

# Clinical Pharmacist Fact Sheet

## What is a Clinical Pharmacist?

Clinical pharmacists work in Primary Care as part of a multidisciplinary team, in a patient facing role to clinically assess and treat patients using expert knowledge of medicines for specific disease areas. If they are recruited under the additional roles reimbursement scheme (ARRS), they **must** complete the 18-month Primary Care Pharmacy Education Pathway from the Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE). If they are not already independent prescribers, they can then complete an independent prescribing qualification. They work with and alongside the general practice team, taking responsibility for patients with chronic diseases and undertaking clinical medication reviews to proactively manage people with complex polypharmacy, especially for the elderly, people in care homes and those with multiple comorbidities.

## What do Clinical Pharmacists do?

- Clinical medication reviews for patients with single or multiple long – term conditions where medicines optimisation is required
- Reconcile medicines following discharge from hospitals or intermediate care and working with patients and community pharmacists to ensure patients receive the medicines they need post-discharge and to reduce the risk of readmission.
- Be involved in multidisciplinary clinical meetings within the PCN where appropriate
- Contribute to the provision of out of hours/on call/extended services for the practice and the patients. These can include patient facing and telephone consultations, signposting to other services and/or healthcare professionals where appropriate, while working within scope of practice and limits of competency.
- Manage repeat prescription requests, resolving queries where possible within scope of practice. To ensure patients have appropriate monitoring tests in place when required.
- Implement changes to medicines in line with MHRA alerts, product withdrawal or shortage and other local or national guidance
- Maintain full and complete records of all patient contacts using appropriate clinical templates and coding
- Undertake a proactive role in audit and quality improvement implementing recommendations where appropriate.
- Provide independent information to patients with regard to medicines and prescribing changes, initiating further support from other healthcare professionals where appropriate
- Participate in review and setting of policies relating to medicines management and prescribing and help ensure practices prescribe in accordance with local guidelines and formulary
- Identify areas of clinical risk at network level and make recommendations to support the introduction of new working practices that will optimise the quality of prescribing and make more efficient use of network resources.

- Monitor network practices' prescribing against the local health economy and make recommendations for GP's or amend within scope of practice, based on findings.
- Maintain own clinical and professional competence and be responsible for own continuous professional development
- Work with practices to ensure full compliance with Care Quality Commission standards for safe and effective care

## **How do Clinical Pharmacists fit into the NHS Workforce?**

Clinical pharmacists work as part of the general practice team to improve value and outcomes from medicines and consult with and treat patients directly, allowing improvement and increasing quality of patient care.

## **How do Clinical Pharmacists help the system?**

Having clinical pharmacists in GP practices means that GPs can focus their skills where they are most needed, for example on diagnosing and treating patients with more complex conditions. This helps GPs to manage the demands on their time.

## **What training and qualifications do Clinical Pharmacists have?**

- All pharmacists complete a 4-year undergraduate masters degree followed by a year of pre-registration training in pharmacy practice.
- Pharmacists frequently have post graduate diplomas in clinical pharmacy
- Clinical Pharmacists employed through the Network Contract DES will either be enrolled in, or been granted exemption from, the 18-month Primary Care Pharmacy Education Pathway (PCPEP). This pathway equips the pharmacist to be able to practice and prescribe safely and effectively in a primary care setting.
- All Clinical Pharmacists will be part of a professional clinical network and will always be clinically supervised by a senior Clinical Pharmacist and GP clinical supervisor.
- Independent prescribing is in addition to the training pathway and will be completed following completion of the PCPEP.

