

Initial education and training of pharmacists (IETP) reform

Implementation for 2025/26

February 2024

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1. IETP reform: key facts





IETP reform: Key facts (1)

- The 2025/26 Foundation Training Year is the first year where:
 - NHS England will take on delegated responsibility from the GPhC as the Statutory Education Body (SEB) for the quality management of all foundation trainee pharmacists in England
 - The **full** new learning outcomes (incorporating independent prescribing) will be used
- **All trainee pharmacists must be recruited through Oriel/NRS for 2025/26**
 - Oriel/NRS is key element of quality management of training sites
 - There will be no approval of training sites outside of this process (by NHS England or GPhC)
 - No eligibility or mechanism for payment outside of this process
- The training site must be able to provide access to:
 - A Designated Supervisor
 - A Designated Prescribing Practitioner
 - A Prescribing Learning Environment



IETP reform – Key facts (2)

- Trainee continues to be employed by the training-post provider
 - General Practice/Primary Care (including Health and Justice) now classified as patient-facing training settings (GPhC requirement for minimum of 26 weeks in a patient-facing setting)
- Harmonisation of funding for training sites across all sectors for 2025/26
 - £26,500 per training post
 - A contribution to all costs of hosting a trainee, including supervision, administration and salary costs
 - Additionally, all sites will have access to an NHS England-funded training offer
 - [FAQs available online](#)
- All trainees graduating against the new learning outcomes will have to be assessed against the new learning outcomes including independent prescribing during the foundation year
 - *Some graduates entering foundation training in 2025/26 will not have graduated against the new learning outcomes. These graduates will not be able to be an independent prescriber at first registration*



2. Oriel/National Recruitment Scheme (NRS) Terms of Participation for 2025/26





Oriel ToP for 2025/26 – Training site requirements

- **Any organisation can be the employer of the foundation trainee pharmacist** (as long as all other requirements for provision of the learning environment are met)
- **A minimum of 26 weeks of this must be completed in a ‘patient-facing setting’** which must be within one or more of the following:
 - Community Pharmacy (NOT distance selling pharmacy)
 - NHS Managed Sector (e.g. NHS Acute Trust, NHS Mental Health Trust)
 - General Practice/Primary Care, including Health and Justice
 - Other Private, Independent and Voluntary Organisation employers where provision includes patient-facing care that is commissioned by the NHS
- The Training Plan must include access to a setting with a dispensary that is supervised by a GPhC registrant, for example:
 - Community pharmacy
 - NHS Managed Sector Pharmacy (e.g. Acute or Mental Health Trust with an on-site pharmacy dispensary)
 - Health and Justice with an on-site pharmacy dispensary
 - **This cannot be a dispensary in a General Practice that is not a registered pharmacy**

See [Foundation Pharmacist Training Site Requirements for 2025/26](#) on the [IETP 2025/26 site](#) and [ORIEL/NRS Terms of Participation](#)



Oriel ToP for 2025/26 – Supervision and Assessment

- Employers confirm that, in accordance with the GPhC requirements, the trainee will have access to a:
 - Designated Supervisor
 - Prescribing learning setting
 - Designated Prescribing Practitioner
- All training sites must use the NHS England Assessment Strategy and E-portfolio and engage with the NHS England Quality Framework
 - This will include assessment activities that relate to prescribing
- DPPs and DSs will work within a GPhC-approved NHS England supervision strategy aligned to the NHS England Quality Framework
 - The principles for prescribing supervision and assessment are set out in the NHS England [Prescribing Supervision and Assessment in the Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Programme from 2025/26](#)
 - The principles for Designated Supervisor provision are set out in the NHS England [Designated Supervisor Requirements for the 2025/26 Foundation Training Programme](#). These include guidance about the number of trainees a DS can supervise and the training plan that needs to be in place to ensure quality and patient safety
 - These documents can be found on the [IETP 2025/26 site](#).



