

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

Looking back on the past year, we realise it has been a time of challenge and innovation. Continuing to deliver the commissioned extended education pathways has been a challenge but it has also given us the opportunity to innovate and establish new ways of working without compromising the integrity of what we deliver.

In March 2020, CPPE agreed with NHSE/I and HEE that we would allow learners to pause for a few months if they needed to while they came to terms with the pandemic situation. However about 70 percent of learners were able to continue with the learning we were able to make available.

We rapidly repurposed as much of our learning as possible to deliver online and by July were back on track with being able to offer all cohorts Module 4, Leadership.

The pandemic has not slowed down recruitment and we have seen record numbers enrolling. NHSE/I and HEE added an extra cohort for us to deliver which started on 1 March 2021 (cohort 6)

Cohort 7

The invitation to enrol for cohort 7 went out on the 8 March to a full waiting list of nearly 700 places. Cohort 7 learners are currently being approved and assigned to education supervisors. Cohort 7 will start in May 2021. This means we are as busy as usual supervising the existing cohorts as well as welcoming new pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to the national training pathway. It is more important than ever that learners keep up with their pathway learning and attend booked study days to ensure we can cater for everyone.

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 1.00pm - 2.15pm.
[Thursday 8 April 2021](#)
[Tuesday 11 May 2021](#)
- Once enrolled learners can watch the Canvas online induction or attend live on Monday 29 March 7.00pm – 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 a waiting list, waiting to enrol 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 now 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 while 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 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 to bypass the system.

Please follow the policy set out by NHSE/I and HEE. Patient safety is paramount.

Clinical Supervisor Corner

Learner top tip: Preparation for study days and workshops

Please encourage your learners to prepare adequately for all events. We are finding that some learners are not completing the essential pre-work for online workshops and study days. The pre-work, done in their own time, is a fundamental part of the learning and not completing it is unacceptable. If learners do not finish the pre-work they miss a large part of the learning; they also cannot participate fully in the workshop and this disadvantages their colleagues. If they try to attend without preparing, they will be asked to leave the event and rebook for another time. This rescheduling causes pressure for the learner, the education supervisors running the events as well as the workplace.

Clinical Supervisor training

Clinical supervisor training consists of a series of two online workshops and provide clinical supervisors with the necessary knowledge and skills to support pharmacy professionals working in primary care on the CPPE national pathways. Each online workshop is 1 hour 30 minutes 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.

Workshop	Date
Clinical supervisor online workshop 1	Tues 13th April 12.30pm – 2.00pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Tues 27 April 7pm - 8.30pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Thurs 6 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 1	Tues 18 May 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Wed 26th May 12.30pm – 2.00pm
Clinical supervisor online workshop 2	Thurs 3rd June 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Who can be a clinical supervisor?

Although we cover this in the training and information webinar, it is essential that there is clarity on who can take on the role of a clinical supervisor. The table below is taken from the clinical supervisor training material and can be found on the [Clinical supervisor page](#) on the CPPE website.

Pharmacy professional	Clinical supervisor
Pharmacist working mainly in a GP practice	GP
Pharmacist working mainly in a care home	GP, consultant geriatrician or experienced pharmacist with care home knowledge
Pharmacist working in both areas	GP or consultant geriatrician
Pharmacy technician working in a GP practice or care home	Pharmacist experienced in a GP practice or care homes.

Summary of how to use direct observation of practice during an independent prescribing course for the CEPSAR assessment

Some pathway learners have undertaken an independent prescribing (IP) course before they start the *Primary care pharmacy education pathway* (PCPEP). There is a process for applying for exemption from the clinical assessment skills module, Module 3 and we have recently updated this to allow learners to use direct observation of practice (DOP) from their IP course to help them get their Module 3 assessment, the *Clinical examination and procedural skills assessment record* (CEPSAR), completed and signed off.

The new guidance was needed because there is variability in the teaching and assessment of clinical examination and procedural skills as part of (IP) courses. The COVID-19 pandemic also means many people have been using a very limited range of clinical assessment skills during 2020 and 2021.

Pharmacists must be able to demonstrate the following clinical examination and procedural skills:

- Height, weight and body mass index
- Basic observations: heart rate (radial pulse), respiratory rate, blood pressure (manual), blood pressure (automated), peripheral oxygen saturation, temperature
- Blood glucose
- Respiratory examination
- Respiratory function: peak expiratory flow rate
- Cardiovascular system examination

Recent evidence from an IP course is acceptable to demonstrate competence in clinical assessment skills. If the assessment log from an IP course **was completed within the last 12 months**; and contains three observations and a reflection for each clinical examination and procedural skill above, the GP clinical supervisor (GPCS) can accept this as suitable evidence, and the designated medical practitioner (DMP) can sign the CEPSAR instead of the GPCS.

If the DMP from the IP course is **not** the GPCS, and the DMP is not in the organisation, then the GPCS must still observe the learner undertaking each procedure once to ensure that they can perform the procedure in routine circumstances. If they are satisfied, he/she can then sign the CEPSAR to confirm competence for each examination or procedure.

Any skills that were not assessed in the IP course must be assessed and evidenced in the CEPSAR logbook in the usual way.

Clinical examination and procedural skills **evidenced more than 12 months** ago must be re-assessed by the GP clinical supervisor. If the skills have been used regularly, the GPCS should observe the learner undertaking each procedure at least once to ensure that they can perform the procedure in routine circumstances. If they are satisfied, he/she will then sign the CEPSAR to confirm competence for each examination or procedure. Any skills that have not been used regularly in the last 12 months, or were not assessed in your IP course, must be assessed and evidenced in the CEPSAR logbook in the usual way.

The clinical supervisor must complete the *Checklist of clinical examinations and procedures required and clinical pharmacy professional's self-declaration* on page 37 of the CEPSAR.

Learners **still need to complete** the case studies and the reflective essay which are part of the CEPSAR assessment to demonstrate how they are using your clinical assessment skills in practice.

When the assessment is completed the GPCS must also complete the final sign off on pages 38 and 39 of the CEPSAR.

Pathway information webinar for employers

Webinar for employers, clinical supervisors and interested parties - outlining the PCPEP pathway. They all run from 1pm – 2pm. To register for an upcoming date, click on the link in the table below.

Date	Registration link
Monday 19 April 1pm - 2pm	Register in advance for this meeting here
Thursday 20 May 1pm - 2pm	Register in advance for this meeting here
Tuesday 29 June 1pm - 2pm	Register in advance for this meeting here
Wednesday 14 July 1pm - 2pm	Register in advance for this meeting here

Involving pharmacy technicians in medication review

Implementing the DES guidance outlining the roles of pharmacy technicians (see the previous newsletter), we have introduced a new exercise on Day 2 of Module 1 from cohort 6 onwards. The aim of this exercise is to explore who could or should do what in the process of medication review. This is discussed during the afternoon, and some suggested answers are provided after the Day 2 workshop. The main aim is to encourage participants to think about how they can effectively use the skills and experience of pharmacy technicians when they are available.

The suggested answers encourage participants to use them to start discussions in their organisation about the process for medication review and which members of the team can be involved. Pharmacy technicians should always work under the supervision of a pharmacist or a GP. A clear procedure or protocol makes it clear who can do what, and who has clinical responsibility for what. It also allows individuals to develop their role during the pathway and beyond. When the activity has been piloted, the information will also be shared with cohort 5.

We will explain in a future newsletter how other cohorts can obtain the information if they need it.

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.