

Prescribing Supervision for DPP Development

Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) Pathway

Already a DPP? Intending to be a DPP? Am I eligible?

I have been approached to be a DPP to support a
Foundation Trainee Pharmacist (FTP)

I am already a DPP or intending to become a DPP, and have been approached by a registered pharmacist or other healthcare practitioner to support a
Post-graduate Independent Prescriber/Non-Medical Prescriber learner

Foundation Trainee Pharmacist (FTP)

DPP Requirements:

Read the new [Prescribing Supervision & Assessment guidance](#) and
[Designated Supervisor Requirements 2025-26](#)

Step 1: What skills and attributes do I need to become a DPP?

- Are you qualified as an [Independent Prescriber \(IP\)](#)?
- Are you an active prescriber? Map yourself against the [RPS DPP Competency framework](#)
- What are your learning needs? Do you have experience of [supervising others in training](#)
- Have you discussed your DPP role and support needs with your employer/ line manager?

Step 2a: I have the IP qualification, actively prescribe and have the skills and attributes to become a DPP - What else should I consider?

1. How will my professional practice support the trainee IP?
2. Which university are they using for their IP course?
3. What are the expectations of a DPP for that course? supervision commitments, supervision models/requirements e.g. direct / delegated responsibilities
4. Explore the application requirements including previous experience required
5. Ask the learner to send you the course application requirements

Step 2b: I have the IP qualification but I am not currently actively prescribing OR I don't yet have all skills and attributes to become a DPP

1. Once gaps in learning needs are identified explore options to meet those needs
2. Explore options to return to prescribing practice, to enhance your active prescribing role and prescribing confidence
3. Discuss with your employer about how your prescribing skills can benefit the organisation and their patients - see CPPE [Return to Prescribing](#)

Step 3: See Other Resources

- [DPP Preparation online modules](#) - open access to 8 online modules for any eligible professional either intending to become a DPP or for existing DPPs
- [DPP Training for Pharmacists](#) supervising learners in **community pharmacy**
- [RPS Designated Prescribing Practitioner Competency Framework](#)
- [RPS Prescriber Competency Framework](#)
- [CPPE Prescribing Gateway](#) <https://www.cppe.ac.uk/gateway/prescribing>

- [SCRIPT Safer Prescribing modules](#) national e-learning programme; safe and effective prescribing and medicines management. for anyone involved in prescribing and administration of medicines, including non-medical and independent prescribers.
- [CliniSkills Community pharmacists' clinical examination and consultation skills](#); enhance the skills in assessing, treating, and managing common health problems. Online gateway module - history taking and identification of serious conditions, and optional clinical modules: **dermatology, cardiology, paediatrics, and ear, nose and throat.**
- [Becoming a Designated Prescribing Practitioner](#) webpages for DPP/those working towards DPP

DPP Shared Supervision models; Post-registration Prescribing Practice Assessor (PA) or Practice Supervisor (PS)

Responsibilities of the organisation for DPP

- Create an environment in which they can facilitate learning.
- Provide the necessary resource and support for the DPP.
- Provide practice-based learning to ensure that appropriate governance structures to support safe prescribing practice are in place.
- Ensure continuity, if a DPP leaves or is absent for a significant period, agree provision of an alternative DPP to ensure IP completes.

Responsibilities of the DPP

- Attending tripartite meetings with the academic institution assigned tutor and the IP trainee.
- Supporting IP trainee to plan a learning programme to meet learning outcomes and objectives of their course, including time with other experienced prescribers of the multidisciplinary team.
- Providing opportunities for the trainee to observe how they conduct a consultation with patients and/or carers and development of a subsequent management plan
- Supervising the IP trainee leading consultations, clinical management and prescribing options.
- Facilitating learning by encouraging critical thinking, and reflection and providing the trainee with constructive feedback.
- Assessing and verifying that, by the end of the course, the IP trainee is competent to assume the prescribing role.

Criteria for acting as a DPP

- Registered healthcare professional in Great Britain or Northern Ireland with legal IP rights (this includes medical prescribers and annotated IPs).
- An active prescriber with recent prescribing experience* – NB: you may be asked by HEI to demonstrate years' experience as a Non-Medical Prescriber (NMP) or Independent Prescriber (IP); these terms may be used interchangeably.
- Meet competencies within Section 1 of Royal Pharmaceutical Society Competency Framework for DPPs before starting the role.
- Assess the IP trainee's skills including consultation, communication, physical examination, and clinical reasoning.

