Declaration of Competence for pharmacy services

Needle and Syringe Programme Service

The Declaration of Competence system

Each Declaration of Competence (DoC) for Pharmacy Services is developed by the Pharmacy Competence Group, with input from subject matter experts. The DoCs are then hosted by CPPE on the CPPE website.

A separate document titled *A guide to using the Declaration of Competence (DoC) system* is published on the CPPE website. It contains more information about the DoC system, how to use it and how to complete the DoC statement.

Keeping up to date

To provide the **Needle and Syringe Programme Service** you should complete the following Declaration of Competence framework at least every **two years**.

Revalidation

Working through this DoC framework encourages self-reflection on practice and peer review, and provides a structured approach to supporting pharmacy professionals with CPD and revalidation requirements. For more information about revalidation and to record your entries, visit myGPhC.

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Declaration of Competence

NHS England

Section A: Declaration of Competence framework

Note

Although you may not be preparing to provide a commissioned service for a needle and syringe exchange programme, the Declaration of Competence system can be used as a development tool to ensure you are competent in this subject area, as part of your daily practice.

Core competencies

1. Do you meet or are you **actively**[1] working towards the *Consultation Skills for Pharmacy Practice: Practice Standards for England*?

Yes, because I have:

2. Do you meet the competencies expected of all healthcare professionals with regard to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults?

Yes, because I have:

[1] If you confirm that you are 'actively working towards' the standards, you are declaring that you are undertaking the relevant learning and CPD to meet the standards. It is expected that you will have accessed the standards and associated learning to meet this requirement and that you will complete the assessment within 12 months of signing the Declaration of Competence statement.

As a pharmacy professional you should continuously seek to develop your consultation skills throughout your career and, therefore, this topic should regularly feature in your CPD plan. To access the assessment, go to CPPE's *Consultation skills* page. If you have not yet completed the assessment, you should be able to provide evidence of the consultation skills learning you have undertaken.

Note

We refer to 'substance misuse' throughout this DoC for clarity and consistency. We recognise that alternative, more person-centred language – such as 'substance use' – is often preferred in practice, and we acknowledge the importance of using terminology that respects individuals' experiences and perspectives.

Service-specific competencies: Are you/Do you?

Statements should be supported by appropriate evidence whenever possible. If the learning you have completed applies to more than one competency then you do not need to repeat this information. You can use this table for your own self-assessment purposes; you only need to submit this part of the DoC if your commissioner asks for it.

a. Do you understand the key aims of a needle and syringe programme (NSP)?

Yes, because I have undertaken the following:

b. Do you understand the legislation and parameters associated with the supply of injecting paraphernalia (legally permitted equipment as defined in the "Paragraph 9a exemptions" of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)?

Yes, because I have undertaken the following:

c. Do you understand the terminology/nomenclature of both official and 'street' names for commonly misused drugs?

Yes, because I have undertaken the following:

d. Are you aware of the treatment/management of substance misuse and knowledge of commonly misused drugs (eg, opioids, anabolic steroids, image and performance enhancing drugs [IPEDs]) with particular reference to drugs liable to be injected?

Yes, because I have undertaken the following:
e. Do you understand the differences between the injection sites and equipment requirements for opioid, IPEDs and stimulants, etc? *Yes, because I have undertaken the following:*
f. Can you state the sizes and uses of the various types of needles, syringes and other paraphernalia associated with illicit drug use to be made available and are you able to provide the amount of equipment to meet the client's needs? *Yes, because I have undertaken the following:*
g. Do you understand the principles of risk minimisation to clients, staff and members of the public; use of appropriate protective equipment; safe disposal of used equipment; and how to deal safely and effectively with spillages, needle stick injuries or contamination with potentially infected blood or body fluids? *Yes, because I have undertaken the following:*
h. Are you able to communicate appropriately and sensitively with the client group and their peers, using discretion, privacy, respect and a non-judgmental approach, and treating them with dignity while applying conflict resolution skills when appropriate? *Yes, because I have undertaken the following:*

