



University of Bath Independent Prescribing Course overview

The prescribing course at Bath is open to pharmacists only. This allows time in the workshop days to concentrate on aspects other than the pharmacology of medicines. This means the course is tailored to the needs of pharmacists and will spend more time on consultation skills and physical health skills such as taking a manual blood pressure. In your own practice hours, you will work with others to give the multidisciplinary perspective.

There are 7 workshop days, they are packed with content as we try to keep the days to a minimum as we recognise it can be difficult to have time away from your employment.

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) standards for the education of pharmacists set the requirements that the course must meet.

[Standards for the education and training of pharmacist independent prescribers \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/standards-for-the-education-and-training-of-pharmacist-independent-prescribers)

Minimum learning time requirements - Teaching, learning and assessment are matters for course providers, but there must be **at least**:

- **26 days of structured learning activities, (the 7 workshop days are part of this, and the other 18 days will be flexible for you to do outside of the workshops) and**
- **90 hours of learning in practice**

All Independent Prescribers must demonstrate the 74 behaviours in the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's framework for all prescribers.

[RPS English Competency Framework 3.pdf \(rpharms.com\)](https://www.rpharms.com/rps-english-competency-framework-3.pdf)

The GPhC standards for the education of pharmacists also specify 32 outcomes that they expect all trainee pharmacist independent prescribers to have achieved to the required level of competence.

All assessment on the course is based to ensure that the pharmacist meets all these requirements so that they are ready to prescribe as soon as they receive their annotation.

	Assessment	Contribution
A1	E-portfolio (Prescribing Tasks)	60%
A2	Oral Presentation	30%
A3	pOSA – online structured assessment	10%
A4	OSCE	Pass / Fail
A5	Hours in practice, DPP Assessment & Certification	Compulsory for annotation as IP
A6	Clinical workshop attendance	Compulsory

The workshop days are designed to help meet these assessments and cover aspects of practice that Health Education England and other bodies encourage pharmacists to demonstrate. The course will cover consultation skills, managing uncertainty, shared decision making, cognitive bias, medicines safety and human factors, patient centred care, informed consent, confidentiality, legal cases, inequality, and diversity.

Workshop and assessment days and their content (although subject to amendments)

Format	Day	Themes	Content
Remote	Day 1	INTRODUCTION, learning platforms, assessment	PebblePad, -Moodle, -RPS Competencies, -GPhC 32 ILOs, -Assessment for learning, l-learning together/forming communities of practice, - Introduction to the consultation.
Remote	Day 2	CONSULTATIONS & PATIENTS, patient centred care, SDM, consent, CALs,	Introduction to the CCG - Learning in practice - Hours and workload required during the course, ideas for CALs, clinical governance - scope of practice - patient centred care - shared decision making - consent & confidentiality - introduction to history taking
Remote	Day 3	PRESCRIBING IN CONTEXT -what are you dealing with and handover	Prescription writing - Prescribing technology - Introduction to clinical skills - How ill is your patient? - SBAR - NEWS2 - effective documentation
Face to face	Day 4	CLINICAL SKILLS PRACTICE -	Practice of BP, SpO2, Pulse etc on SIMS, Practice NEWS2 scores - Red flags - Simple FISHBOWLS
Remote	Day 5	INCREASING COMPLEXITY	Deprescribing - safety netting - Closing the consultation - dealing with uncertainty - challenging consultations - OSCE learning e.g. crossing the bridge too soon, modelling good and poor communication
Face to face	Day 6	BIAS & ERROR - ethics - errors - bias - human factors	Cognitive bias - human factors - medicines safety - legal cases - ethical dilemmas - complex FISHBOWLS
Face to face	Day 7	DIVERSITY IN PRACTICE - inclusion, disparity	Group discussions on - LGBTQ+, Cultural competence, healthcare inequality, then practice OSCEs
Face to face	Day 8	LAST DAY OSCES	OSCE assessment day

Pebble Pad is the E-portfolio that you will use.

Moodle is an online learning platform

ILO = Intended Learning Outcomes.

CCG - Calgary-Cambridge Guide (consultation model)

SBAR = tool to aid succinct handover of relevant information to another professional.

CAL - clinical activity Log = how you spent the 90 hours of learning in practice

Fishbowls - this is conducting consultations with medical actors with a small group of peers