



Prescribing Pharmacists Update - January 2025

Background:

New standards for the initial education and training of pharmacists (IETP) – provide a set of new learning outcomes that span the whole 5-year initial training period, which includes the MPharm degree programme and the Foundation Training Year (formerly known as the pre-registration year). The aim of this exciting transformation is to prepare the future pharmacist workforce for prescribing responsibilities, as from August 2026 onwards, all newly qualified pharmacists will be independent prescribers at the point of registration.

The new IETP supports two main changes:

- 1) The undergraduate MPharm degree programme will incorporate appropriate clinical assessment skills, consultation skills and clinical reasoning to prepare future pharmacists for prescribing activities. This includes a significant increase in the number of mandatory clinical placements at MPharm **undergraduate** level, these may be across community pharmacy, general practice and secondary care settings.
- 2) From 2025/26, the postgraduate Foundation Training Year will include a rotation or placement in an appropriate prescribing environment with view to complete the Independent Prescriber (IP) qualification.

How will this impact primary care settings?

- General Practice sites and Community Pharmacies will need to increase capacity to host short-term undergraduate placements, this will increase MPharm undergraduates' exposure to clinical settings and familiarise with delivering clinical care, effectively working within multidisciplinary teams and conducting patient consultations
- General Practice/PCN sites can now apply to be a primary employer of Foundation Trainee Pharmacists. See Appendix 1 and 2 below which outline benefits of employing Foundation Trainee Pharmacists
- Practices/PCNs and Community Pharmacies will need to ensure there is adequate peer-to-peer clinical support and clinical supervision to develop the prescribing workforce and meet safe prescribing standards
- There will be a **significant** demand in Designated Prescribing Practitioners (DPP) working in primary care for Foundation Trainee Pharmacists to be able to complete the prescribing qualification. It is vital that the number of DPPs increases to meet this demand

north central london TRAINING HUB

Haringey GP Federation
48 Station Rd
London N22 7TY

nlccg.nclth@nhs.net @NCLTrainingHub





Foundation Training Year

- To host a Foundation Trainee Pharmacist, primary employers will need to ensure that the trainee has access to
 - i) Designated Supervisor (DS) previously called pre-reg tutor,
 - ii) Prescribing learning setting and a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP)
 - iii) Dispensing learning setting such as Community Pharmacy or Hospital Pharmacy dispensary
- All training sites for Foundation Trainee Pharmacists including General Practice and Community Pharmacy sites must be registered on the National Recruitment Scheme (**Oriel**). **If you would like to host a Foundation Trainee Pharmacist in 2026/27, you MUST act by 1st March 2025**
- General Practice sites or PCNs who wish to become host training sites, should be approved learning environments (ALE). Please see **[NCL Training Hub - Approved Learning Environments](#)**
- A DPP can be multiprofessional, but must be an active prescriber
- Designated Supervisors (DS) for Foundation Trainee Pharmacists MUST be an experienced and suitably trained pharmacist, ideally an NCL approved educator or completed appropriate supervisor training. It is vital that the number of senior pharmacists increases to meet this demand
- DPPs and/or the DS must have protected time to conduct clinical supervision activities with the trainee(s)

Funding to support IETP transformation:

Funding for Foundation Trainee Pharmacists has been standardised across all sectors, so that from July 2025, the funding per trainee per year will be £26,500 (this includes salary and all on-costs). Part of this can be used to support multi-sector placements, e.g. to support the prescribing element of Foundation Training Year.

To support the transformational changes to the IEPT, the ARRS funding 2024/2025 has been expanded to allow for the 'Direct Patient Contact' (DPC) option to be used to support an increase in clinical pharmacist DS and DPP roles. Therefore, PCNs with support from their ICBs can use the DPC funding option to support an increase in the DPP/DS capacity. Please see here: **[Pharmacy Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme: Opportunities 2024/25](#)**.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR PRIMARY CARE:

Increasing DPP and DS capacity across General Practices/PCNs and Community Pharmacies:

- ensure that all pharmacists within the current workforce across General Practices/PCNs and Community Pharmacies have completed or registered on an Independent Prescribing course by September 2025. Please see Appendix 3 for more details.
- encourage existing multiprofessional prescribing workforce and newly qualified prescribers to become DPPs by completing an online funded programme, see **[DPP Training - ProPharmace](#)**
- encourage multiprofessional DPPs to complete **[Expression of Interest for inclusion in NCL Multiprofessional Designated Prescribing Practitioner \(DPP\) Register Survey](#)**
- encourage experienced pharmacists to complete DS Training. See **[Educational Supervisor Training - ProPharmace-](#)**
- develop and ensure adequate peer-to-peer clinical support and supervision (see Appendix 4)
- General Practices/PCNs to contact NCL ICB to express interest in using DPC funding to support DPP/DS roles



