

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, which can be downloaded from our **website**, 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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Update on the pathway

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who have signed up to the waiting list for the September cohort 8 (since cohort 7 closed for booking at the end of April) have been asked to enrol for the cohort starting in September. If you know of any pharmacists or pharmacy technicians who have already put themselves on the waiting list for September, please remind them to enrol. If they don't know how to do this, please ask them to check their email from early June, or email **primarycare@cppe.ac.uk** if they need help.

The list for September is now full and we are asking new applicants to sign up to the waiting list for January using the *Apply* button in this link: **www.cppe.ac.uk/career/pcpep/pcpep-training-pathway**. If any spaces become available in September, we will offer these to people at the top of the January list.

In the meantime, if any pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are waiting for a cohort to start, they can start the Module 1 *Primary care essentials e-course*: **www.cppe.ac.uk/programmes//pcp-ec-01**.

Pharmacy technician focus

We are seeing more and more pharmacy technicians joining the pathway to learn alongside the pharmacists, which is fantastic for the PCN workforce as well as the pharmacy professions. But this is not new. The pathway was developed building on the success of the *Medicines optimisation in care homes* training pathway which had over 200 pharmacy technicians learning with the MOCH pharmacists. Many of the pharmacy technicians have gone on to develop their roles to meet the vision that NHS England has set out in the PCN directed enhanced service.

We know that for some pharmacy technicians, as well as some pharmacists, the pathway can seem daunting at first, but the skills that are being taught are not only for their role now, but also for their role in the future. As training providers, it is our job to horizon scan and make sure that all pharmacy professionals

who come through our national training pathway are fit for purpose in roles aligned with the vision set out in the NHS long term plan. Everyone needs to be challenged and pushed out of their comfort zone if the vision in the PCN DES is to be realised. We are not expecting pharmacy technicians to become pharmacists, nor take as much from the learning as the pharmacists, however it is important that they learn together so that they can better understand each other's roles for the benefit of patients.

We have employed a pharmacy technician – what can they do?

The challenge with expanding roles within the PCN workforce is knowing what the people in the new roles can do. We faced the same challenge five years ago when NHS England funded the *Clinical pharmacists in general practice education* pathway and there was a big increase in pharmacists working in general practice.

Pharmacy technicians are also used to working in environments with established standard operating procedures and starting in primary care where these procedures are in their infancy can feel uncomfortable for pharmacy technicians. To help support employers, there is a comprehensive list of activities at foundation, intermediate and advanced level that both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians can do in the workplace. This can be found in the **Role progression and pathway handbook on the CPPE website**.

Why don't pharmacy technicians have their own pathway?

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians learn together on the training pathway, which is a winning formula that the CPPE *Medicines optimisation in care homes* (MOCH) pathway has been using for over three years. This element of learning together to understand each other's roles helps to embed understanding of how pharmacists and pharmacy technicians can work together for the benefit of patients.

What additional support is CPPE giving pharmacy technicians?

To support pharmacy technicians make this transition, we have started pharmacy technician online surgeries, where pharmacy technicians can share successes and struggles with their peers nationally. The first event ran earlier in July and was attended by 33 pharmacy technicians. We also have a pharmacy technician specific discussion forum and members of the CPPE team are active on various other social media platforms where there are pharmacy technician forums to answer queries and address concerns.

How can I best support my pharmacy technician?

Primary care is not as clear cut as the secondary care or community pharmacy practice your pharmacy technician may have come from. Understanding that primary care is not as 'black and white' as other sectors of pharmacy practice and supporting your pharmacy technician to make this transition will help them embed quickly into their role. Understanding the skills they bring with them and supporting them to move towards patient facing roles rather than technical, procedure driven roles will increase their competence and confidence as well as value in the MDT.

What's the difference between the pharmacist and pharmacy technician pathway?

Pharmacy technicians have a 15-month pathway, whereas pharmacists have an 18-month pathway. Pharmacy technicians have a pharmacy technician only clinical assessment skills day in Module 3. They also do less of the Module 5 content than the pharmacists. They are entitled to the full 28 days paid study leave (not pro rata) for events, assessments and their quality improvement project. We share this in the employer webinar, and it is outlined below:

How the 28 days are allocated EVENTS	DAYS – or equivalent of
Module 1: Induction – two two-day residential courses (or online equivalent) and additional online workshop	4
Module 2: Clinical knowledge and its application in primary care	5
Module 3: Clinical assessment skills (one day only for PTs)	2 (PTs - 1)
Module 4: Leadership and management	2
Module 5: Compulsory study days and e-courses and choice of other days or e-courses to meet learning needs for different roles. Webinars in own time in the evenings Pharmacy Technicians have less study days but will use some protected time for e-course and assessments including QI project as pathway shorter	8 (PTs - 9)
Additional online workshops spaced through pathway: one full day, and seven half days, spread out throughout the pathway	4.5 (PTs – 4)
Case-based discussions: Two half-day sessions	1
Education supervision meetings: Seven meetings face to face or virtual – up to 1.5 to 2 hours each	1.5
Total	28

Here is a quote from a pharmacy technician who has completed the very similar *Medicines optimisation in care homes (MOCH)* training pathway.

Since completion of MOCH [pathway] my career and job satisfaction continues to increase and my patient facing consultation skills along with my improved presentation skills to large numbers of NHS colleagues also continue to improve. These skills only help to improve patient outcomes and I owe a tremendous gratitude to CPPE. If someone had told me two years ago that I would have done such a QIP, that I would undertake patient facing consultations and that I would present to 100s of people...I would have never ever believed it in a million years!

Updated materials

The FAQs for both employers and learners has been updated and are now on the **CPPE website**. The Clinical Supervisor handbook has been updated and can be found on the CPPE website under **'handbooks'**.

Equivalent knowledge skills and experience to PCPEP

There is a large number of clinical pharmacists who have been working in general practice but haven't been eligible to undertake a CPPE training pathway. They may well have the necessary skills and experience to undertake SMRs through other post-registration programmes and experience.

CPPE has been commissioned by NHS England and Health Education England to develop a process which enables 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)*. This process has

now been launched and details and guidance can be found on the CPPE website:
www.cppe.ac.uk/career/pcpep/exemptions.

Clinical Supervisor Corner

Clinical Supervisor training

We have really enjoyed getting to know the clinical supervisors all over the country for cohorts 7 and 8 of the *Primary care pharmacy education pathway*. A huge thank you for your support – the pathway would not be possible without you.

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 keycodes 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	Monday 9 August: 7:00- 8.30pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Tuesday 17 August: 7:00-8.30pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 1	Thursday 16 September: 12.30-2:00pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Wednesday 22 September: 12.30- 2:00pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Monday 27 September: 7:00-8.30pm

Pathway information webinar for employers

This is a 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	Registration link
Thursday 9 September	https://cppe.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqdeiurjkiE9lx2LY29dKiU2zoVCXur-JW
Thursday 14 October	https://cppe.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwsduuspz4sHNT_Dcet0wZAayOafHFXd0gl

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.