



BNSSG Training Hub

Training Opportunities & Funding for Pharmacists in General Practice

Compiled by

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ARRS (Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme)-funded PCN (Primary Care Network) pharmacists

- The PCN DES is prescriptive about what training pharmacy professionals must have in order for funding to be appropriate. Any pharmacist (and pharmacy technician, but this isn't the focus of this document) has to be enrolled on the approved 18-month training pathway which currently is only run by the Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE). The pathway is entitled 'Primary Care Pharmacy Education Pathway' (PCPEP).
- There are exemptions that can be applied if the pharmacist has prior learning and experience (Figure 1 below). This can exempt them from the whole pathway or from certain modules. There is a process to follow but unless the pharmacist has already undertaken a CPPE pathway or has extensive general practice education and experience, they will not be exempt from all of it. Some pharmacists may qualify for exemption from part of the pathway. Evidence and reflection do need to be provided, as per the process available at www.cppe.ac.uk/career/pcpep/exemptions:

Summary of process for applying for exemption

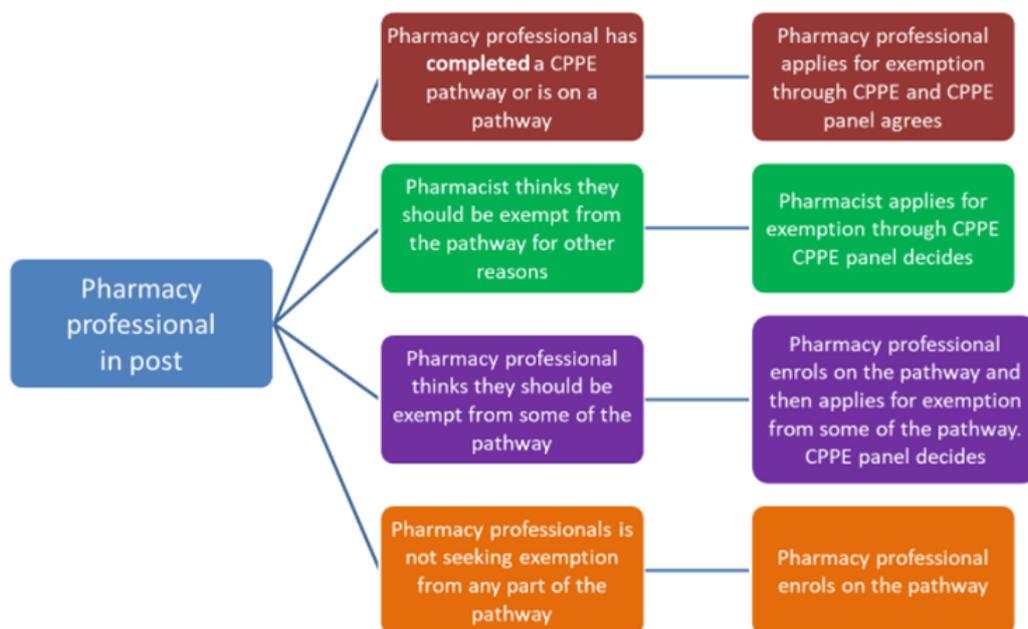


Figure 1: Exemption from CPPE pathway

(source: www.cppe.ac.uk/career/pcpep/exemptions, accessed 30.11.21)

- On the pathway, the pharmacist will have an education supervisor who is employed by CPPE.
- Independent Prescribing (IP)** – funded through the pathway. This usually occurs towards the end of the 18-month pathway for enrolling, although there are sometimes exceptions to this. The education supervisor needs to approve when the prescribing course happens if it is before the end of the pathway. Prescribing can only be taken at HEE (Health Education England)-funded universities for the purposes of the pathway ([click here for more](#)). Funding is currently available up to March 2022, but expect more details about this shortly. This document outlines all courses but Figure 2 outlines the universities in the South. Pharmacists are able to apply to any of the universities listed on the document, regardless of location. **Any pharmacist employed under the PCN DES (ARRS) can only complete prescribing at these specified universities and must not obtain funding through any other route.**