Increasing access to prescribing environments for Foundation Trainee Pharmacists:

- Practices are encouraged to consider hosting Foundation Trainee Pharmacists (cohort 2025/26) for 13-week placement for completion of the prescribing qualification. Please complete **Expression of interest (EOI) for hosting three-month multi sector foundation trainee pharmacist placements Survey**. These placements are remunerated.

Becoming a primary employer of Foundation Trainee Pharmacists:

If you would like to host a Foundation Trainee Pharmacist in 2026/27 as the primary employer, you MUST

- Submit programme information via an online registration form (National Recruitment Scheme via **Oriel**), which includes information on the employer details, training site, salary and hours, and rotational placements (if any) by 1st March 2025
- Ensure that you have a named DPP and DS in place by July 2026. It would be sensible to start training or recruiting a suitable pharmacist(s) for this role as early as possible.
- If you have questions directly related to employing a Foundation Trainee Pharmacist in 2026-27, or the process of registration with the National Recruitment Scheme (Oriel), please join one of the on-line drop-in sessions, delivered by the Pharmacy Team (NHS England, WT&E Directorate) each intended as a Q&A.

Day	Date	Time	Joining Link
Tuesday	4 February	12.00 – 12.45	Join the meeting now
Wednesday	5 February	12.30 – 13.15	Join the meeting now
Wednesday	12 February	11.00 – 11.45	Join the meeting now
Thursday	13 February	13.00 – 13.45	Join the meeting now
Wednesday	19 February	13.00 – 13.45	Join the meeting now
Monday	24 February	14.00 – 14.45	Join the meeting now

If you would like to know more about what is involved in training Foundation Trainee Pharmacists, please join webinar: Foundation Pharmacist Training in London: What's in it for me?

- Find out how training foundation pharmacists can benefit your practice and PCN.
- Attend an on-line meeting on Thursday 6 February: 13.00 – 13.30 to hear how General Practice and PCNs can engage in training of foundation pharmacists either as a direct employer, as a rotation provider (13 weeks or longer) or a placement provider (at least 90 hours).
- You can join this meeting directly via the following link: (<https://bit.ly/GPFTP>) (**Join conversation**)
- Speakers will include Dr Graham Stretch, President of the Primary Care Pharmacy Association and Dr Anna Down, GP Partner at Argyle Surgery, who have trained 65 foundation pharmacists in GP in West London over the last 10 years.

If you require support with any of the above recommendations, please contact Amina Ali, NCL Pharmacy Ambassador (amina.ali@nhs.net).



Useful resources:

[Getting ready for foundation training from 2025/26 | NHS England | Workforce, training and education](#)

[Implementing the Foundation Pharmacist Training Year 2025/26 Health Education England](#)

[Prescribing Supervision and Assessment in the Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Programme 2025/26](#)

[Designated Supervisor Requirements 2025-26](#)

[Foundation Trainee Pharmacists in 2026/27](#)



Appendix 1: Why host a foundation trainee pharmacist in general practice settings?

- General practice is a rapidly developing sector of practice for pharmacy professionals with increasing numbers of practices and PCNs employing pharmacists in a patient facing role.
- Employing a trainee pharmacist can help to provide general practice with a sustainable workforce pipeline. Trainees can support with day-to-day workload within the practice contributing towards multiple QOF indicators or the DES (see Appendix 2).
- Hosting a trainee and watching their development can be a rewarding experience as well as providing a personal development opportunity to upskill supervisory skills.
- Working with other partners to provide training helps to build new or develop existing relationships with other healthcare providers in your local area.
- Allows you to support the development of the future workforce and showcase primary care place in healthcare.



Appendix 2: How could a trainee support my practice?

