**Call for expressions of interest from non-PCN funded pharmacists working in patient-facing roles in GP practices**

Eligible pharmacists and pharmacy technicians can benefit from the fully-funded CPPE extended primary care pharmacy education pathway with additional pharmacist independent prescribing training, **starting in January 2022**. This is 18 months for pharmacists and 15 months for pharmacy technicians

**Expression of interest deadline for the few remaining places: 31/10/2021**

**Background**

To support the development of pharmacists taking on new patient-facing posts in primary care networks to help deliver the new Network contract directed enhanced service (DES) NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I), through Health Education England, commissioned the Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) to provide compulsory training for pharmacists whose salaries are being supported with the *Additional Role Reimbursement Scheme* (ARRS) finding. This training pathway is the [*Primary care pharmacy education pathway*](https://www.cppe.ac.uk/career/pcpep/pcpep-training-pathway)

HEE North is aware that several pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working in patient-facing primary care roles have not had the benefit of training as part of the CPPE extended education pathways that have been run over the last few years and so has agreed to fund some places on the CPPE *Primary care pharmacy education pathway*.

This funded 18-month (15 months for pharmacy technicians) workplace-based education programme will support pharmacists in their roles, develop their skills, and promote pharmacy’s integration into the wider NHS healthcare team. The places are available for pharmacy professionals working across the **North of England** for the January 2022 cohort.

**Who is the training programme for?**

The training offer is for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who want to develop or advance their skills and knowledge to deliver patient-facing medicines optimisation and other services in general practice settings.

Pharmacists must meet the following criteria:

* Be already working in a patient-facing primary care role for at least 0.5 wte (2.5 days per week) from a GP practice setting.
* Not be an independent prescriber yet (fully funded IP training will be available at the end of the CPPE pathway)
* Have the support of their employer who agrees to:
	+ release the pharmacist or pharmacy technician for 28 days of protected learning time for face-to-face events during the pathway, regardless of the number of days per week they are working
	+ provide a GP clinical supervisor (for pharmacy technicians this could be an experienced pharmacist)
	+ identify a senior clinical pharmacist within the PCN or wider geography to be able to support the pharmacist
	+ support the pharmacy professional with travelling expenses for pathway events
	+ support the pharmacist through their independent prescribing training **at the end** of the CPPE pathway (including the supervision required) if they are not already independent prescribers
* Be able to attend face to face events, including residential study days during the pathway (for the January cohort most of the events will be run online).
* Be able to stay overnight for the induction residential events (not applicable for January cohort).
* Be able to commit to studying in their own time for up to 30 days during the pathway, as well as to attending all the pathway events.

The training, worth £5241 for pharmacists and £4107 for pharmacy technicians, is fully funded by Health Education England. However, there is no salary support available for these pharmacy professionals, nor is there any funding for clinical supervision. Clinical supervisors would be expected to take part in the CPPE clinical supervisor training (available as an online webinar or a half-day face-to-face event).

**How long is the training and what does it cover?**

The training is an 18-month workplace-based model (15 months for pharmacy technicians. Find out more on the [CPPE website.](https://www.cppe.ac.uk/career/pcpep/pcpep-training-pathway#navtop)

**How do pharmacists and their employers access the training offer?**

To apply for the training, the **pharmacist/pharmacy technician’s employer** should **access the** [**link**](https://healtheducationyh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/pcpepeoi) **as soon as possible** to complete the following information as an expression of interest:

* Name and address of the employer (GP practice or federation)
* Name of the pharmacist or pharmacy technician
* GPhC number of the pharmacist or pharmacy technician
* Email address of the pharmacist or pharmacy technician
* Description of why the pharmacist or pharmacy technician would benefit from the training pathway and how the employer is planning to support the development of the pharmacist’s patient-facing role (no more than 200 words)

**Expressions of interest must be received by noon on 31/10/21. These will then be reviewed, and successful candidates (and their employers) will be notified the following week.**  CPPE will send details of how to enrol via the CPPE website. For the enrolment process, the candidate will need an up-to-date brief CV and the *Proof of employment* form signed by the employer to upload. *The Proof of employment* form will be available to download during the CPPE application process.

**What are employers of the pharmacy professional responsible for?**

Employers are responsible for:

* providing clinical supervision by a GP and they should also identify a senior clinical pharmacist to provide support. Each pharmacist or pharmacy technician should receive a minimum of one clinical supervision session per month and have access to the clinical supervisor during the course of the working week to address urgent issues. The senior clinical pharmacist should also meet regularly with the pharmacist and be available for support. There is a handbook for clinical supervisors and clinical mentors on the [CPPE website](https://www.cppe.ac.uk/career/pcpep/pcpep-training-pathway#navtop) which explains the role, and training for this role will be offered by CPPE
* covering the learner’s travel expenses
* giving learners 28 days of protected learning time, regardless of the number of days per week they are working
* ensuring the pharmacy professional’s role includes patient-facing work
* supporting the pharmacist with their independent prescribing training (the training course is funded by HEE).

**Why should pharmacists and pharmacy technicians take part in this training pathway?**

They will have:

* enhanced knowledge and improved skills to work effectively and provide person-centred care
* greater capability to deliver care in changing service models
* improved confidence and resilience, demonstrable leadership skills and behaviours in approach to patient care
* become part of the integrated multidisciplinary team in primary care networks and work with partners who support their work
* ability to train other members of the multidisciplinary team
* greater visibility and recognition of the pharmacy professionals’ contribution to patient care
* greater opportunity for career progression and advancement in clinical pharmacy service delivery.

The employers and the NHS will benefit from:

* improved continuity of care
* improvements in patient outcomes, safety and wellbeing
* improved communication between professionals providing healthcare in the primary care system
* reduced hospital and emergency department admissions
* reduced reliance on hospital care
* early identification of pharmaceutical care needs as part of holistic integrated programme
* delivery of the Primary Care Network directed enhanced service

CPPE has developed this training pathway to equip pharmacy professionals with the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to meet the objectives of the Network Contract DES and embed their role within primary care. The pathway will enable pharmacy professionals to be patient-facing and person-centred practitioners who are integrated into the multidisciplinary team, with the aim of improving patient access to primary care and supporting and empowering patients to achieve optimal health and wellbeing.

The pathway will help pharmacy professionals working in primary care to:

* perform clinical patient-facing roles
* develop their consultation skills and promote shared decision making
* work as part of a multi-disciplinary team
* provide leadership on person-centred medicines optimisation and integration into the wider healthcare teams
* be part of a professional clinical network with access to appropriate clinical supervision
* receive support and supervision to allow them to do their job safely and confidently.

**How will a learner’s training be supervised?**

CPPE will provide education supervision and clinical mentorship to learners and ensure that supervisory arrangements strongly support the educational and practical elements of the training. Education supervisors will be pharmacy professionals with the appropriate skills and experience. Clinical mentors will be pharmacists with relevant skills and experience. They will be available to pharmacy professionals requiring additional support.

**Who is responsible for providing clinical supervision?**

Employers are responsible for providing clinical supervision. This can be someone within the organisation or elsewhere, but the supervisor does need to be easily available for the pharmacy professional to contact. CPPE will work in partnership with employers to ensure strong alignment of clinical and educational supervision.

**Contact details**

More information about the *Primary care pharmacy education pathway* can be found on the [CPPE website](https://www.cppe.ac.uk/career/pcpep/pcpep-training-pathway#navtop) or by emailing primarycare@cppe.ac.uk.