

Themed Topic – 13th August 2020:

Prescribing for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs)

Hosted by Andy Sharman

Definitions

Independent Prescribing is defined as prescribing by a practitioner, who is responsible and accountable for the assessment of patients with undiagnosed or diagnosed conditions and for decisions about the clinical management required, including prescribing¹.

Advanced Clinical Practice is defined as being delivered by experienced, registered health and care practitioners. It is a level of practice characterised by a high degree of autonomy and complex decision making. This is underpinned by a Masters level award or equivalent that encompasses the four pillars of clinical practice, leadership and management, education and research, with demonstration of core capabilities and area clinical competence.

Advanced clinical practice embodies the ability to manage clinical care in partnership with individuals, families, and carers. It includes the analysis and synthesis of complex problems across a range of settings, enabling innovative solutions to enhance people's experience and improve outcomes².

FAQs

What are the entry criteria for an AHP to gain access to an independent prescribing programme?

To access an independent prescribing programme an AHP must:

- Be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) in one of the relevant Allied Health Professions
- Be professionally practising in an environment where there is an identified need for the individual to regularly use independent prescribing or supplementary prescribing

¹ Royal Pharmaceutical Society, (2016), *A Competency Framework for all Prescribers*. Available at: <https://www.rpharms.com/Portals/0/RPS%20document%20library/Open%20access/Professional%20standards/Prescribing%20competency%20framework/prescribing-competency-framework.pdf?ver=2019-02-13-163215-030>

² Health Education England, NHS Improvement and NHS England (2017), *Multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England* Available at: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Multi-professional%20framework%20for%20advanced%20clinical%20practice%20in%20England.pdf>

- Be able to demonstrate support from their employer including confirmation that they will have appropriate supervised practice in the clinical area in which they are expected to prescribe
- Be able to demonstrate medicines and clinical governance arrangements are in place in their place of work to support safe and effective supplementary and/or independent prescribing
- Have a Prescribing Practice Assessor (formerly known as a Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP)).
- Have normally at least 3 years' relevant post-qualification experience in the clinical area in which they will be prescribing.
- Be working at an advanced level of clinical practice (see definition above)
- Be able to demonstrate how they reflect on their own performance and take responsibility for their own Continuing Professional Development (CPD) including development of networks for support, reflection, and learning.
- Provide evidence of a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) within the last three years.

Across Wessex we have a local agreement with our Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) that all AHPs undertaking an Independent Prescribing module must have completed a minimum of a Level 7 History Taking and Physical Assessment module and a Level 7 Clinical Decision Making and Diagnostics module (or equivalent). However, we strongly recommend that all independent prescribers should be on an Advanced Clinical Practice pathway.

How can I access an Advanced Clinical Practice Pathway?

HEE Wessex Primary Care Training Hubs do offer opportunities to apply for fully funded places on a PGDip Advanced Clinical Practice pathway. These opportunities will be advertised on our website and in our weekly newsletter.

How long is an Advanced Clinical Practice Pathway?

The duration of a PGDip in Advanced Clinical Practice is 2 years and involves around 44 contact days at the University in addition to personal study.

Which Universities offer an Advanced Clinical Practice pathway?

Across Wessex, the following universities offer this pathway:

- Bournemouth University
- University of Southampton

Which Universities offer an independent prescribing module?

Across Wessex, the following universities offer this module:

- Bournemouth University
- University of Southampton
- University of Portsmouth (only for pharmacists).

What is a Prescribing Practice Assessor?

Formerly known as a Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP), a Prescribing Practice Assessor must be a registered healthcare professional and an experienced prescriber with three years' experience, and suitable equivalent qualifications for the programme the student is undertaking. They are normally recognised by the employer/commissioning organisation as having:

- Experience in the relevant field of practice
- Training and experience in the supervision, support, and assessment of trainees
- Has agreed to:
 - Provide the student with opportunities to develop competences in prescribing.
 - Supervise, support and assess the student during their clinical placement.

What are the requirements for applying for funding?

To apply for funding from HEE Primary Care Training Hubs, you must be working in primary care within Wessex for a minimum of 25 hours a week.

Next meeting:

The Microsoft Teams links for upcoming meetings will be sent via the weekly PCTH newsletter, or you can contact Molly (Molly.McCallum@hee.nhs.uk).

Also don't forget our Drop-in Surgery are held every Tuesday between 1-2pm!