## **Pre-requisites**

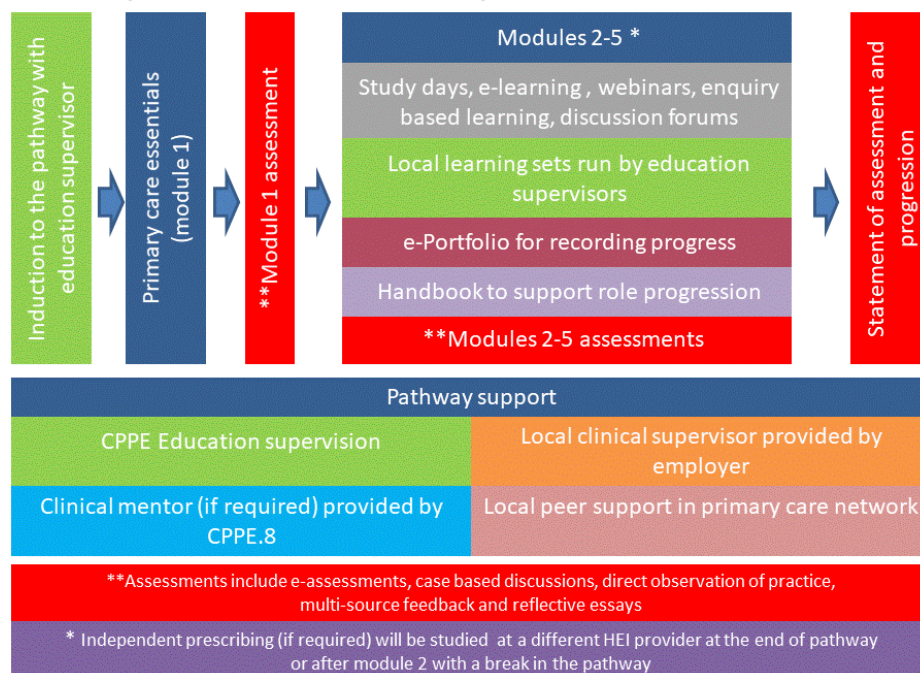
Pharmacy degree and registration as a pharmacist with the General Pharmaceutical Council.

## **Length of course**

- 18-month pathway, including 28 days dedicated study days
- Learner receives a statement of assessment & progression on completion of the pathway
- No placement is required as the Clinical Pharmacist will be employed within primary care whilst completing the PCPEP.

## PCPEP (Primary Care Pharmacy Education Pathway)

CPPE is commissioned by Health Education England to deliver training to pharmacy professionals working in primary care as part of the primary care Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service (DES). The Primary Care Pharmacy Education Pathway has been developed to align the education requirements of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians with the NHS Long Term Plan and the primary care Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service.



The 18-month pathway will equip pharmacists and pharmacy technicians with the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to work in various patient-facing roles in primary care networks as part of a multidisciplinary team. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians will be able to access a range of different study methods to suit different learning styles, a continuous assessment process and support from supervisors and peers.

Pharmacy professionals who are already enrolled on the General Practice Pharmacy Education Pathway (GPPEP) or the Medicines Optimisation in Care Homes (MOCH) Pathway (predecessor CPPE programmes) will continue with this, but any new applicants employed through the primary care Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service will join PCPEP.

**Source:** HEE Pharmacy Team

## Funding

The ARRS is an NHSE scheme that allows a primary care network (PCN) to access funding to support recruitment across different roles, including clinical pharmacists. The ARRS provides funding to support the salary costs for these additional roles. From April 2020, this role will be reimbursed at 100% of actual salary plus defined on costs, up to the maximum reimbursable amount of £55,670 over 12 months. They are a Band 7/8A.

It is important to note, if clinical pharmacists are provided to the PCN through a contracting arrangement with another organisation, will they be able to access the training and development (PCPEP) provided as part of the Network Contract DES. The full training being funded by NHS England and NHS Improvement for clinical pharmacists working in PCNs, will at the current time, take approximately two years to complete. Due to this, there are some limits on the access to this training:

- a. clinical pharmacists providing short term cover will not be eligible to participate in this training offer; and
- b. clinical pharmacists working in PCNs as part of a temporary arrangement between the employing organisation and the PCN will not be eligible to participate in this training offer and not be eligible for reimbursement under the Network Contract DES Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme.

NHS England is committed to supporting practices on transferring clinical pharmacists employed under the predecessor national schemes (GPPEP or MOCH) to the new Network Contract DES. Further information on this process is available to practices in the Network Contract DES guidance.

## **Links to further information**

[HEE website](#)

[New roles in Primary Care](#)

[Briefing on reimbursement for clinical pharmacists in PCNs](#)

[Read the full Network DES specification](#)

[Read more about the GP contract](#)