

Clinical Pharmacist Designated Prescribing Practitioner Support Document

What is a Designated Prescribing Practitioner?

For those Clinical Pharmacists wishing to complete an Independent Prescribing (IP) qualification (also termed as a Non-Medical Prescriber - NMP), historically they had to find a Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP) a prescribing Doctor, usually a GP, who would support them whilst completing the course.

Professional regulatory changes in 2018/19 have enabled some non-medical prescribers (NMPs) to take on this designated practitioner role, in addition to Designated Medical Practitioners (DMPs). These regulatory changes improve access to training opportunities for those eligible to prescribe.

These clinicians are termed as Designated Prescribing Practitioners (DPP).

What do you need to be a Designated Prescribing Practitioner?

For Clinical Pharmacists who wish to complete the course there are further criteria listed within the DPP framework in the links below.

For Clinical Pharmacists the DPP must be a registered independent prescriber or medical practitioner who is able to demonstrate the competencies in the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) framework. This DPP will also mentor and provide supervision to the learner whilst they complete their Independent Prescribing course.

They will also need to;

- Be registered with their professional regulator. All NMPs undertaking the DPP role should have the necessary annotation for a prescriber as required by their regulator.
- The expectation of any registered health professional practitioner acting in the DPP role is the ability to demonstrate they meet all competencies within the RPS Competency Framework for all Prescribers (The link is in the references below).

Full guidance is available within section 5 of the RPS competency framework of criteria (pages 8-10), but some of the key highlights to be a DPP are;

- Is an experienced prescriber, of at least 3 years, in a patient facing role.
- Is an active prescriber in a patient-facing role, with appropriate knowledge and experience relevant to the trainee's area of clinical practice. An active prescriber consults with patients and makes prescribing decisions based on clinical assessment with sufficient frequency to maintain competence. Reflects and audits prescribing practice to identify developmental needs.
- Has previous experience in teaching or training learners within a working practice setting.

How do you support a learner as a Designated Prescribing Practitioner?

The education provider of the IP courses may have requirements that vary slightly, but overall each learner will need to be supported in completing;

- Part of their 90 hours of supervision with the learner.
- Shadowing of the learner in completing clinics that would involve a prescribing outcome at the end.
- Supporting the learner in completing a practice prescribing portfolio of evidence of completion of competencies.

- Be a point of contact for the learner to support them through their IP course.
- Support the learner to complete all areas of the RPS competency framework as they progress through their course.

Helpful References.

RPS DPP Framework - <https://www.rpharms.com/resources/frameworks/designated-prescribing-practitioner-competency-framework>

GPHC IP Support Page - <https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacist-independent-prescriber>

NHSE IP Support Page - <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/pharmacy/independent-prescribing>

eLfH Pharmacy Educational Supervisor Training - <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/pharmacy-educational-supervisor-training/>

CPPE Extending Scope of Prescribing Practice - https://www.cppe.ac.uk/programmes/l?t=MOCH_PCP-EC-01&evid=56811

NHSE IP Supervision Page - <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/pharmacy/transforming-pharmacy-education-training/initial-education-training-pharmacists-reform-programme/pharmacy-integration-programme-super>