South							
Course Start Date	University Provider	Course Venue	Contact details for registration	Deadline for Applications	Website for further information and registration	Level 6 or 7	Course Delivery Format
September 2021	University of Bath	Bath	AP3T Admin Team, Email: ap3t@bath.ac.uk T: 01225 383206 Course Lead: Joanne Clarke Email: J.H.Clarke@bath.ac.uk		Website for further information and registration	7	Number of weeks: 24 Face-to-face days: 9 E-learning hours: 90
September 2021	University of Portsmouth	Portsmouth University Guildhall campus	Admissions: admissions@port.ac.uk T: 023 9284 5566; Course lead: Nick Warren: nick.warren@port.ac.uk		Website for further information and registration	7	Number of weeks: 39 Face-to-face days: 12 E-learning hours: 90
09 Sept 2021	University of Reading	Whiteknights Campus, University of Reading RG6 6UR	Admissions contact: cippet@reading.ac.uk T: 01183784636; Programme director: Kat Hall cippet@reading.ac.uk T: 0118 378 4636		Website for further information and registration	7	Number of weeks: 23-26 Face-to-face days: 10-12 E-learning hours:
September 2021	University of Exeter, College of Medicine and Health	St. Luke's Campus, Exeter, Devon EX1 2LU	Admissions: http://medicine.exeter.ac.uk/cont/act/ Course lead: Will Farmer & Dr Rob Daniels: w.farmer@exeter.ac.uk r.daniels5@exeter.ac.uk		Website for further information and registration	7	Number of weeks: 26 Face-to-face days: 10 E-learning hours: 50
January 2022	University of Reading	Whiteknights Campus, University of Reading RG6 6UR	Admissions contact: cippet@reading.ac.uk T: 01183784636; Programme director: Kat Hall cippet@reading.ac.uk T: 0118 378 4636		Website for further information and registration	7	Number of weeks: 23-26 Face-to-face days: weekend programme 10-11 E-learning hours:
March 2022	University of Bath	Bath	AP3T Admin Team, Email: ap3t@bath.ac.uk T: 01225 383206 Course Lead: Joanne Clarke Email: J.H.Clarke@bath.ac.uk		Website for further information and registration	7	Number of weeks: 24 Face-to-face days: 9 E-learning hours: 90

South ends.

Figure 2: Southern IP courses for pathway students.

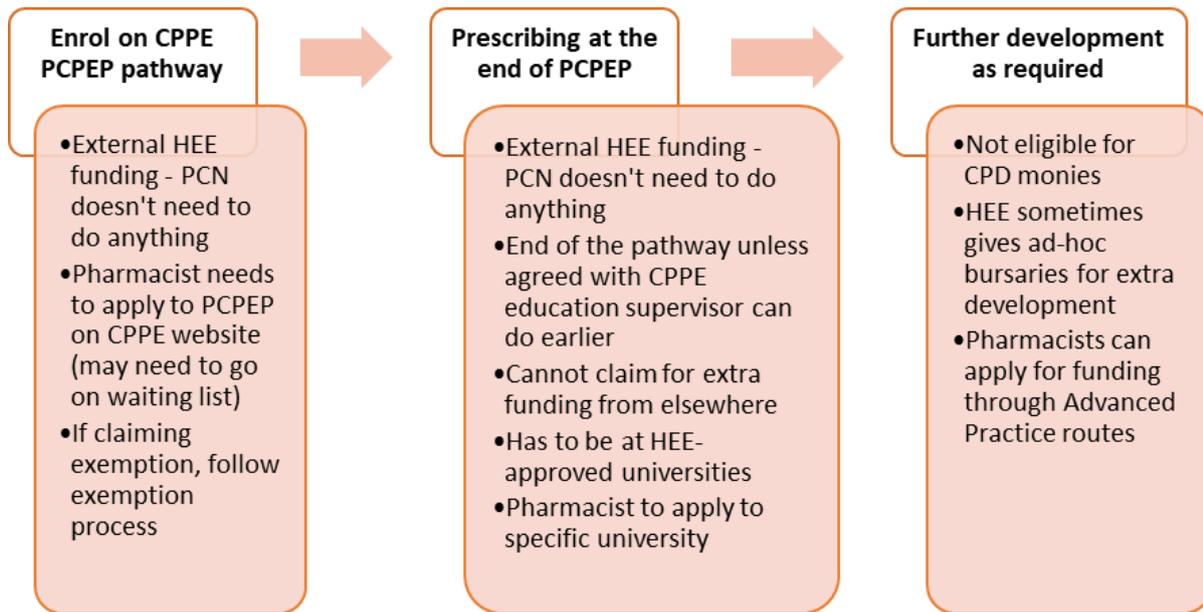
Please note: students can apply to any university listed by HEE, [here](#), irrespective of geographic location.

