

# HEE LaSE Pharmacy Fact Sheet: Independent Prescribing & Advanced Assessment Skills Courses

This fact sheet has been created to help pharmacists within trusts across London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex, understand the different types of independent prescribing and complementary advanced assessment skills courses available, and how to decide which course is best for individual staff members.

## Independent Prescribing Courses

There are two types of independent prescribing courses available within the region, the standard independent prescribing qualification (IP) and the clinically enhanced pharmacist independent prescriber qualification (CEPIP). CEPIP is currently commissioned by HEE LaSE Pharmacy for pharmacists employed by NHS Trusts across London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex, and is provided by Kings College London and Medway School of Pharmacy.

### What is CEPIP?

CEPIP incorporates independent prescribing and advanced assessment skills courses within one qualification. It offers pharmacists the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills, attributes and behaviours of an independent prescriber, whilst also developing advanced skills to confidently and competently manage patients with health assessment, diagnostic and clinical examination skills comparable with that of an Advanced Clinical Practitioner.

*NB: To become an Advanced Clinical Practitioner, the pharmacist will need to complete the Advanced Clinical Practitioner Qualification. The CEPIP can be contribute to this qualification via a process called RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning).*

### What are the requirements of CEPIP?

CEPIP is a 9-month course that requires:

- 9-10 days face to face teaching (time out of practice)<sup>1</sup>
- 16-17 days of e-learning (flexible delivery - please refer to individual courses)<sup>1</sup>
- 110 hours (equivalent of 15 days) of protected supervised practice time – split between prescribing and assessment skills supervision, see individual courses.<sup>1</sup>
- 300 hours (equivalent of 40 days) self-directed study time.

### Where can I access CEPIP?

CEPIP is commissioned (funded by) HEE LaSE Pharmacy and provided by Kings College London and Medway School of Pharmacy.

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<sup>1</sup> Time allocated to learning activities and protected supervised practice time are requirements set by the General Pharmaceutical Council for accreditation of Independent Prescribing Courses. Therefore, Pharmacists must attend all scheduled teaching / learning sessions and undertake the hours required in practice. The HEIs will require agreement from the workplace that they support the pharmacist to fulfil these minimum requirements.

### Advantages of CEPIP over standard Independent Prescribing courses?

The CEPIP course offers the opportunity to upskill pharmacists in readiness to take on autonomous roles, such as Advanced Clinical Practitioners, as seen in urgent and emergency care, or those working in integrated care roles where they would be required to assess, diagnose, manage and monitor patients, including prescribing medication.

### What are the requirements of the Independent Prescribing qualification?

Independent prescribing courses vary in delivery method dependent on the awarding university. For all IP courses the minimum requirement includes:

- 25 days of learning activities e.g. learning sets or e-learning<sup>1</sup>
- 90 hours (equivalent of 12 days) of protected supervised practice time.<sup>1</sup>
- Self-directed study time: total amount depends on the academic credits associated with the course e.g. most are 60 credits which equate to 600 hours of effort, so when including the above this indicates that 300 hours (equivalent of 40 days) self-directed study time is required in addition to the learning activities and protected study time.
- The course can be delivered over a period of 3 to 12 months.

### Where can I access IP?

HEE LaSE Pharmacy do not currently commission the stand-alone Independent Prescribing qualification within the region. Therefore, pharmacists will be required to self-fund with local providers.

### When would you choose Independent Prescribing over CEPIP?

The standard independent prescribing qualification would be useful for pharmacists working within a specific area of practice where the use of advanced assessment skills would not be utilised or required on a regular basis e.g. providing a specialist cancer service.

## Advanced Assessment Skills

### What is Advanced Assessment Skills?

Designed to enable experienced practitioners to acquire additional systematic and structured history taking assessment and physical examination skills, to integrate advanced assessment findings into clinical decision making. The course includes:

- conducting an appropriate physical examination and use of clinical reasoning skills to formulate and /or refine a differential diagnosis of the ENT, eye, lymphatic, respiratory, peripheral vascular, cardiac, abdominal, musculoskeletal and neurological systems.
- identify clinical indications that warrant further assessment and/or appropriate onward referral
- mental health assessment; including drug and alcohol usage, mental state and behaviour examination, risk and capacity assessments and brief ADL assessment

### Who is the target audience?

The advanced assessment course should be considered by pharmacists already qualified as independent prescribers who require further training to confidently diagnose and work autonomously.

### What are the requirements?

The advanced assessment skills courses vary in requirement dependent on the academic credits associated with the course and the chosen delivery method by the awarding university. Most courses are 20-40 credits representing 200 – 400 hours of effort respectively. This will be delivered by a mixture of:

- Face to face teaching / simulation training e.g. 8 to 18 days
- E-learning materials
- Required Supervised Practice time, and evidence within a work place portfolio
- Self-directed study time
- The course can be delivered over a period of 3 to 6 months.

### Where can I access an Advanced Assessment Skills course?

HEE LaSE Pharmacy is currently commissioning places with universities providing the course that have availability. Advanced assessment skills courses are very popular across professions and they become oversubscribed quickly.

HEE LaSE Pharmacy will inform trusts of available spaces and they will be allocated by the university on a first served basis. Some universities will have limits on the numbers of pharmacists they accept onto a course to ensure the cohort is multi-professional.

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