

This newsletter provides information about the education pathway for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians employed as part of the NHS England primary care, Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES) Additional roles reimbursement scheme. The *Primary care pharmacy education pathway (PCPEP)* builds on the previous CPPE extended education pathways and aligns with the NHS Long Term Plan and the PCN Contract DES.

Newsletter 1 can be downloaded from our **website** and has more background information about the pathway and how to enrol.

If you have any queries about the pathway that are not answered on our website, please email **primarycare@cppe.ac.uk**

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It was lovely this week to get the following feedback from a pharmacist in Birmingham with over 20 years' experience:

"May I also take this opportunity to say that this course is spot-on for those new to the role and even those of us who have been doing the role for years. I have to admit decades ago I felt CPPE didn't really support those of us in primary care but I have been pleasantly surprised now and will use more of your resources in the future."

Update on the pathway

This month has seen Cohort 7 start on the pathway, with over 750 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. The list for Cohort 8 in September is filling up. Applicants will be invited to enrol in the next few weeks. If you have a pharmacy professional due to start before September, please ask them to sign up to the list before they start so they secure a place. They need to do this by using the Apply button on this link **www.cppe.ac.uk/career/pcpep/pcpep-training-pathway**

What can my pharmacy professional do if they are waiting to start the pathway?

There are many activities your pharmacy professional can complete before they officially start the national pathway including:

- Learner induction webinar – latest dates and links below. They are all 1.00- 2.15pm.
 - **Wednesday 9 June 2021**
 - **Thursday 8 July 2021**
- Once enrolled they can watch the Canvas online induction or attend live on Tuesday 15th June 7.00–8.00pm, register **here**

- Once enrolled, they can start to work through the *Primary care essentials* e-course - under 'online modules' on Canvas. If they are on an enrol waiting list, then they can work through this e-course by applying through the website.
- Once enrolled, they can do Module 1 e-assessments – available through their progress tracker on the CPPE website.
- If the pharmacists are waiting until September, the [Shared decision making programme](#) (which is part of the pathway but also available to other pharmacists working in primary care) can be accessed now.

Pharmacy professionals should not start any other course whilst waiting to start the pathway

We have an increasing number of learners who are asking to delay the start of the pathway as they have started another course, often independent prescribing. The NHSE/I directed enhanced service says that pharmacy professionals funded through the additional role reimbursement scheme should enrol on the pathway in a timely manner. This means the first available cohort. We understand that some pharmacists and employers want the pharmacists to become independent prescribers as soon as possible but it is vital that they build strong foundations using the CPPE pathway in order to become safe prescribers. NHSE/I and HEE developed a policy on the timing of independent prescribing and this is available on [our website](#). The funding for IP courses for those on the pathway comes from HEE through a specific route. Pharmacists and employers should not be trying to access IP funding through local training hubs or to be self-funding the course in order to bypass the system.

HEE has recently had feedback from the universities that provide the IP courses about pharmacists who are accessing the IP course without first building strong foundations. These people are much more likely to struggle with the course and fail. Please follow the policy set out by NHSE/I and HEE. Patient safety is paramount.

Updating materials

Please bear with us as we are updating documents that accessed on our website. These include the employer and learner FAQs. Updated versions should be back on the website in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, please address any questions to primarycare@cppe.ac.uk

Clinical Supervisor Corner

Clinical Supervisor training

We cannot mandate clinical supervisor training but we strongly recommend that all clinical supervisors take part in this even if they are already supervising other professionals such as GP trainees. We have had feedback from one GP who recently attended the training. She wished she had attended the training earlier in the pharmacist's pathway as she would have avoided various employment issues that had arisen.

Clinical supervisor training consists of a series of two online workshops. They provide clinical supervisors with the necessary knowledge and skills to support pharmacy professionals working in primary care on the CPPE national pathways. The training also helps clinical supervisors to manage the expectations of all parties. Each online workshop is 1.5 hours and they are run regularly throughout the year. Clinical supervisors discuss scenarios, practise giving feedback and undertake an assessor standardisation exercise on a workplace-based assessment tool used on the national pathway.

This training follows on from the national pathway information webinars.

All details, including booking links and key codes can be found on the *Clinical Supervisor* pages on the CPPE website: www.cppe.ac.uk/career/pcpep/clinical-supervisor

Upcoming dates are listed below.

