

Clinically Enhanced Pharmacist Independent Prescribing (CEPIP)

Information Sheet for Managers

The aim of this information sheet is to help managers of students undertaking the Clinically Enhanced Pharmacist Independent Prescribing understand the implications associated with it.

Background

In March 2018 we were awarded the HEE LaSE contract to provide a Clinically Enhanced Prescribing Programme (CEPiP) for hospital and mental health pharmacists. This programme has been created by adapting our existing Independent / Supplementary Prescribing Programme and adding a specially designed **clinical health and assessment diagnostics** module.

The CEPiP programme at Medway is an 8 month, principally distance-learning programme that leads to the award of a full postgraduate certificate (PGCert) with 60 academic credits at level 7. Successful completion of the programme gives the student the legal rights to prescribe. Pharmacists will have the same legal prescribing rights as that of doctors. For this reason, the programme is accredited by the GPhC. It is consequently very exacting and requires a significant level of commitment from the applicant and support from the employer.

Programme composition

Students are required to attend nine study days at the university. The programme has two starting points per year in September and April. The programme consists of two courses of study. Each course has associated assessment. Assessments are: three written assignments, formative numeracy and BNF self-assessments. A 40 minute practical assessment of prescribing practice (PAPP) exam, a 6 station OSCE and a comprehensive portfolio detailing the placement experience throughout the programme.

Employer support

Students will need support from you to undertake the study days, the placement days and additional days for their personal study. They will not be successful unless they are awarded dedicated study time. Students who rely on evenings, weekends and holidays to study are usually unsuccessful.

| Description | Amount of time |
|---|---|
| Mandatory University Study Days | 9 days |
| Placement Days/ Clinical Placement Days | 15 days (110 hours – 78 placement for prescribing element of course, 20 dedicated clinical skills hours and 12 overlap hours of using clinical skills where appropriate in placement hours) |
| Study leave | 18 days (minimum of 10 days) |
| Total time away from workplace | 42 days (minimum of 34 days) |

Students must undertake at least 15 days (110 hours) on placement, overseen by a Designated Medical Practitioner and Clinical Supervisor. This will mean time spent with other healthcare professionals which might be outside their usual work place. Students must have an additional 18

days study release, which has been agreed by their manager and signed for on their application form. We understand the pressures in releasing staff for study and as a minimum students must have 10 days study leave. The student will ask you as their manager to include within the portfolio that they submit, a form signed by you as evidence that they have been released for this study time. This form is audited by the GPhC. Each student is offered a workplace visit from their named tutor. During the visit the tutor will be asking the student whether they have had a discussion with their manager and started timetabling the required leave. We encourage the student to take responsibility for the discussion with their manager and only in exceptional circumstances do we need to intervene.

Attendance at study days

Students must attend all sessions on all study days. If they miss more than one session, it is unlikely that they will be able to complete their studies with that cohort. There may be a possibility for the student to extend their study period by 'going over 2 cohorts'. This might have implications in terms of their workplace and we will urge the student to discuss this with you.

Juggling work, study and home life

This programme of study is exacting. It represents 60 academic credits. Each academic credit equates to 10 hours of student effort for the average student. That is a lot of work to undertake in 8 months. Whilst the employer will contribute time, students will need to use their own time too. Many students say this programme is the hardest thing they have ever done. We make no apology for this. We are upholding the requirements of the GPhC. No-one would want someone to prescribe for them if they did not have the requisite skills and knowledge. We are used to working with postgraduate students at Medway and will do everything to help each student. It is important however, to recognise that the programme will impact on other areas of their life. We advise students that if they have any other major commitments or are undertaking any other study programme this may not be the best time to consider qualifying as a prescriber.

Cost of the programme

There is a contract in place with Health Education England, London and South East, for the CEPiP programme. However there are additional costs associated with the programme. The programme fees for this contract are currently £2,550.

Things to consider

- Have you made arrangements for the student to be released for the study leave for nine face to face mandatory university days (requires 100% attendance) PLUS 15 placement days PLUS 10-18 protected study days? This will need planning to cover the eight months that they are undertaking the programme of study. Ensure that consideration has been given to the impact on clinical workload during their period of study. The student will need to negotiate time to spend with the local hospital setting, GP practice, pharmacist, registered NMPs etc. to inform their placement visits.
- On completion of this programme of study the student will need to access Continued Professional Development ensuring that they remain competent and meet the standards and competencies that are required by their regulatory body. This will require regular updates and time to attend relevant study sessions.

Successful completion of the programme

In order to pass the programme the student needs to complete all assessments successfully. Sometimes students do not pass assessments on their first attempt and in some instances there are opportunities for a second attempt before the end of the cohort. The university permits the examination board to award resits in certain circumstances. If the student needed to undertake a resit they may be required to extend their study period over two cohorts (i.e. it would take an additional period of time to complete). In rare cases students fail the programme.

On a more positive note

This information sheet may seem somewhat negative. We have found that students are often struggling to secure the required study time and by explaining this to their managers from the outset we are hopeful that this issue might improve overall. We have qualified some excellent practitioners and have many on our existing prescribing cohorts. It is important that you have a realistic idea of what the programme entails so that the student can tackle any potential barriers before they commence this training. We hope this sheet has been helpful.

Prescribing Programme Team**Medway School of Pharmacy**