The types of activities that trainee pharmacists could support with are as follows:

<p>Effective medicines reconciliation at transfers of care including investigating queries, errors and omissions</p> <p>Interpreting medical history, physical, biochemical and other clinical assessments</p> <p>Dealing with medicines-related queries from patients and colleagues</p> <p>Facilitating education and training for staff and patients on medicines-related topics</p> <p>Inputting into repeat prescription processes</p> <p>Actioning and responding to MHRA and other safety alerts</p> <p>Undertaking physical assessments with appropriate supervision</p> <p>Developing policies and effective processes for medicines governance, including controlled drugs and repeat prescribing</p> <p>Identifying topics for local audit/QI projects and participating in chosen projects</p>	<p>Developing effective systems for monitoring high-risk medicines</p> <p>Monitoring and improving prescribing</p> <p>Effective antimicrobial stewardship</p> <p>Integrating the practice with local health and social care teams, including hospitals and care homes</p> <p>Using software tools to prioritise patients for medication review</p> <p>Supporting medication reviews for ambulant and housebound patients, and care home residents</p> <p>Delivering person-centred consultations about medicines, encouraging shared decision making</p> <p>Performing NHS health checks</p> <p>Caring for individuals with more long-term conditions (LTCs)</p> <p>Providing ongoing care for specific conditions (eg, secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease)</p> <p>Participating in public health campaigns</p>
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Trainee pharmacists could support practices to meet the following QOF indicators (**based on 23/24 guidance**). *N.B. This list is not exhaustive.* They could also support with vaccination and immunisation as per the Investment and Impact Fund as part of the Network Contract DES (**based on 23/24 guidance**).

<p>Atrial fibrillation – AF001, AF006, AF008</p> <p>Secondary prevention of coronary heart disease – CHD001, CHD005, CHD015, CHD016</p> <p>Hypertension – HYP001, HYP003, HYP007</p> <p>Stroke and transient ischaemic attack – STIA001, STIA007, STIA014, STIA015</p> <p>Cholesterol control and lipid management – CHOL01, CHOL02</p> <p>Diabetes mellitus – DM017, DM006, DM033, DM020, DM021, DM022, DM023</p>	<p>Asthma – AST005, AST007</p> <p>Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease – COPD015, COPD010</p> <p>Depression – DEP004</p> <p>Chronic kidney disease – CKD005</p> <p>Epilepsy – EP001</p> <p>Osteoporosis – OST004</p> <p>Rheumatoid arthritis – RA001</p> <p>Blood pressure – BP002</p> <p>Obesity – OB003</p> <p>Smoking – SMOK002, SMOK004, SMOK005</p>
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Example:

If an average surgery utilised a trainee pharmacist to support activities to meet their QOF CHOL001 and 002 this would generate approximately £6k per practice. For the trainee pharmacist, this type of activity could easily map to the Learning Outcomes they need to demonstrate around consultation skills and IT searching/audits and shared decision-making regarding cholesterol therapies.



Appendix 3: NHS England WT&E National Independent Prescribing Training Offer 2024/25

Pharmacists can [apply to any university](#), including those that are in a different region to where they live or work.

Information regarding the national IP training offer is available [here](#). Application dates for suppliers outside of London region will be available on the individual university website, see [here](#) for the list of approved suppliers.

Independent prescribing training places will be available to pharmacists who meet the required eligibility criteria:

1. **Community pharmacists** (including locum pharmacists)
2. **Pharmacists employed in General Practice** (who are not eligible for, or enrolled on, the Primary Care Pharmacy Education Programme (PCPEP) and those who are working to provide primary care services (e.g., working in primary care) who are not employed in ARRS roles)
3. **Pharmacists enrolled on CPPE's Primary Care Pharmacy Education Pathway (PCPEP)** and meet the PCPEP criteria to enrol on an Independent Prescribing Course

Further details on these offers are on our [Pharmacy London website](#) and on the national [NHS England WT&E website](#).

If you have any questions regarding independent prescribing training offers, please contact the Pharmacy London team england.wtpharmacy.london@nhs.net.



Appendix 4: Clinical support and supervision

NCL Training Hub resources and support are free for all primary care workforce including pharmacists, trainee pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pre-registration pharmacy technicians working in general and/or community pharmacy. Please see [NCL Training Hub - Pharmacy](#)

Clinical supervisors including DPPs and DSs should ensure that they join their local multiprofessional educator group (MPEG). See [NCL Training Hub - education faculty](#)

All prescribing pharmacists are encouraged to subscribe to the NCL Training Hub newsletter which provides updates of education and training events and opportunities.

All primary care pharmacy workforce are encouraged to join the [NCL Primary Care Pharmacy Group](#) using the QR code below, which provides real time peer-to-peer support for pharmacists, foundation trainee pharmacist, pharmacy technicians and pre-registration pharmacy technicians working in primary care organisations (general practices/PCNs and community pharmacies) across Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington.

