

### About this newsletter

This newsletter provides information about the education pathway for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians employed as part of the NHS England Primary Care Network (PCN) 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](mailto:primarycare@cppe.ac.uk)

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### Update on the pathway

Cohort 13 learners are currently in Module 1 and attending their Module 1 residential workshops. Cohort 14 is open for enrolment and these pharmacy professionals are due to start their pathways at the beginning of September.

CPPE is pleased to report that 700 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians have completed the pathway since the last newsletter in March, which is a testament to the extraordinary work that the education supervisors do day-in, day-out to support our learners through the pathway.

Our senior pharmacy technician lead, Bianca Glavin, and education supervisor, Jo Nevinson, have recently shared with the team some of the work they have been doing to inspire and support pharmacy technician learners on the pathway. It was fantastic to hear about how the pharmacy technician support sessions they set up two years ago have evolved and developed, with the focus now firmly on celebrating all the wonderful things that pharmacy technicians can do on the pathway as well as addressing any concerns they may have.

At the end of this newsletter, we have shared two case studies from pharmacy technicians who have now completed the pathway and are putting their learning into action.

### Feedback on the pathway

Module 1 of the pathway is a three-month long module covering the essentials of primary care for pharmacy professionals. As part of this module, learners attend two two-day residential workshops. The preconceptions, concerns and expectations about the event can worry some learners before they attend. CPPE education supervisors allay fears by discussing the benefits that these events bring. They also share

feedback we have had from other learners. As part of the review and feedback processes that CPPE routinely conducts for all workshops, feedback is requested from learners after the residential workshops. Below are some quotes from this feedback about the most recent residential workshops in June 2023:

*'Networking is very important part of our work. There are many conversations and discussions that happen out of session times that cannot be captured in the online sessions.'*

*'I was really nervous about attending on my own but really enjoyed the day and can understand why we are encouraged to stay over as made some great contacts.'*

*'I really didn't want to attend the event before and thought it would be a boring waste of time. However, I couldn't have been further from the truth. I would recommend anyone joining the pathway to attend and stay. I would say how beneficial the event was. Thoroughly enjoyed it.'*

*'I enjoyed the day much more than expected. I arrived feeling daunted and assuming that everyone would be much more knowledgeable about the pathway. I left feeling much more comfortable as everyone is in a similar situation.'*

Learners are encouraged to stay for the evening meal and overnight, as this networking and peer group development opportunity is a fundamental part of the education pathway. Learners gain important connections and build their confidence and understanding of the role of pharmacy professionals in primary care networks during the residential events. We look forward to welcoming cohort 13 learners again in July for their second residential workshop.

### **Independent prescribing (IP)**

We have mentioned a few times in previous newsletters about the importance of the timing of the IP training. Some of the universities providing IP training have said that those who have not completed one of the CPPE pathways are much more likely to struggle with their IP course and are more likely to fail. Doing IP at the end of the pathway, for those lucky enough to have a NHS England funded place, will really help them to become confident and competent prescribers.

From an employer's point of view, we understand that pharmacists may be more 'useful' to the practice once they become prescribers. However, there is plenty they can be doing without being a prescriber, as described in the CPPE [Pathway and role progression handbook](#). We have also seen an increasing number of people leaving their primary care roles as soon as they have become IPs, so doing the IP training after the pathway means they will be in post for at least two years.

Here is some feedback from a pharmacist who completed the pathway and then went on to do their IP training:

*'I do feel that the pathway has prepared me for the IP course. It has got me into the studying mindset and being organised to meet deadlines. Now I am covering the clinical examination and consultation skills on the IP, I feel as though I am recapping what I learnt on the pathway rather than it being all new, which has been a huge help. My DPP got to know me during the pathway, so we were able to get working on the IP stuff much more easily as she was aware of my existing skills. I don't think that I could have got so much out of the IP course if I hadn't already done the pathway. Thank you.'*

### **University of Bath Accreditation of Prior and Experiential Learning (APEL) scheme**

We have previously described the new University of Bath APEL scheme, which recognises parts of the PCPEP, as evidence towards academic credits for postgraduate courses. The university has created a

short video (1 min 23 secs) explaining what the PCPEP APEL route is at Bath: [AP3T Clinical Pharmacy Postgraduate Courses: PCPEP APEL](#). They have also updated their information pages, [Clinical Pharmacy Practice \(Primary care and Community\)](#), to include APEL and the application links.

We understand other universities are looking at introducing similar APEL processes to recognise the CPPE PCPEP.

### **RPS core advanced curriculum support scheme**

Over 100 CPPE pathway alumni are fully engaged in the e-portfolio route to evidence advanced practice. Experience with the Canvas platform and CPPE education supervision is beneficial when undertaking this mapping process. The result of a successful portfolio submission to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) will be recognition of advanced practice by both NHSE and the RPS. The first cohorts will be submitting their portfolios in August this year.

If you are pathway alumni and are interested in finding out more, please visit the CPPE webpage [RPS advanced credentialing support programme](#).

### **Learner's own work**

If you are supporting pharmacy professionals through the pathway, please remind them the evidence and assessments they submit for the pathway must be their own work and must be genuine. We have had a case recently where a pharmacist had falsified their submission documents and we have several cases of learners copying evidence and assessments from those who have previously submitted.

Just as universities do, we take academic malpractice and plagiarism seriously and we remind learners of this in the virtual learning environment and in our regular announcements.

### **Clinical supervisor corner**

'*What am I signing up for?*' is a legitimate question for someone taking on the role of a clinical supervisor in practice for a pharmacy professional on the pathway.