- Following the completion of the pathway and the independent prescribing course, there is no structured pathway available; however, the same resources are available to GP practice employed pharmacists.
- Other organisations provide training / events / resources for primary care pharmacists that are worth exploring. These may include free-of-charge or paid courses. These include national and regional organisations. Organisations are not listed here for the sake of impartiality, but if there are any questions, please contact the Training Hub Pharmacy Lead at joanne.clarke50@nhs.net.
- Academic units at universities – no specific funding. However, HEE has previously offered bursary funding for 1 year of training as a postgraduate certificate. In addition, HEE has offered funding for a specific advanced practice module. (Please note: some of the content will be similar to that learnt in the pathway.)

Postgraduate certificate in pharmacy
Postgraduate diploma in pharmacy
Postgraduate CPD modules
Advanced Practice modules and others

- Apprenticeships and other Masters' qualifications in advanced practice (additional details are further in).

Pharmacist funded through PCN DES (ARRS)



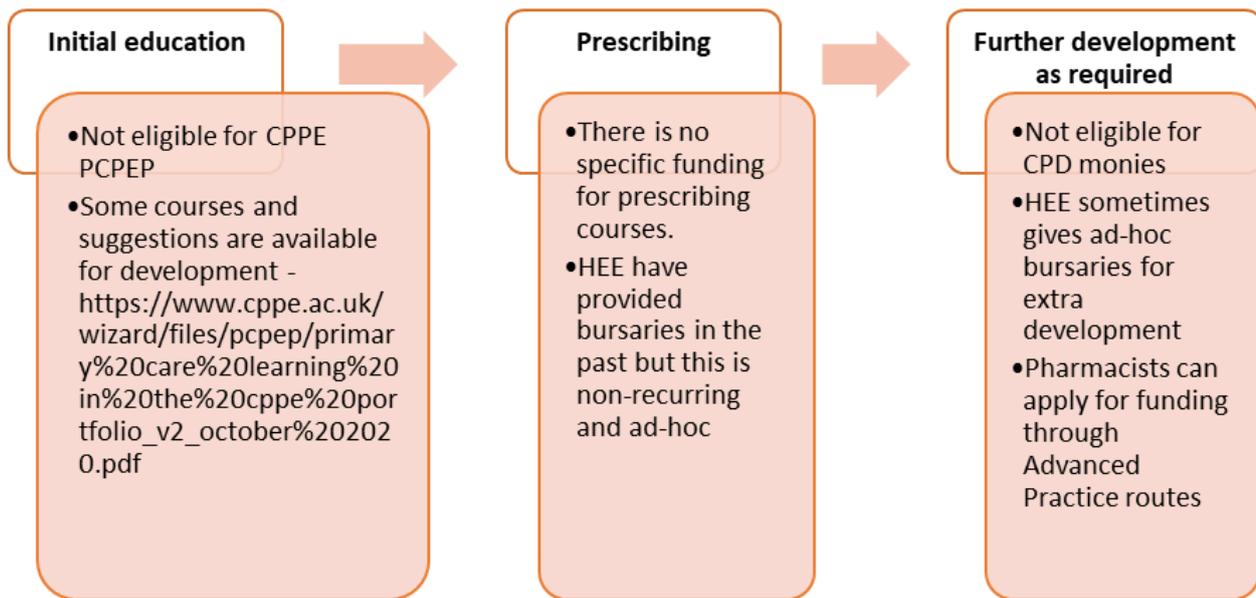
GP practice-employed pharmacists

- These pharmacists are not eligible for the CPPE 'Primary Care Pharmacy Education Pathway' (PCPEP). There is an opportunity to fund the pathway for these pharmacists at a cost of £5241 but HEE do not routinely fund this.
- There are a range of CPPE courses available for free, to develop knowledge and competence in your role ([click here](#) for a document outlining this, last updated in **August 2021**). This document outlines the CPPE learning opportunities, and other key resources and documents relevant to primary care.
- Other organisations provide training / events / resources for primary care pharmacists that are worth exploring. These may include free of charge or chargeable courses. These include national and regional organisations. Organisations are not listed here for the sake of impartiality, but if there are any questions, please contact the Training Hub Pharmacy Lead at joanne.clarke50@nhs.net.
- Academic units at universities – no specific funding. However, HEE has previously offered funding for 1 year of training as a postgraduate certificate. In addition, HEE has offered funding for a specific advanced practice module.