Clinical supervisor online workshop 1	Tues 18 May 7:00-8.30pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Wed 26th May 12.30-2:00 pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Thurs 3rd June 7:00 -8.30pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 1	Wednesday 9 th June 12.30–2:00 pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Monday 14 th June 7:00–8.30pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Thursday 24 th June 12.30–2:00 pm

Summary of the clinical supervisor role in pathway assessment

Although the clinical supervisor role is covered specifically in the clinical supervisor training, this summary table might help any clinical supervisors who have not yet attended the training.

Assessment	Clinical supervisor input
Multi source feedback	Pharmacy professionals will undertake two multi source feedback (MSF) exercises, approximately six months apart. The MSF is based on the MSF in GP training and consists of four questions for clinicians and two questions for non-clinicians with a 7-point rating scale and free text feedback. Clinical supervisors are expected to provide feedback on the pharmacy professional as part of this assessment.
Clinical examination and procedural skills assessment record (CEPSAR)	Pharmacy professionals will undertake the CEPSAR assessment which consists of three aspects. 1. Competency log for clinical skills - please refer to the CEPSAR chapter in the Assessment handbook (on the CPPE website) for the list of clinical examination skills which pharmacy professionals must achieve competence in as a minimum requirement. Clinical supervisors are required to provide the final sign off for the competency log - see pages 37–39 of the CEPSAR handbook. 2. Case studies - pharmacy professionals are required to discuss two cases with their clinical supervisor relating to their use of clinical examination skills in practice. Then to subsequently document learning and action points following this discussion. Please see CEPSAR handbook Appendix 1 for details of the requirements of this assessment. 3. Reflective essay, which the pharmacy professional will complete once the above practice-based components of the assessment are complete. Please see CEPSAR handbook Appendix 2 for details of the requirements of this assessment.

Medication-related
consultation
assessment tool (MR-
CAT)

The clinical supervisor is expected to undertake direct observation of practice in order to assess the pharmacy professional's consultation skills using the MR-CAT template on two separate occasions. Please see the Consultations skills direct observation of practice section in the Assessment handbook for more details (on the **CPPE website**)

Useful Resource for clinical supervisors

The Nottinghamshire Alliance Training Hub has collated some useful documents and links to resources and training, both for those already involved in clinical supervision and those developing an interest. You will find useful information on a variety of topics including *A Brief Guide to Effective Support of Pharmacists in GP Practice*. Keep your eyes open for the *Guide to Developing Competence in SMRs* too, coming soon!

www.nottstraininghub.nhs.uk/resources/clinical-supervision/

Pathway information webinar for employers

Webinar for employers, clinical supervisors and interested parties - outlining the PCPEP pathway. For clinical supervisors this is in addition to the clinical supervisor training mentioned previously. They all run from 1:00–2:00pm. To register for an upcoming date, click on the link in the table below.

Date	
Tuesday 29 th June 1:00–2:00pm	Register in advance for this meeting here
Wednesday 14 th July 1:00–2:00pm	Register in advance for this meeting here

Demonstrating equivalent knowledge and experience to the pathway

A significant number of pharmacists have been working in primary care roles for some years. They are likely to have gained qualifications and experience, which would qualify them for exemption from the CPPE *Primary care pharmacy education pathway* (PCPEP), if they were eligible for the PCN training.

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and Health Education England (HEE) have commissioned CPPE to develop a recognised route for PCN clinical directors and senior pharmacists to understand how their pharmacist's previous education and training aligns to the Primary care pharmacy education pathway (PCPEP). The recognition process is an offer to employers and individuals to show that they have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for medicines optimisation roles including Structured Medication Reviews (SMRs).

The application process includes:

1. Completion of an online form to provide some information about the pharmacist, a description of their role, and details of the relevant education and training they have completed.
2. Writing and submitting a reflective essay by answering five questions giving more detail of their role and how they are applying their knowledge, skills and experience.

Trained assessors at CPPE will consider applications. Applicants are informed of the outcome, with feedback about any further training, which may be needed. If they are unhappy with the decision, there is an appeals process, which includes HEE in the final stage.

Further details about the process and how to apply are [on the CPPE website](#)

How to contact us

If you have any queries about the pathway, you can contact primarycare@cppe.ac.uk

Please also visit our website to find the **Frequently asked questions** documents for learners and employers, as well as the dedicated clinical supervisor pages and the pathway handbooks.