

HEE Pharmacy Funding Webinar Midlands and East of England FAQ Report



FAQs

Early year careers

When do we need to tell HEE that we need places for Sept 2020 Diploma at University Herts and Jan 2021 entry for Aston Psych Certificate?

HEE are aware of requests submitted from demand scoping which took place in Autumn. Commissions will be confirmed shortly (this is managed separately for each region). Commissioning letters have gone out confirming these commissions for the June cohort. HEE will be demand scoping shortly for 2021/22 places. The question arose from Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust, and have responded to demand scoping.

Can provisionally registered pharmacists undertake diplomas?

From a foundation perspective, access to PG Diplomas and PG provision for individuals who are provisionally registered will require the HEIs to amend the programme entry will be considered some point in the near future. Employers should inform provisionally registered pharmacists that funding will only be available for those who are either (1) provisionally registered (2) fully registered.

Given the drive as a result of COVID to pursue virtual meetings / teaching, is there scope for funding diplomas that have traditionally provided distance-based learning e.g. De Montfort? A question from East of England

East of England will be supporting in-region provision as a priority. if surplus funding available we may consider out of region programmes, however a move to credit-based PG provision is our preferred option. In the Midlands, funding for diploma provision is unchanged for 20/21, whilst scoping begins to understand the foundation offering with next steps.

Do you know when the UEA pharmacy diploma is offering modules instead of the full course?

The provision at UEA to provide access to PG education as modules to be accessed according to service need is in place for the next cohort from January 2021. The aim is this enables access to a wide cohort of learners.

What is happening with funding for here and now diploma funding as applications open for September?

Across the East of England employers have been allocated commissioned credits for post-graduate study which they can use for stand-alone modules (UEA currently) or towards PG Cert/PG Dip. It is up to the employers how they choose to allocate these credits within their organisation. Credits must be used by 31st March 2020. The provision for 2021/22 will be determined as part of HEEs funding settlement and there is no continuing funding into 21/22 for the current cohort of learners

The Midlands engagement with provision accessible through Keele and DMU remains in the current format, as part of a different contracting process. This also applies to the Psychiatric Therapeutics PgCert delivered by Aston. Cert at Aston).

Will focus on remote courses be higher?

Most HEIs are preparing for a range of scenarios including need for social distancing and remote learning opportunities.

A concern that certain STPs may not be mature enough to cope with foundation training?

It is recognised there are different levels of maturity. The creation of the regional people board (meeting in the last week of July) and collaboration of support between NHSE/I and HEE will financially support and guide STP's to develop maturity of capacity and capability; however this will take time.

Independent Prescribing

Will Non-Medical Prescribers course be funded? Will there be any training funding for independent prescribing this year (2020)?

The Independent Prescribing Course (historically referred to as V900) is not HEE commissioned across the East of England and Midlands. Access is often funded via STP's and CCG's. We would advise approaching local systems and note that recently NHSE&I has given funding for Continuous Professional Development, thereby releasing funding capacity elsewhere for courses such as this. Please note, the HEE website refers to Pharmacy Integration IFund providing access, this is for learners enrolled on specific pathways. For example, Primary Care, Integrated Urgent Care etc.

Pharmacy Technician

Will there be more than one 'approved' provider following the Apprenticeship framework procurement process for initial education and training for Pharmacy Technicians?

The awards for provision are made on the basis of a procurement exercise run by Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust procurement hub working with employers and HEE. The awards are made on a national and regional basis. Providers are able to use other providers however HEE have evaluated the providers and determined the award list as follows (in no particular order):

National: Bradford College, Buttercups, Skills4Pharmacy, Highbury College

Regional: Birmingham Metropolitan College, Walsall College, West Suffolk College, University of East Anglia (UEA).

Employers will have been notified of commissioned salary contribution but will need to commission their own apprenticeship places for the education component.

For Pre-Registration Pharmacy Training funding, can we use this for February cohort if available rather than September start?

PRPT/ Preregistration Trainee Pharmacy Technician, information likely to be available on websites once outcomes of procurement confirmed.