Postgraduate certificate in pharmacy
 Postgraduate diploma in pharmacy
 Postgraduate CPD modules
 Advanced Practice modules and others

- Apprenticeships and other Masters' qualifications in advanced practice (additional details are further in).
- Independent Prescribing — there is no current funding for this; however, HEE has announced further funding as part of the Pharmacy Integration Fund, and we expect additional information about this in the near future. Please contact the Training Hub Pharmacy Lead at joanne.clarke50@nhs.net.

GP practice-employed pharmacists



CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group)-employed pharmacists working in practices

- There are no specific training pathways for these pharmacists and the training and development needs sit with the CCG (not the Training Hub). However, for completeness, CCG-employed pharmacists can also access the following:
- Other organisations provide training / events / resources for primary care pharmacists that are worth exploring. These may include free of charge or chargeable courses. These include national and regional organisations. Organisations are not listed here for the sake of impartiality, but if there are any questions, please contact the Training Hub Pharmacy Lead at joanne.clarke50@nhs.net.
- Academic units at universities – no specific funding. However, HEE has previously offered funding for 1 year of training as a postgraduate certificate. In addition, HEE has offered funding for a specific advanced practice module. Some of these require patient-facing activity and consultations, and it depends on the nature of the work of the CCG-employed pharmacist.

Postgraduate certificate in pharmacy
 Postgraduate diploma in pharmacy
 Postgraduate CPD modules including Independent Prescribing
 Advanced Practice modules and others

Advanced Practice

- Health Education England has funded healthcare professionals to undertake an apprenticeship in Advanced Practice, a three-year MSc in Advanced Practice, or some top-up modules at level 7 to meet the Multi-professional Advanced Clinical Practice Framework. Pharmacists were included in this funding and there were a small number awarded funding in the academic year 2021 - 2022. It is likely that there will be more funding starting academic year 2022 - 2023 which will, again, include pharmacists.

- More work will be done within the Training Hub to establish what the requirements are for advanced practitioners within pharmacy in general practice, and how we can best support the ongoing development of those pharmacists that wish to pursue this route.

Structured Medication Reviews (SMRs) - part of the PCN Contract DES

- It may be helpful to consider the requirements of the SMRs, who can complete them and what training is required — please do so here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/structured-medication-reviews-and-medicines-optimisation/>
- Only 'appropriately trained clinicians working within their sphere of competence undertake SMRs. The PCN must also ensure that these professionals undertaking SMRs have a prescribing qualification and advanced assessment and history taking skills, or be enrolled in a current training pathway to develop this qualification and skills'.
- It is expected that clinical pharmacists will lead on and undertake SMRs across PCNs, however, some will require a multidisciplinary approach. Suitably qualified Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) who meet the criteria, as well as GPs, can also do so.
- Those on a CPPE pathway cover SMRs during their training and are deemed competent to carry out SMRs.
- CPPE offer an e-course for those that are not on a pathway – starting dates are **10 January 2022**, **9 May 2022**, and **12 September 2022**, and run over a number of weeks, accounting for around 48 hours of study. There is also an e-course on shared decision making and an online workshop.

Please note: pharmacists do not have to complete this e-course to do SMRs, but they do need to have demonstrated competence in this area.

- There is an 'equivalence' process written and managed by CPPE (Figure 3). This is so that pharmacists not on a pathway can demonstrate that they have at least equivalent knowledge, skills, and experience to the pathway learning. It helps PCN clinical directors to understand that their GP-employed workforce has the competence to carry out SMRs. It is expected (by NHS England and Improvement) that pharmacists are either on the pathway or have completed the recognition process for 'equivalence' — for more, please [click here](#) (accessed **17.09.21**).

