

Clinical Consultation, Assessment and Diagnosis (CCAD)

Developing your skills

Are you an independent prescriber (IP) or are you thinking about training to become an independent prescriber? Do you need to develop your physical assessment and consultation skills? Would you like to enhance your ability to manage patients in your care? Learn how to structure a consultation; use advanced clinical assessment skills; develop your diagnostic methods; know when to refer to a specialist team.

This new 20 credit module is part of the Medway School of Pharmacy (MSoP) suite of short courses which helps prepare students for the independent/supplementary prescribing programme or can be taken once students have completed their IP qualification. It is open to pharmacists, nurses, paramedics, dietitians, radiographers and physiotherapists. It is especially relevant for community and primary care pharmacists who would like to access the content of the clinically enhanced module that we have available for hospital, mental health and community trust pharmacists on the Clinically Enhanced Prescribing programme.

Our aim is to develop the students' existing communication and consultation skills to improve the non-medical prescribing consultation. We will introduce the principals involved in conducting a physical examination for those patients for whom the student will be able to prescribe. The students will be given training and practical experience in diagnostics and health assessment, aligned to the NHS Advanced Practice Pathway.

On completion the students will have:

- A systematic understanding of how to structure a consultation, embedding the principles of concordance in order to obtain a comprehensive medical history using documentation to facilitate decision making whilst recognising limitations.
- The ability to use advanced clinical assessment skills to respond to a variety of frequently met clinical situations, multiple pathologies or complex medical needs, guided by consultation and diagnostic methods designed to establish reliable identification of clinical presentations and therapeutic options.
- A comprehensive understanding of the physiology, pathophysiology, natural history and progression of disease states and co-morbidities which will underpin management of patient care in practice.

Learning and teaching

The module will be delivered by a combination of distance learning and interactive study day sessions which will include critical reading of key papers, analysis of case studies, reflective learning through construction of a portfolio of activities to include critical evaluation of client/patient interactions. Clinical skills will be taught using a hands-on approach so that students have adequate time to perfect the clinical assessment skills and consolidate and reflect on their learning in placement.

Students will have a series of practical sessions with supporting material to enable understanding and practice of the required clinical skills.

Draft Study Day Outline

Clinical Teaching Days					
Day	SD1 1 st week	SD2 1 st week	SD3 1 st week	SD4 2 nd week	SD5 1 month later
AM	Introduction, Consultation styles, skills	Practice OSCE Resus, Sepsis	Practice OSCE ENT	Practice OSCE Dermatology	Practical skills practice, questions, revision. Reflective diary feedback
PM	Consultation demo, Basic Obs Practical	MSK Neuro	Respiratory	Mental Health	Practice OSCEs Discussion, planning for final assessment, close.
Independent learning	Homework on moodle	Homework on moodle	Homework on moodle	Homework on moodle	

Study Days

Cohorts run in January and April each year. For dates of the next cohort access the MSoP website <https://www.msp.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/supp-independent-prescribing/preparing-for-prescribing.html>

Placement

Students will need to complete a period of learning in practice equivalent to 25 hours. In which they work with health care practitioners trained in clinical skills to ensure they get experience of undertaking these assessments in practice. They will be asked to maintain a reflective diary (RD) which charts their progress on the course and in particular will capture their reflections on their placement experience. They will submit their RD at the midway point of their course for feedback and again prior to sitting the final course assessment.

Assessment

Assessment is included in the cost of the module and consists of a six station OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination). The assessment day is outwith the 5 study days. Five OSCE stations will test the student's ability to undertake a consultation/ carry out a particular clinical assessment using simulated and standardised patients. A sixth station will relate to an entry in their portfolio. Successful completion of the assessment leads to the award of 10 academic credits at master's level (Level 7).

Course fees

The cost of the course is £1200.

Note: Funding is available for Health Education London and South East based pharmacists working in hospital, community, mental health who have undertaken the standard independent prescribing programme (through any university).