For Pre-Registration Pharmacy Training eligibility to access the new apprenticeship, candidates holding degrees may not be eligible for funding, where do we stand with this?

Degree holders are available to access funding as long as there is substantial new learning. Some may need to be considered on a case by case basis.

Is there any update around plans for review of salary support for pre-reg technicians?

Salary confirmation has been via commissioning letters, for the regions where this is in place

We have been told that if it is a science related degree then this would not attract Levy funding?

This should not be the case. For example, Physics and Pharmacy are different and therefore should be able to receive Levy funding.

Pre registration Pharmacists

Is there any further clarity on future funding of pre-reg pharmacists, following the announcement last year which was then rapidly withdrawn?

The HEE education funding reform programme is a national programme of work which includes a review of salary support across learners, including pre-registration pharmacists. The 2021/22 cohort will continue with the current salary support model (recruitment is underway). The wider education funding reform work is on-going.

When and Who are the commission letters coming out?

Commissioning letters are due week commencing 8 June. East of England commissioning letters have all been issued with exception of any additional PTPT demand. In the Midlands, commissioning letters have been sent out previously and final confirmations are due shortly for PTPT.

Why can we only request PGDip funding from providers in East of England?

Separate budgets for the Midlands and East of England. Look at demand - only purchase East of England modules

Demand exceeded budget; we need to protect East of England providers to ensure viability of programmes. Aston PG Cert/Dip an exception as specific MH provision that is not delivered in-region.

If the Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Training are in eligible for the levy, what would be the cost for them to fund individually?

If a place for a PT is not able to be funded from inside one organisation it is possible to share levy with another organisation and design a rotational programme of development, this is something to consider. If this is not possible, there are courses available from a number of providers and the costs vary. We would recommend approximately 5,000.

We need to be able to move away from CPD funding shackled to particular geographic providers to be able to obtain from the most appropriate provider for the trust and the pharmacist?

PG provision for Pharmacy is not protected in most of the country hence the availability of this budget is an exception. Wider CPD and WDF is available which may be less restrictive, and employers are welcome to use this to fund pharmacy CPD if it offers more flexibility.

Need to understand what placements with academia and providers looks like post COVID as we will not be able to have 20 students on a ward? (for example)

A review has taken place with regard to the placement provision. We are working closely with HEI. Trusts and NHSE/I colleagues to support HEI in providing the placement capacity required to ensure students progress in line with their expectations and workforce needs.

Do we have any idea when the online General Pharmaceutical Council registration assessment [amended working to be more accurate] will be? Have heard both January and April...?

We are awaiting further guidance from General Pharmaceutical Council, the details will be shared on through the regulator's communication channels.

<https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/standards/guidance/questions-and-answers-coronavirus>

If trainees have to extend their training periods due to shielding/isolation/sickness will HEE fund extension salary contributions?

Over recent weeks HEE have been working with employers and education providers to identify the demand for extensions, this is currently informing internal decisions. The aim is for a transparent approach across professions and across regions.

Where does mental health and other specialist trusts sit in terms of academic placements? These are well established in acute trusts but less so in others.

We are looking at placements across entire systems and would like to engage with all providers for placements.

If clinical pharmacists are being trained for GP roles, will PCN's be recruiting foundation pharmacists or will this training be delivered through community/hospital foundation training?

The NHS Long Term Plan creates a vision to develop a workforce to work across sectors. Currently, pharmacists recruited under DES are supported via CPPE's Primary Care Pathway Programme.

Is there any HEE support proposed for provisionally registered pharmacists who have not secured employment as they are unable to practice as locums?

These concerns have been fed into work that is ongoing at the national level for Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme.

The PTPT pilot across sectors: Can I clarify that going forward this will be the direction of travel? Also, with funding, is there likely going to be change and how that is split or do we expect it to remain the same?

Its early days at the moment and the ongoing funding model is yet to be determined PTPT funding from HEE will allow us to potentially offer some Primary Care PTPT places this year. The pilot will identify some opportunities which we will look to explore. The programme is in the initial months, and therefore the details of the next phase and the funding model is yet to be determined.