CPPE estimates that the process for demonstrating equivalence will take pharmacists up to 10 hours and that applicants will be notified of the outcome within six weeks.

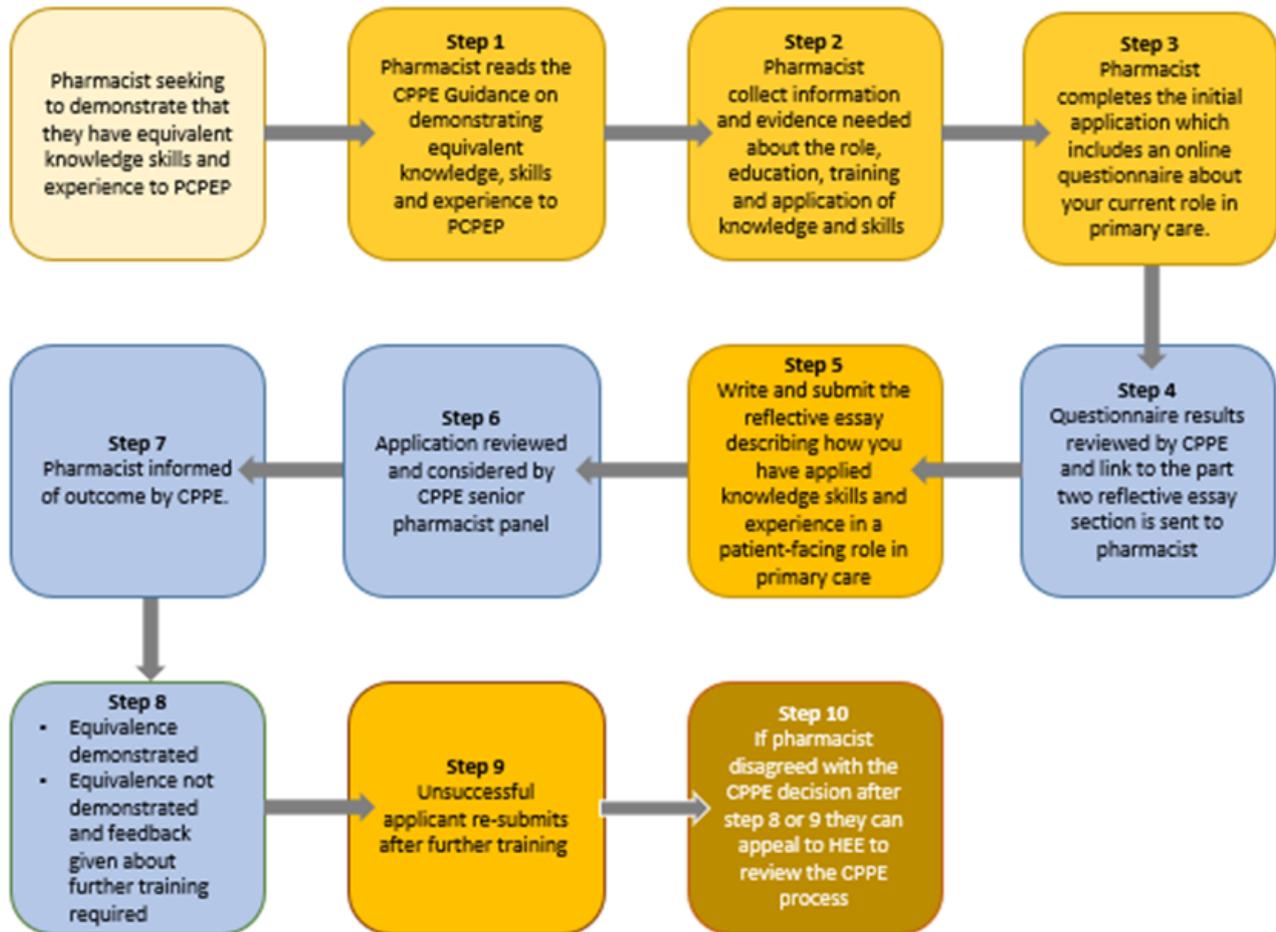


Figure 3: The equivalence process for SMRS
(source: www.cppe.ac.uk/career/pcpep/exemptions, accessed 01.11.21)