.09.2025.

Any interest shown does not constitute a commitment to participate; and failure to show interest does not restrict suppliers from participating in this and/or any other procurement process run by the GPhC.

Total value (estimated)

- £157,000 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 5 February 2026 to 4 February 2028
- Possible extension to 4 February 2032
- 6 years

Description of possible extension:

6 Years (2 Years + 2 Year extension + 2 Year extension)

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 38434520 - Blood analysers
- 71319000 - Expert witness services
- 71900000 - Laboratory services

- 85111810 - Blood analysis services
- 85121200 - Medical specialist services
- 85148000 - Medical analysis services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom
-

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

20 October 2025

Enquiry deadline

27 October 2025, 5:00pm

Tender submission deadline

10 November 2025, 12:00pm

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Below threshold - open competition

Documents

Associated tender documents

[GPhC145 Toxicology Services - Preliminary Market Engagement.docx](#)

Contracting authority

General Pharmaceutical Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXRY-5513-YMDN

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United Kingdom

Email: procurement@pharmacyregulation.org

Website: <https://www.pharmacyregulation.org>

Region: UKI42 - Tower Hamlets

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government