A flexible example of DPP time commitment – shared supervision

NB: as the DPP, you may NOT be required to directly supervise ALL the 90 hours of learning in practice, but you MUST have a reasonable oversight, as at the end of the course you will need to confirm this has been met. **Refer to chosen academic institution for details of the number of direct hours of supervision required**

10-30 hours

In practice time with the DPP

Trainee observing the DPPs clinics, DPP observing consultations and clinical assessment skills of the trainee, debriefing time after trainee has completed consultations independently etc.

2-4 hours

Additional time with supervisor

Meetings, portfolio review etc

40-60 hours

Multidisciplinary team within scope of practice

Attending ward rounds, specialist clinics, patient home visits with secondary care consultant, GP, specialist nurse prescriber, pharmacist prescriber etc.

2-4 hours

Additional time with PA or PS

Agreed prescribing activities with other supervisors, under oversight of DPP

*Supervision for pharmacist independent prescriber training | Health Education England

Supervisor Requirements – Foundation Trainee Pharmacists

For independent prescribers (IP) who are considering becoming a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) to support a Foundation Trainee Pharmacist through their prescribing training, or for DPPs who have been approached to act as supervisor

Designated Supervisor

The DS must additionally meet the core specification

Regulator requirement

- Registered as a pharmacist in Great Britain/Northern Ireland for a **minimum of 3 years** and meet the Standards for Pharmacy Professionals set by the GPhC
- Satisfies the assessment requirements if under investigation by the GPhC (have no sanctions or conditions on GPhC registration and no current fitness to practice issues).

Knowledge

- Understands and is up to date with pharmacist foundation training and GPhC learning outcomes

Experience

- Currently practicing and has relevant experience in sector of practice in which they wish to supervise.

Supervision

- The GPhC require that each foundation trainee pharmacist has a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP), in addition to their Designated Supervisor. The DPP and DS can be same person, as long as they meet the person specification requirements for both roles and must meet the core supervisor specification in

Core Supervisor person specification

The core person specification applies to both a DS and DPP

Description	Essential
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Has undertaken Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Programme Orientation training required for their role
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Undertakes appropriate Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training according to mandated requirements of the organisation/employers.Ensures familiarity with the process of escalating concerns about a trainee, and, where appropriate, engages with this process.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Demonstrates the ability to effectively communicate, establish and maintain working relationships to collaborate with others including trainee and educational stakeholders (e.g. multi-professionals, other supervisors, educational leads)
Skills/ experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">During the supervisory period, can competently assess, monitor and sign-off the trainees' skills, knowledge, understanding and behaviours against the required GPhC learning outcomes and NHSE WTE foundation trainee pharmacist assessment strategyAble to provide effective feedback to trainee.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Is able to set and maintain appropriate boundaries.
Behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Understands the role of a supervisor as a positive role model and mentor to the trainee in providing professional support and guidance.
Training	<p>The supervisor has undertaken and maintained the currency of relevant training in supervision which includes understanding and applying the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The role of the supervisorEducational theories that support effective learningMethods to ensure effective learning and adapt these to meet trainee needsAssessment and monitoringApproaches that meet the needs of trainees that require additional supportEffective feedback

Designated Prescribing Practitioner

Someone fulfilling DS role only does not need to meet these requirements

Regulator requirement

- Registered healthcare professional in Great Britain /Northern Ireland who is an independent prescriber
- Good standing with their professional regulator (have no sanctions or conditions on their registration and no current fitness to practice issues).

Experience

- Practises in line with the Competency Framework for All Prescribers.
- An active prescriber in a patient-facing role, with appropriate knowledge and experience relevant to the trainee's nominated prescribing area.

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 needs².

Supervision of hours

- The DPP **is not** required to directly supervise the trainee for the entirety of their **prescribing development time** (of at least 90 hours), but they must ensure that appropriate clinical supervision is in place, from an appropriate supervisor at all times, to protect patient safety, and that the foundation trainee pharmacist is undertaking a suitable range of activities the develop and demonstrate their prescribing capability.

Further information :

- [Designated Supervisor Requirements Foundation Trainee Pharmacist 2025/26](#)
- [Prescribing Supervision and Assessment in the Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Programme from 2025/26](#)

Slides adapted from above resources available by Gill Risby and Alison Sampson NEY School of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation. March 2024.

Nominated Prescribing Area: The foundation trainee pharmacist needs to have a 'nominated prescribing area' in which to complete **some** of the Prescribing Assessment Activities, specifically those that require a prescribing consultation with decision making to be demonstrated.

This **will not limit the future scope of practice** for the foundation trainee pharmacist; a pharmacist prescriber can develop **and widen their scope of practice** when registered, supporting this with **effective CPD**. See full information [here](#).