

East of England Teach and Treat project – FAQs for community pharmacists

What is the Teach and Treat project?

NHS England have provided funding to the Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) in the East of England to pilot a 'Teach & Treat' project. The aim is to provide community pharmacists with the opportunity to train as Independent Prescribers (IPs), and ultimately provide a future pipeline of IP supervision.

The East of England Teach & Treat project will pilot a hub-and-spoke model, with one centralised (regional) Teach and Treat hub, and six Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) spokes, one in each ICS across the region. The central hub will provide coordination for the project, provide IP learner & DPP support, and deliver additional learning opportunities for IP trainees to complement the university prescribing course.

Why should I apply?

If you want to train as an IP, this is an opportunity to take part in a project that will provide you with a DPP plus additional, quality assured, IP training & support – at no additional cost to yourself.

Am I eligible to apply?

The eligibility criteria are:

- **Intention to Enrol:** You must be able to start a GPhC-accredited IP training programme **in September 2025**
- **C&P Practice:** You must work as a community pharmacist within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area for at least three days per week.
- **Employer Support:** Your employer must provide necessary support for your training, including appropriate cover during your absence (no backfill costs will be covered)

You would also need to agree to becoming a future DPP after completion of your IP course (and subsequent consolidation of prescribing practice).

What will each DPP spoke do?

Each DPP spoke will provide DPP supervision for two community pharmacists for the duration of their prescribing course.

Where will the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough DPP spoke be located?

Peterborough, PE7. The DPP supervision will be provided as a mix of face-to-face and virtual support.

What will the central hub do?

We will provide a total of 24 hours of learning in practice (delivered by University of East Anglia [UEA]), which can be counted towards the 90 hours required by each IP trainee. This learning will cover:

- Management and communication of clinical information
- Consultation Skills
- Physical assessment of patients

Please note, **this would require you to attend three face-to-face study days**, which we will aim to be in a central location within the East of England (venue & dates TBC). These are likely to run on Sundays (to facilitate attendance).

We will also set up a 'community of practice' for pharmacists taking part in this project, which will provide an opportunity to link with others in the region.

What scopes of practice could I choose from?

We have worked with University of East Anglia and University of Hertfordshire to produce three potential scopes of practice:

- Primary hypertension
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus
- Menopause

NB – DPP spokes have been given the opportunity to select which of the above scopes they would like to deliver; therefore, the choice may be limited in some ICSs; **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are only able to offer primary hypertension & type 2 diabetes mellitus.**

Which universities could I choose from, & what are the IP course learning requirements?

We plan to work with **two universities, University of East Anglia and University of Hertfordshire**, so if you are successful, you'll need to be **willing to attend the IP course at one of these universities.**

All IP courses usually last 6 months, and necessitate a minimum of 26 days of formal teaching and learning activities. Additionally, you will be required to complete at least 12 days (90 hours) of supervised practice-based learning under the guidance of a DPP.

Who funds the university IP courses?

NHS England fund IP courses for community pharmacists. For more information, including details of the courses at University of East Anglia and University of Hertfordshire, see: [LINK](#).

Is there anything else I need to pay for?

You will **not** need to pay to be part of the Teach & Treat project; your DPP and central hub support/teaching will be provided without a cost to yourself.

Please note, we are **not** able to cover backfill costs, so you will need your employer's support before applying. We are also unable to reimburse travel costs.

If selected, what will be expected in return?

As this is a pilot project, we need to collect information to evaluate the outcomes. You will therefore be asked to participate in an evaluation to share your thoughts & experiences. This may take the form of questionnaires or short online interviews/focus groups.

How can I apply?

If interested, please complete the online expression of interest (EOI) form by **midnight on 15 July 2025**: Link to EOI form: <https://forms.office.com/e/kzVyPUcmmw> or use the QR code below:



How will you decide who is successful?

We will apply scoring criteria to determine who is successful. We are aiming to shortlist as soon as the EOI closes, so you should hear back from us the week commencing 21st July 2025.

Who can I contact for more information?

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