

medway school of pharmacy

PGCert Independent / Supplementary Prescribing (Clinically Enhanced)

The Role of the Clinical Supervisor

Clinical supervision is an activity that brings skilled supervisors and practitioners together in order to reflect upon practice. In order to embark on the Clinically Enhanced Prescribing Programme (CEPIP) pathway, acute and mental health trust pharmacists must have a named Clinical Supervisor (CS) to support them with the acquisition of clinical skills. This person can be their Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP) but for many students the CS will be another person as the two roles are different but complementary. The DMP is usually a specialist in your chosen scope of practice whereas the CS is someone with experience of a broad range of clinical skills.

The GPhC requires that all Independent Prescribing students undertake 90 hours in practice – some of these hours will cover developing clinical skills to support prescribing in the student's scope of practice. In addition to this, it is the wish of the commissioners of the CEPIP pathway that students have experience of a wide range of clinical skills which can be complementary to those that specifically underpin their scope of practice. This skills development will inevitably require extra time in practice, hence the CEPIP pathway includes an additional 20 hours on placement dedicated specifically to the practice of these broader clinical skills. Hence the CEPIP requirement for 110 hours placement in total. We expect 12 of the 90 hours will overlap between the general clinical skills and specific clinical skills for your scope of practice.

In the IP training you need to spend time with patients/clients as part of their health care team. You should have opportunities to observe your patient/client, to monitor their progression and participate in being able to spot any early signs of deterioration. Part of your observation, monitoring and participation will involve using a set of clinical skills, for example how to assess a patient's breathing, pulse rate, blood pressure and body temperature. You need to understand what the outcomes of your assessment means for their continuing care.

Who should be your Clinical Supervisor?

Your CS could be another pharmacist, who has already developed those clinical skills, a doctor, including an F1 or F2, an emergency nurse practitioner, clinical nurse, clinical trainer or other allied health care professional. Whoever you choose needs to be skilled and regularly conducting a range of clinical skills with patients.

While the DMP's role is to oversee the 90 hours and ensure you spend time with a range of prescribers, in most cases the CS will be the person with whom you undertake the bulk of your 20 clinical skills hours. Thus, your CS must be willing and able to spend protected time with you offering supervision, guidance and review on your ability to perform these clinical skills, until you are confident and competent to perform them.