Oriel ToP for 2025/26 – Recruitment

- All applicants will be recruited in accordance with the nationally agreed person specification and Professional Attributes Framework
- Employers will accept the applicants allocated to them subject to standard pre-employment checks
- **This includes applicants who require less than full time working and those requiring completion of training according to the GPhC interim Learning Outcomes (for example OSPAP students)**
- The Scheme does not allow Employers to select their applicants. Applicants will be offered programmes based on their preference and rank following the selection process, and Employers will accept the applicants allocated to them



Oriel ToP for 2025/26 – Multi-sector

- A **multi-sector rotation** is defined as a 13-week or longer rotation into another sector of practice
- The recognised sectors of practice are:
 - NHS Managed Sector – including NHS Acute Trusts, NHS Mental Health Trusts
 - Community Pharmacy
 - General Practice/Primary Care (and Health and Justice)
- Where a multi-sector rotation is included, we require one lead Employer to be identified
- For programmes including multi-sector rotations:
 - All training sites must be located within a ‘reasonable’ geographic distance to the base site
 - Information about travel arrangements for rotations should be provided, such as availability (or lack) of transport links including public transport
 - It cannot be a requirement that a trainee has a car

Multi-sector rotations **will not be mandatory** for the 2025/26 foundation training year. They will be mandatory from 2026/27 onwards.



3. Funding package for 2025/26





Funding package for 2025/26

In the 2025/26 training year, NHS England is taking on new responsibilities, delegated by the GPhC, for the quality management of all foundation training sites, and **all foundation training sites will be required to meet the same quality standards.**

As a result, to support provision of an equitable offer to all trainees, we are harmonising the funding available to all foundation training sites hosting a foundation trainee pharmacist.

The level of funding for each site employing a foundation trainee pharmacist in the 2025/26 training year will be £26,500 per foundation trainee pharmacist.

This funding will be:

- Consistent across all sectors of practice and all regions of England
- A contribution to all costs of hosting a trainee, including supervision, administration and salary costs

In addition, we will provide access to a consistent, funded training offer which will be available to all foundation trainee pharmacists across all sectors and regions.



Funding package for 2025/26 – FAQs

Can I use some of the £26,500 funding to pay a placement fee to another site to provide a multi-sector rotation or access to a prescribing environment / Designated Prescribing Practitioner?

Yes, it is intended that a portion of the funding you receive can be used to pay another site to host your foundation training pharmacist on a rotation.

For example, you could use £1,000 to £1,500 of the funding you receive to pay another site as a placement fee to support supervision during a rotation of up to 13 weeks.

If I have arranged a reciprocal multi-sector rotation with another training site (where two trainees are exchanged between training sites), do I need to pay the other site?

No, it is intended that if two separate training sites (each employing a foundation trainee pharmacist) agree to multi-sector rotations between those two sites – with foundation trainee pharmacists effectively being exchanged between sites (e.g. for a 13-week rotation) – each training site retains the full funding amount.

With this model of reciprocal placements, it is not intended that any funding is ‘paid on’ to the rotational site.

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[More FAQs available online](#)



4. Planning foundation training posts for 2025/26



Designated Prescribing Practitioner – Key facts

- The principles for prescribing supervision and assessment are set out in the NHS England [Prescribing Supervision and Assessment in the Foundation Trainee Pharmacist Programme from 2025/26](#) on the [IETP 2025/26 site](#) (subject to accreditation by the GPhC)
- Includes Supervisor Person Specifications (for DPP and DS):
 - Core person specification
 - Additional DPP person specification
 - Additional DS person specification
- The DPP can be:
 - the same person as the Designated Supervisor (DS) or
 - a separate person who works in conjunction with the DS
- The DPP does not have to be based in the primary training site that the trainee pharmacist is employed in
- The DPP needs to have oversight of 90 hours of learning, but does not have to directly supervise all of it – can delegate

The DPP experience requirement is described qualitatively:

- An active prescriber in a patient-facing role, with appropriate knowledge and experience relevant to the trainee's **nominated prescribing area**.
- Practises in line with the Competency Framework for All Prescribers.
- 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 needs
- Does not have to meet the '3 years' experience' element of the RPS DPP competency framework