### **Clinical supervisor training dates**

Following on from the national pathway information webinar, the two 90-minute online workshops help clinical supervisors understand the pathway and their responsibilities. In the training, we explore their role in supervision and the competency and capability of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians on the pathway, which will help manage expectations of what the pharmacy professional can and can't do. The second session is an assessor standardisation workshop using a bespoke consultation observation tool.

All details, including booking links and keycodes can be found on the *Clinical supervisor* pages on the [CPPE website](#).

Here are the upcoming dates:

Clinical supervisor online workshop 1	Thursday 6 July, 7 - 8.30pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Tuesday 11 July, 12.30 - 2pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 1	Tuesday 5 September, 7 - 8.30pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Wednesday 13 September, 12.30 - 2pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 1	Monday 18 September, 12.30 - 2pm

Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Thursday 21 September, 7 - 8.30pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 1	Wednesday 27 September, 7 - 8.30pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Monday 25 September, 7 - 8.30pm

If you have any queries about this training, please email [emma.wright@cppe.ac.uk](mailto:emma.wright@cppe.ac.uk)

### Pathway information webinar for employers and learners

This is a webinar we repeat regularly for employers, clinical supervisors and learners who are new to the PCPEP. For clinical supervisors, this is in addition to the clinical supervisor training. We advise all employers, clinical supervisors and learners to attend one of these or listen to a recording to get the basic information about the pathway. *This webinar has been updated from May 2023 to combine information in the employer and learner webinars.*

They all run from 1:00 – 2:15pm (*employers can leave at 2pm if needed*). To register for the next session, click on the link in the table below.

Date	Registration link
Thursday 13 July	Register in advance for this webinar: <a href="https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvdOCtrj0uG9HZh7EYQVdraSfO5EGxwiri#/registration">https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvdOCtrj0uG9HZh7EYQVdraSfO5EGxwiri#/registration</a>
Tuesday 29 August	Register in advance for this webinar: <a href="https://cppe.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EgKatDI1R2qnJiDkQUg4Kq">https://cppe.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EgKatDI1R2qnJiDkQUg4Kq</a>
Wednesday 6 September	Register in advance for this webinar: <a href="https://cppe.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CsNFWk8HQGKn8qbSj0uH0A">https://cppe.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CsNFWk8HQGKn8qbSj0uH0A</a>

### Pharmacy technician case studies

#### Cohort 9 pharmacy technician

A pharmacy technician from cohort 9, who completed the pathway at the end of March this year, came back to observe the pharmacist quality improvement projects in tutorial 7 (pharmacists finish three months after pharmacy technicians). She shared with her education supervisor that, using her initiative on a 'quieter' day at work, she did a search to look for ACB scores in people aged over 65. It quickly became apparent that getting this data might mean a lot more work for the practice, so she went to discuss it with the GP lead, who was keen to look at the area further.

The GP asked her if she could do a presentation about ACB scores using practice data for the other GPs and clinicians, so that they could decide what to do going forward. She is now working on this. She said that if she hadn't done the pathway, she would never have felt able to carry out a piece of work like this or present it.

#### Cohort 10 pharmacy technician who completed the pathway in 12 months (rather than 15) – final role statement for her statement of assessment and progression

*'I'm a pharmacy technician working within a primary care network at a GP federation. The majority of my role consists of performing medicine reconciliations on discharge and clinic letters, including reviewing the medicines within my competency. Medication queries, ranging in topic and complexity, are also part of my day-to-day role.*

*To reach the PCN's structure medication review (SMR) targets this financial year, two colleagues and I collaborated to create a template for pharmacy technicians to use. It provides structure and guidance on how to complete pre-reviews on SMR patients. These pre-reviews then improve the efficiency of the pharmacist SMR's, as the background work has already been done for them and suggested areas of focus highlighted.*

*I found Module 2 of this pathway extremely beneficial in helping me develop the clinical knowledge, which is required to complete more comprehensive and in depth SMR pre-reviews. In turn, this can improve patient outcomes and aids the efficiency towards GP practice targets.*

*My role and responsibilities have diversified and expanded due to my scope of competency increasing. This pathway has been a large contributing factor to this. I'm really enjoying the diversity of work I'm now completing and feel my work is much more impactful and patient facing than at the start of this pathway. Communication skills in patient telephone consultations have been a focus for my development during this pathway, due to not having much prior experience on this. I've learnt so much from the CPPE workshops, e-learning, and assessments, which have helped me vastly improve my skills needed for a successful consultation. I feel motivational interviewing and shared decision-making learning have had the biggest impact on my role and the quality of patient care I can provide.*

*I have been part of developing our PCN's 'New admission to care home' service. Due to the medicines optimisation in care home team being removed in our area unexpectedly, the pharmacy team had to quickly widen the service we provide. This ensured the transition of care for care home residents was smooth, accurate and safe. I was able to take further responsibilities in developing and running this service, due to the knowledge I gained from this pathway and PCN training. I felt the confident and competent to transition into this additional side of my PCN role due to the care home e-learning and workshops on this pathway. I found the Leadership and Helping others learn workshops very useful and eye-opening.*

*Due to working in a large, interconnected team I knew I needed a deeper knowledge of interpersonal, training, and coaching skills, which I feel this pathway has really helped my gain. I feel I hadn't particularly focused on developing these skills as deeply before this pathway, due to this being my first role after qualifying as a pharmacy technician and being in public education before that. I have attended the leadership workshops in my last module, and I feel I will be able to effectively utilise these new skills in my upcoming new job.*

*In addition, the learning this pathway has provided me with about care homes and nursing homes has given me a great foundation for preparing for my upcoming new job, which will include half of each week being based with a care home team.'*

### **How to contact us**

If you have any queries about the pathway, you can contact [primarycare@cppe.ac.uk](mailto: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.