i. Do you know how to risk assess a client's situation? For example, considering their social circumstances, general wellbeing and health, providing advice and knowing how and when to refer to other services? *Yes, because I have undertaken the following:*
j. Are you able to promote safer injecting practice and obtain advice when necessary? *Yes, because I have undertaken the following:*
k. Do you know how to explain less harmful methods of drug use? This includes moving away from dangerous practices such as long needles and femoral injecting, and moving towards other routes of administration. *Yes, because I have undertaken the following:*
l. Are you able to proactively advise on health promotion and harm minimisation specific to this client group, including sexual health, sexually transmitted infections, blood-borne viruses, HIV and hepatitis C transmission and hepatitis B immunisation? *Yes, because I have undertaken the following:*
m. Are you able to advise clients on how to obtain naloxone and the benefits of having ready access to this to reduce the risk of death from opioid overdose? *Yes, because I have undertaken the following:*

n. Do you understand comprehensive harm-reduction services including advice on assessment of injection-site infections, advice on preventing overdoses, action to take on overdose, help to stop injecting drugs and opioid substitution therapy services? *Yes, because I have undertaken the following:*
o. Are you aware of other related services and do you know how and when to refer/signpost clients regarding problems relating to their substance misuse or general health and social problems? *Yes, because I have undertaken the following:*
p. Can you support and develop the pharmacy team in the provision of a safe, effective and non-judgemental service, ensuring appropriate delegation of elements of the service in line with the service specification? *Yes, because I have undertaken the following:*

Commissioner requirements

Consider the following commissioner requirements.

Action	Competency	Date completed
Have a working knowledge of the most recent service documents relating to provision of the service, including: • the service specification • claims procedures, etc.	a, o, p	
Review and/or develop relevant standard operating procedures (SOPs) and policies in your practice	a, b, h, i, j, l	

Section B: Recommended learning and assessment

Table 1.1 contains details of the learning and assessment available to support you in meeting the core professional competencies within the self-assessment framework.

Table 1.2 contains details of CPPE learning programmes and assessments you can use to help develop your skills and knowledge to satisfy the service-specific competencies in the self-assessment framework.

Table 1.3 provides information on other associated learning.

Information relating to learning acquired from other training providers can be entered in Table 1.4.

1.1 Learning and assessment to support you to meet core competencies

Training/learning	Core competencies linked to the DoC framework
CPPE, *Consultation skills for pharmacy practice: taking a person-centred approach* distance learning	1
CPPE, *Consultation skills: what good practice looks like* e-learning	1
CPPE, *Consultation skills: face-to-face and remote* learning gateway	1
CPPE, *Consultation skills for pharmacy practice* e-assessment	1
CPPE, *Culturally competent communication in person-centred* care e-learning	1
elearning for healthcare, *Safeguarding adults Level 1*	2
elearning for healthcare, *Safeguarding adults Level 2*	2
elearning for healthcare, *Safeguarding children Level 1*	2
elearning for healthcare, *Safeguarding children Level 2*	2
CPPE, *Safeguarding children, young people and adults: Level 2 case studies for pharmacy professionals* e-learning	2

1.2 CPPE programmes, workshops and assessments you could access if required

Training/learning	Service-specific competencies linked to the DoC framework
CPPE, *Substance use and misuse* e-course (Units 1, 2, 3 and 4)	a-p inclusive
CPPE, *Sexual health in pharmacies* e-learning programme	l
CPPE, *Substance use and misuse* e-assessment	a-p inclusive
CPPE, *Sexual health in pharmacies* e-assessment	l
CPPE, *Substance use and misuse: anabolic steroids* e-learning programme	d, e, f, j, n

1.3 Other associated learning you may wish to access

Training/learning	Service-specific competencies linked to the DoC framework
Image and Performance Enhancing Drugs (IPED) online resources	d, e

1.4 Learning and assessment completed from other training providers

You can complete training courses and workshops delivered by other trainers, provided that they deliver the equivalent knowledge and learning outcomes to meet the competencies in Section A (as with the CPPE programmes listed). You should list any non-CPPE learning and assessments you have completed in the table below.

Training/learning/competencies/assessment (list below)	List competencies covered from DoC framework