Prescribing Assessment in 2025/26

- Nominated Prescribing Area
 - Agreed by the DPP and Designated Supervisor
 - Appropriate (in terms of complexity/acuity) to the stage of training of a foundation trainee pharmacist
 - A clinical area relating to the provision of healthcare (i.e. it cannot be a non-healthcare area such as aesthetics)
 - A nominated prescribing area that the DPP is sufficiently knowledgeable, skilled, and experienced to supervise within
 - An area within which the foundation trainee pharmacist is able to access patients (under effective supervision) with whom that they can conduct consultations (and complete the prescribing assessment activities with)

Activity	Description
1.History Taking	Takes and documents an appropriate medical, psychosocial and medication history including allergies and intolerances.
2.Physical and clinical examination skills	Performs and documents appropriate physical and clinical examinations to decide the most appropriate course of action for the person.
3.Prescribing consultation	Undertake a prescribing consultation that incorporates: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Assess the patient2. Identify treatment options3. Shared decision4. Prescribing decision (which can include modification or deprescribing)5. Provide information and safety netting6. Record, Monitor and review
4.Prescription writing	Safely prescribes (or deprescribes) medicines for a patient whilst considering: application of relevant legislation and ethical decision-making related to prescribing; use of relevant systems and frameworks for medicines use; clinical governance; using tools and techniques to avoid medication errors associated with prescribing
5.Log of 90 hours	Accurately documents learning hours attributable to development as a prescriber in practice.

Timeline for recruitment for 2025/26

Date	Activity	Notes
January 2024-March 2024	Training sites entered into Oriel/NRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MUST:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree to terms of participation – agree that will provide access to DPP and prescribing learning environment• Identify where a rotational site is if a multi-sector rotation is being included• DO NOT NEED TO IDENTIFY:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who the DPP is• Where the prescribing environment is
June 2024-October 2024	Application and Preferencing	Applicants apply to the NRS and create their preferences; a list of sites in which they wish to train
September 2024-October 2024	Assessments	Applicants undertake their recruitment assessment activity
December 2024	Allocation	Employers informed of trainees allocated to their training programmes and begin contacting them
Jul/Aug 2025	Trainee starts	



5. Next steps





Next Steps

NHS England

- GPhC Accreditation – to take on delegated responsibility
- Publication of:
 - Revised Assessment Strategy
 - Training materials for DPPs and DSs
 - Details of consistent NHSE-funded training offer
 - Designated Supervisor requirements for 2025/26

Employers/ foundation training sites

- Plan number of foundation training posts
- Develop relationships for multi-sector rotations
 - Supporting access to DPP and prescribing setting
- Develop prescribing services and existing prescribers
- Prepare training sites for submission into Oriel/NRS between Jan-Mar 2024

NHS England Regional Contacts

For advice and information about planning foundation trainee pharmacist places

Region	Foundation Training Lead	Contact email
North West	Stephen Doherty	england.WTEpharmacy.nw@nhs.net
North East Yorkshire and Humber	Alison Sampson	england.WTEpharmacy.ney@nhs.net
Midlands	Sejal Gohil	england.foundationpharmacy.midlands@nhs.net england.WTEpharmacy.mids@nhs.net
East of England	Nkiruka Umaru	england.WTEpharmacy.eoe@nhs.net
South West	Sarah Crawshaw	sarah.crawshaw1@nhs.net england.WTEpharmacy.sw@nhs.net
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London	Rachel Stretch	england.WTEpharmacy.london@nhs.net



Find out more and get in touch

To receive news by email about the initial education and training of pharmacists, please complete this form: <https://healtheducationyh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/register-for-ietp-updates>

Engage with the Assessment Strategy and E-portfolio: www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/pharmacy/trainee-pharmacist-foundation-year-programme

Bookmark the NRS/Oriel site: www.lasepharmacy.hee.nhs.uk/national-recruitment/

Email address: england.traineepharmacist@nhs.net