

HEE South Funding Advanced Clinical Practice (Pharmacists)

Advanced Clinical Practice funding

- Health Education England (HEE) 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 modules offered by Higher Education Institutes.
- Funding is now also available for those who have already completed an advanced clinical assessment course (those listed in the table on pages 5-6, or equivalent courses) and wish to complete a further module relating to advanced practice at their chosen university. Please mark this clearly on your funding application form if you wish to apply for this funding.
- Priority will be given to those wishing to access the modules in **advanced clinical assessment** (please see the table on pages 5-6 of this document) in the first instance.

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 pharmacists towards Advanced Clinical Practitioner roles have been demonstrated in the West Midlands with the introduction of the 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.

What training do the advanced clinical assessment modules provide?

The advanced clinical assessment skills training offered by the eight universities listed below will deliver training and cover a 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 the child and safeguarding.
- Investigation, data interpretation and diagnosis.
- Resuscitation.

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.
- Pharmacists are able to further undertake career development and progress towards Advanced Clinical Practice roles through completion of further studies at Masters' level.

Funding Criteria

- HEE are offering £2000 per pharmacist to access advanced clinical assessment skills training offered by eight universities and to contribute towards clinical supervision costs.
- HEE are now also able to offer £2000 per pharmacist to access to complete a further module relating to advanced practice if the applicant has already completed the advanced clinical assessment module.
- Funding is therefore limited to £2000 per successful applicant per round of funding.
- To secure funding applicants 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 setting. Pharmacists working in a community setting may also apply, provided they have sufficient time in a general practice setting with appropriate clinical supervision to achieve the course competencies
 - d) Identified need for training and enhanced role
 - e) Confirmation of clinical supervision and support for enhanced role (see below)
 - f) Employer agrees to release and support practitioner
 - g) Pharmacist is liaising with a university in order to apply for a place on a relevant advanced clinical assessment course or other course.

Training providers

- A number of universities offer advanced clinical assessment modules. Applicants will need to secure a place via the university's application process.
- See Table 1 below for a list of universities and the modules offered.
- Those wishing to undertake a further module relating to advanced practice (having completed the advanced clinical assessment module) should contact their chosen university directly regarding the most appropriate module for them to undertake.
- Please note that funding will not be provided until the applicant has secured a place on a relevant programme.

Clinical Supervision

- Clinical supervision whilst undergoing this training is a key requirement.
- Universities will typically specify criteria for clinical supervision which may include:

- 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 be 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 areas

HEI	Module name	Contributes towards	Cost (Correct for 2020-21 academic year)	Delivery method	Comments
Bournemouth University	History Taking & Physical Examination for Advancing Practice (20 credits)	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice . <i>NB this module is not available as a stand-alone unit</i>	£1,800	Blended – in-person and online	Module will take approx. 200 hours to complete. 30 hours teaching time. Multiple intakes per year, availability September 2021 onwards.
Bournemouth University	Enhanced Assessment Skills for Clinical Practice (20 Credits) NB: This module is subject to confirmation by the university	Module for those not on advanced clinical practice pathway.	TBC	Blended – in-person and online	6 days in-person teaching, with blended learning approach. Multiple intakes per year, first cohort September 2021
Buckinghamshire New University	Physical Assessment of the Adult (30 Credits)	MSc Advanced Clinical Practitioner	£1,950	In-person	15 days contact time over 15 weeks. 2 intakes per year (February and September). <i>NB: more extensive module (30 credits)</i>
Oxford Brookes	Advanced history taking and assessment (20 credits)	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice	£1,040	Blended – in-person and online	18 hours teaching time. 2 intakes per year (January and September), additional intake May 2021.
Plymouth University	Advanced assessment for clinical practice (20 credits)	MSc Advanced Professional Practice (Clinical Practitioner)	£860	Blended – in-person and online	5 intakes per year. 8 teaching days over 3 months. Next availability September 2021.
University of Reading	Certificate in Advanced History Taking and Clinical Assessment (20 Credits)	MSc Advancing Healthcare Practice	£1,100	In-person	3 intakes per year, availability for April 2021. 3-month programme.
University of Southampton	Principles of History Taking and Physical Assessment (20 credits)	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice	£1,561	Blended – in-person and online	3 intakes per year. January and March 2021 cohorts full but waiting list available. Availability September 2021

University of the West of England	Physical assessment and clinical reasoning (20 Credits)	MSc Advanced Practice	£920	Blended – in-person and online	48 hours contact time. Next available cohort Sept 2021
University of Bath	Advanced Clinical Assessment (30 Credits)	MSc Advanced Practice	£1470	In-person	Next cohort June 2021 (application deadline April 2021), then December 2021.

Application process

The process for applying comprises six steps. Please complete all of steps 1 to 6 to ensure your application is processed as quickly as possible.

Step	
1	Check that you are eligible for HEE funding according to the funding criteria outlined above.
2	Decide which university course you will apply to (see table 1).
3	Discuss your proposed course application and your application for HEE funding with your line manager, and secure line manager approval to undertake advanced clinical practice training.
4	Secure a Clinical Supervisor.
5	Contact your chosen university to begin the application process.
6	Complete the HEE funding application form and return to Pharmacy.South@hee.nhs.uk
7	HEE will assess completed funding applications and decisions will be made by the HEE South Pharmacy team.
8	HEE will inform the applicant of the outcome of the funding application via email.
9	Provide confirmation of a place on the course to HEE.
10	Funding will be transferred to the applicant's employing organisation. The applicant and their employing organisation will be responsible for the payment of course fees to the university when they are due.

Application Timetable:

Task	Deadline
1. Applicant completes and submits funding application to HEE	Friday 19th February 2021
2. Applications reviewed by HEE	w/c 22nd February 2021
3. Applicant informed of funding decision	w/c 1 st March 2021

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