

Independent Prescribing for Pharmacists

Information for potential Designated Prescribing Practitioners

The overall aim of the independent prescribing course is to enable pharmacists to practise and develop as prescribers and to meet the standards set by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).

Practitioners on the programme are required to complete at least 90 hours of supervised practice, known as the Period of Learning in Practice (LiP). A Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) is a practitioner who agrees to oversee, support and assess the competence of non-medical prescribing trainees, in collaboration with academic and workplace colleagues.

What is expected of DPPs?

The RPS have also released [A Competency Framework for Designated Prescribing Practitioners](#). This was developed to underpin quality training in practice by outlining the skills, knowledge and behaviours required of the DPP role.

The DPP is required to meet formally three times with their trainee independent prescriber (TiP) to review their progress. At the end of the initial and intermediate review an action plan should be drawn up that supports the TIP in meeting all of the course learning outcomes and related prescribing competencies. At the end of the period of learning in practice it is the DPP's responsibility to verify that the TIP:

1. has completed the 90-hours LiP and
2. successfully met the learning outcomes and prescribing competencies

Verification that the learning outcomes and prescribing competencies have been met will be provided from evidence provided by the TIP during the review meetings and through the Patient Case and Preparation for Prescribing Practice elements of assessment. The signed action plans, the signed Patient Case assessment sheet and final verification will need to be uploaded by the TIP into their Portfolio of Professional Practice which will be assessed by academic staff at Keele.

What is the role of the DPP?

The DPPs role is to provide or facilitate learning opportunities in the workplace to enable the pharmacist TIP to achieve the course learning outcomes and related prescribing competencies.

In particular, DPPs should provide learning opportunities that help the pharmacist TIP to:

- Develop an effective relationship and communication with patients, carers, other prescribers and members of the health care team.
- Describe the pathophysiology of the condition being treated and recognise the signs and symptoms of illness, take an accurate history and carry out a relevant clinical assessment where necessary.
- Use diagnostic aids relevant to the condition(s) for which the pharmacist intends to prescribe, including monitoring response to therapy.
- Apply clinical assessment skills to:
 - inform a working diagnosis
 - formulate a treatment plan
 - the prescribing of one or more medicines if appropriate
 - carry out a checking process to ensure patient safety.
 - monitor response to therapy, review the working/differential diagnosis and modify treatment or refer/consult/seek guidance as appropriate
- Work within a prescribing partnership.
- Prescribe, safely, appropriately and cost effectively
- Maintain accurate, effective and timely records and ensure that other prescribers and health care staff are appropriately informed.

How much time do DPPs need to spend with their TiP?

A pharmacist TiP is required to complete 90 hours of LiP time over the 6-months course. The DPP is not required to directly supervise the whole 90 hours but should directly supervise at least 45 hours of the LiP time. We recommend that the LiP time includes support and experience with other members of the multidisciplinary team and other prescribers. This must be planned and agreed between the DPP and the pharmacist TiP and recorded in the LiP log. It is important that the DPP has oversight of all of the TiPs LiP time as they are required to sign the LiP log. In addition, at the end of the course the DPP is required to sign a statement that, in their opinion, the TiP they have supervised is, or is not, competent to prescribe.

What are the benefits of being a DPP?

- Professional development - through supporting others to learn you can reflect on your own practice. You can include the teaching and learning component on your CV.
- You would be helping to develop the local workforce

- You will have the opportunity to learn more about what a pharmacist can add to the healthcare team

What support is available to DPPs?

Once you have agreed to be a DPP for a TiP at Keele University you will be given access to a DPP MS Team, which contains the DPP handbook, training SWAYs and provides a communication channel for peer support. The academic staff at Keele University are also available through the MS Team to offer guidance and support.

If you would rather message a member of the academic team directly, this can be done through MS Teams or email.

If you have any further questions about the DPP role please contact phab.postgraduate@keele.ac.uk