

This newsletter provides information about the education pathway for pharmacists employed as part of the NHS England primary care Network (PCN) Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES) additional roles. At the request of Health Education England, CPPE has reviewed its extended education pathway for pharmacists working in primary care to align with the NHS Long Term Plan and the PCN Contract DES. The pathway has been renamed the *Primary care pharmacy education pathway (PCPEP)*. Newsletter 1 has more background information about the pathway and how to enroll and can be downloaded from our [website](#).

If you have any queries about the pathway that you can't find the answer to on our website, please email: primarycare@cppe.ac.uk

In this newsletter

- COVID-19 support for pathway
- May cohort – induction webinars
- Resilience page
- Clinical supervisor online training
- Independent prescribing

COVID-19 update

Comprehensive support information shared in this newsletter was sent out to all learners and all clinical supervisors on our PC-SUPERVISOR email list on 19 and 20 March 2020.

We know that many pharmacy professionals have been called to frontline duties and we have carried out an audit to find out how many of the pathway learners are able to continue with learning during the pandemic. We want to reiterate that we are balancing the needs of those who cannot complete any pathway learning at the moment with those who are able to continue with online and self-directed learning. Some learners are using this time to get up to date with their portfolios, preparing case based discussions and catching up on any online assessments, as well as taking part in the live online learning sets and webinars.

Study days

Following advice from the government and with agreement from NHS England and Health Education England, all face to face learning for the CPPE extended education pathways has been suspended for at least six weeks. This means that face to face residential workshops and study days are postponed until further notice and learning sets will be run as live online events using Zoom webinar technology where possible. Online learning sets and case based discussion are running and working well. We are working on redesigning material so that we can run study days as online workshops or e-courses.

Meetings with education supervisors

Every learner has been contacted individually by their education supervisor to assess their learning needs at this time. Initial meetings with education supervisors and quarterly supervision meetings are being run virtually. Pharmacy professionals have been encouraged to contact their education supervisors for support.

Extensions

Pharmacy professionals have been informed that they will be eligible for an extension to their training equivalent to the number of weeks we have to suspend the pathway for. This will be automatically added to their end date when normal arrangements resume. This means that any pharmacy professionals who are not able to carry out patient facing assessments at the moment will have plenty of time to do these later.

Regular contact

We have communicated that we will use text messages to get in touch with learners urgently if we need to. Learners have been shown how to update their mobile numbers on the CPPE website. We are also communicating with them at least once a week, updating them with national and local news.

COVID-19 support and information

CPPE has created a [COVID-19 gateway page](#) and a [Learning and resources](#) hub on the website which is updated regularly when new information becomes available. These have information about the support CPPE can provide for pharmacy professionals returning to practice as well as resources to support pharmacy professionals in their work. This includes a dedicated [Resilience page](#) on the website with practical top tips and links to resources to help support resilience.

Cohort 3 due to start May 2020

We have been running well attended pathway induction webinars for pharmacy professionals who have been enrolling on the pathway since the end of January. Recruitment continues for cohort 3 and it will be combined with the subsequent cohort. All those who enroll are signposted to online learning and assessments, as outlined in their welcome packs and in the induction webinars. Education supervisors are making contact with these learners within the 10 working day period, although this may be delayed in some cases as they are also called back to the frontline. The module 1 residentials for this cohort will be run when we are able to return to face to face events but in the meantime they are being offered online learning sets, e-workshops and e-courses from the subsequent modules in the pathway.

There are further dates planned for the induction webinars. The dates and links to the webinars are on the Canvas platform, our virtual classroom (virtual learning environment) which the learners are given access to as soon as their applications are approved.

Clinical supervisors

Clinical supervisor training

We understand it can be hard to prioritise training at this time, but equally we have had requests from clinical supervisors saying they do have time for training. We also know through feedback from clinical supervisors on previous training events, that the earlier the clinical supervisor does the training in the learner's pathway, the better it is in terms of managing expectations all round and supporting the learners.

Training takes place over two webinars. We can provide a recording of the first one, but the second one involves assessing a video, so it must be completed live. We have created a number of different training events over the next two months. Further information about upcoming training is available on the [CPPE website](#). This includes the keycode and how to book. If you want a copy of the first webinar or have any queries please email emma.wright@cppe.ac.uk

Clinical supervisor contact with CPPE education supervisors

The learners' CPPE education supervisors will be touching base by email with the clinical supervisors after each quarterly review meeting with the learners. This is to ensure the learners are supported as much as possible and they can progress in their role. Clinical supervisors are encouraged to engage with the education supervisors, if only briefly, and share progress reports.

Independent prescribing

Whilst independent prescribing does enhance the role of the PCN pharmacist, there are plenty of activities that can be carried out without an IP qualification including structured medication reviews. NHS England and Improvement and Health Education England endorse our recommendation, that pharmacists are allowed to build solid foundations through workplace learning and experience, before undertaking the IP training. Being enrolled on the CPPE pathway which then leads to IP training does meet the requirement of the PCN DES.

Pharmacists on the pathway are given access to the IP training commissioned and funded by Health Education England. PCN pharmacists should not be accessing funding for IP training by other routes such as through a local training hub or the clinical commissioning group. This funding should be reserved for healthcare professionals who do not have access to this training through an extended education pathway.

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.