

HEE Advanced Clinical Pharmacist training programme funding

1. Advanced Clinical Practice funding

- Health Education England in the South are supporting Clinical Pharmacists to develop their skills and work towards Advanced Clinical Practitioner roles.
- Existing Pharmacist Independent Prescribers are able to access funding offered by HEE towards advanced clinical assessment skills training offered by Higher Education Institutes.

2. Why are HEE supporting clinical pharmacists?

- The value of developing members of the existing healthcare workforce is priority for HEE Health and Care Workforce Strategy team.
- The pharmacy workforce represents an underutilised resource within the NHS. There is currently untapped potential to improve patient care, reduce pressure on emergency departments and provide better services to patients. By offering members of our existing pharmacy workforce opportunities to develop their skills and competences we can support the multi-professional team in delivering clinical services.
- Benefits of developing Clinical Pharmacists towards Advanced Clinical Practitioner roles have been demonstrated in the West Midlands with the introduction of the Clinically Enhanced Pharmacist Independent Prescribers (CEPIP) Programme.
- Furthermore, the Pharmacists in Emergency Departments (PIED) study identified a need for preparatory skills training for independent prescribing pharmacists in clinical health assessments and diagnostics prior to undertaking the advanced clinical training pathways.
- There are other areas where these skills may be beneficial including admissions and discharge, mental health, primary care and older peoples' care.

3. What training do the advanced clinical assessment modules provide?

- The advanced clinical assessment skills training offered by the seven Universities listed below will deliver training and cover range of skills, such as, but not limited to, the following:
 - History taking and consultation communication skills.
 - Physical assessment techniques (inspection, palpation, percussion and auscultation) and application to clinical examination of a range of body systems [respiratory, cardiovascular, neurological, abdominal, musculoskeletal and ENT]
 - Interpretation of normal and abnormal findings on physical examination of a range of body systems.
 - Introduction to mental health assessment.
 - Integrating the principles of anatomy and pathophysiology relevant to health problems presenting in a range of body systems.
 - Recognition and implications of commonly presenting conditions including both acute and long-term conditions within a range of body systems.
 - Clinical reasoning and clinical problem solving skills.
 - Documentation of history and clinical findings in an appropriate format.

- Overview of key immediate treatment options including appropriate referral for commonly presenting conditions (including acute and long-term conditions) within a range of body systems.
- Development of child and Safeguarding.
- Investigation, Data interpretation and Diagnosis.
- Resuscitation.

4. What are the benefits of undertaking the advanced clinical assessment module?

- HEE in the West Midlands have demonstrated that training has led to enhanced pharmacy workforce capability through resolving medication issues, taking patient histories, preparing discharge prescriptions and minors-focused clinical duties.
- Clinical Pharmacists are able to further undertake career development and progress towards Advanced Clinical Practice roles through completion of further studies at Masters' level.

5. Funding Criteria

- HEE are offering £2000 per pharmacist to access advanced clinical assessment skills training offered by seven Universities and to contribute towards clinical supervision costs.
- To secure funding practitioners must meet the following criteria:
 - a) Pharmacist providing services to NHS patients
 - b) Pharmacist is an independent prescriber
 - c) Pharmacist is working in acute, mental health or primary care settings
 - d) Identified need for training and enhanced role
 - e) Secured a placed at one of the seven nominated Universities (see below)
 - f) Confirmation of clinical supervision and support for enhanced role (see below)
 - g) Employer agrees to release and support practitioner

6. Training providers

- A number of universities offer advanced clinical assessment modules. Practitioners will need to secure a place via the Universities' application process.
- See Table 1 on the next page for examples of Universities and modules that are offered.
- Funding will not be provided until practitioner has secured a place on a relevant programme.

7. Clinical Supervision

- Clinical supervision whilst undergoing this training is a key requirement.
- The Clinical Supervisor must be a senior doctor working in the area of practice being developed by the pharmacist.
- The clinical supervisor must be assured of the pharmacists' capabilities, and able to give a clinical overview of examination and history taking in their patients, and understand how the pharmacist's new skills fit into that particular service.

Table 1: A summary of level 7 (Masters level) clinical examination courses offered by higher education institutions in the HEE Thames Valley, Wessex and South West regions

HEI	Module name	Contributes towards	Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL)	Cost (2019/20)	Clinical supervision commitment	Comments
Bournemouth University	History Taking & Physical Examination for Advancing Practice (20 credits)	MA Advanced Practice	Yes	£1,700	90 hours engaged in direct practice with clinical supervisor	11-12 days contact time. 5 intakes per year.
Buckinghamshire New University	Physical assessment of the adult (30 Credits)	MSc Advanced Clinical Practitioner or MSc Professional Practice (healthcare)	Yes	£1,900	Not mandated by course (<i>No direct competency assessment</i>)	13 study days + 2 examination days spread over 15 weeks. 2 intakes per year. <i>Note more extensive module (30 credits)</i>
Oxford Brookes	Advanced history taking and assessment (20 credits)	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (<i>Module compulsory for MSc</i>)	Yes	£1,020	Variable.	32 hours teaching time, 168 hours independent learning. 2 intakes per year.
Plymouth University	Advanced assessment for clinical practice (20 credits)	MSc Advanced Professional Practice (Clinical Practitioner, Mental Health or Community and Primary Care Practitioner)	Yes (Additional charges may apply)	£860	Variable (<i>Dr or advanced practitioner. Different practitioners may assess different examinations</i>)	Apprenticeship option available. 3 intakes per year. 10 study days
University of Bath	Advanced Clinical Assessment (30 credits)	MSc Advanced Practice	Yes	£1400	25 hours	8 days contact time over 24 weeks. 2 intakes per year. (<i>Note 30 credit module</i>)
University of Southampton	History Taking and Physical Assessment across the Lifespan (20 credits)	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (opportunity to obtain V300 non-medical prescribing qualification)	Yes (Additional charges may apply)	£1,523	Not mandated by course (<i>as no direct competency assessment</i>)	4 intakes per year. Approx. 48 hours contact time
University of the West of England	Physical assessment and clinical reasoning (20 credits)	MSc Advanced Practice	Yes	£950	Not mandated by course	Referred to as PACR. 4 intakes per year (in April). 48 hours contact time.

Please note that due to the limited number of places available on each course, a place at your first choice of Higher Education Institution cannot be guaranteed.

8. Application process

The process for applying comprises seven steps. Please complete all of steps 1 to 4 to ensure your application is processed as quickly as possible.

Step	
1	First check that you are eligible for HEE funding according to the funding criteria outlined above.
2	Decide on which Universities you will be apply to (see table 1).
3	Discuss your proposed course application and your application for HEE funding with your line manager.
4	Secure line manager approval to undertake Advanced Clinical assessment training, complete the University application process in addition to HEE funding application. Secure clinical supervision
5	HEE will assess completed funding applications and decisions will be made by the School of Medicines Optimisation team.
6	If funding is approved, HEE will inform the applicant, line manager and HEE Local Training Lead.
7	HEE will make payment to the applicant's Trust. Please note that there is an expectation that this funding will be used within 1 year of payment.

9. Application Timetable:

Task	Deadline
1. Applicant completes and submits funding application to HEE	Wednesday 26th February 2020
2. Applications reviewed by HEE	March 2020
3. Applicant informed of funding decision via email	Mid-April 2020

NB: All routine communications between HEE and the applicant as outlined above will be made via email. This will include notification of whether your application has been successful.

For further information about the funding criteria or application process please contact Pharmacy.South@hee.nhs.uk.