

What are your key responsibilities in practice (eg, improving prescribing, medicines safety, face-to-face consultations)?

- Anything that helps with GP workload
- Issuing repeat prescriptions
- Antidepressant reviews
- Benzodiazepine reduction
- Improving prescription services
- Problems-solving when things go wrong
- Medication queries
- Prescribing when medications have a manufacturing problem
- Pill and HRT reviews

How did you feel about your role before starting the *General practice pharmacist training pathway*?

I was very worried and could not understand what I would be able to contribute to a GP practice. I was terrified as I was not sure if I had enough knowledge to work alongside GPs.

What *General practice pharmacist training pathway* learning events have you attended so far?

- GPPTP Induction Residential
- Acute Illness in Primary Care
- Hypertension and Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease
- Key Medicines Optimisation Update
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Care homes, Medicines and Older People
- Primary Care Pharmacy Study Day: AF and ACS
- The Clinical Pharmacist Update Course

Which learning event have you found most useful and why?

GPPTP Induction Residential was by far the most useful. It was so well thought through. It addressed all my concerns. It taught us how to introduce ourselves and embed ourselves in a GP practice. It also taught us the basics of a GP practice and made us come to terms with any concerns and or expectations.

Have you identified any challenges in your role?

Many – I have had to re-educate myself in most clinical areas. Being a manager in a community pharmacy for the last 17 years means I have gained business and management skills but have forgotten most of my clinical knowledge. I have also found it challenging working between two different surgeries. The one I worked at three days a week has benefited from my input whereas I feel working one day a week means I have not been able to make a huge impact at this practice.

Has any aspect of the pathway helped you to address these challenges? What is it and how has it helped?

I raised this as a problem and now I will be working four days at one surgery thanks to encouragement from my CPPE educational supervisor. I have attended many CPPE workshops which have helped me to keep up to date on clinical knowledge. It has been great to be able to set up networking groups from all the training sessions we have all been to as you keep bumping into the same pharmacists on the pathway. Any additional clinical skills required are filled by the many online CPPE courses on offer.

What has been the most useful part of the pathway for you and why?

Being able to form my job role by choosing areas I am interested in and feel I am highly competent at. It was very useful to feel supported all the way. My educational supervisor and the CPPE team have always been available to answer questions and to fill any learning needs.

What do you consider to be your biggest success since starting the pathway? What's the thing you are most proud of so far?

- Benzodiazepine reduction programme
- Cholesterol referral pathway
- NOAC initiation guidance
- Repeat prescription process

How do you feel in your role now?

Absolutely love it. Feel much more confident. Still feel challenged on a daily basis. Feel very well equipped. Know where to go for information. Have built a network of contacts.