**Information for Prospective Designated Prescribing Practitioners**

**Independent Prescribing Pharmacists**

**University of Leeds**

*You have been asked to act as a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) by a pharmacist intending to undertake the Independent Prescribing course at the University of Leeds. This document is designed to address any questions or concerns you might have about becoming a DPP.*

*If you have any questions that are not answered below, please do not hesitate to contact the module lead:*

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**What is a Designated Prescribing Practitioner?**

A Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) is a healthcare professional who is annotated as a prescriber with their professional registration body. A DPP directs and supervises a trainee non-medical prescriber (also called independent prescriber) during a period of learning in practice. This is a required element of non-medical prescribing (NMP) courses. DPPs will also be responsible for assessing whether the learning outcomes have been met and whether the pharmacist has acquired the necessary competencies.

While there are a number of Independent and Supplementary Prescribing courses offered by Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) in the United Kingdom, all courses will differ slightly in terms of teaching and assessment requirements. If you have been a DPP for a pharmacist undertaking the course at another HEI, it is important that you know what the requirements are in terms of training and supervision for students at the University of Leeds.

**What qualifications do I need to become a DPP?**

The criteria to act as a DPP are as follows:

* is qualified as an Independent Prescriber
* have 3 years prescribing experience
* have active prescribing competence applicable to area in which they will supervise the trainee prescriber
* have appropriate patient-facing clinical and diagnostic skills and the ability to assess these skills

The prospective DPP can confirm that they:

* have supported or supervised healthcare professionals and have undertaken supervisor training (*information will be required up on trainee application*)

**or**

* are new to the role of Designated Prescribing Practitioner and have undertaken Health Education England’s Education and Clinical Supervisor module ( https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/educational-and-clinical-supervisors/)

**What training and experience do pharmacists need to have before they can undertake the Independent Prescribing module at the University of Leeds?**

Pharmacists must have at least two years appropriate patient-oriented experience in a United Kingdom hospital, community or primary care setting following registration and they have up-to-date clinical, pharmacological and pharmaceutical knowledge relevant to their intended area of prescribing practice.

**How is the Independent Prescribing course at the University of Leeds structured?**

Pharmacists are required to complete 26 days as part of the course. They must attend for 8 of face-to-face teaching sessions and engage with online learning materials for the remaining 18 days.

She/he will also complete 12 days (7.5 hour days) (equivalent to 90 hours) of *Supervised Learning in Practice* over the duration of the course.

Those who start the course in September can expect to complete in April. Those who start the course in January can expect to complete in August. Some pharmacists choose to undertake an accelerated form of the course and complete within three months. While it is challenging to complete the course in this shortened timeframe, it is possible for a student to do this with the right support and mentorship both from the University and their workplace.

The Independent Prescribing course was originally devised by the Department of Health (DOH) in collaboration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and later with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). The module meets the GPhC proficiencies for the preparation of pharmacist prescribers in terms of programme curricula, content, length, mode of delivery, supervision in practice and assessment strategies.

**What is involved in *Supervised Learning in Practice*?**

Pharmacists are required to undertake a period of supervised learning in practice that covers a total of 12 days (7.5 hour days) (equivalent to 90 hours).

The trainee pharmacist prescriber will be supervised by you, the DPP. You need to agree to provide supervision, support and shadowing opportunities for the student and be familiar with the requirements of the course

You as the DPP are not required to directly supervise all of the hours detailed above, however, you must be satisfied with the level of knowledge and experience of any prescriber that will supervise the student. Following completion of the Supervised Learning in Practice, you as the DPP will be signing your trainee off as a competent non-medical prescriber. Therefore, we recommend you supervise at least 50% of the practice hours. We do not support supervision of students by doctors in Foundation Years 1 or 2.

There is no financial reward from the University of Leeds for being a DPP.

**What is my role in supervising the non-medical prescriber?**

As the DPP, you have a crucial role in educating and assessing non-medical prescribers. This involves:

* Establishing a Learning Contract with the trainee
* Planning a learning programme which will provide the opportunity for the trainee to meet their learning objectives and gain competency in prescribing
* Facilitating learning by encouraging critical thinking and reflection
* Providing dedicated time and opportunities for the trainee to observe how you as DPP conducts a consultation / interview with patients and / or carers and the development of a management plan
* Conducting a Midway Progress Review with the trainee pharmacist prescriber
* Allowing opportunities for the trainee to carry out consultations and suggest clinical management and prescribing options, which are then discussed with you the DPP
* Helping ensure that the trainee integrates theory with practice
* Taking opportunities to allow in-depth discussion and analysis of clinical management using a random case analysis approach, when patient care and prescribing behaviour can be examined further
* Assessing and verifying that, by the end of the course, the trainee is competent to assume the prescribing role

**What qualifies as supervised learning practice?**

The supervised learning practice may include or be based upon some of the following:

* Joint review of a role profile/job analysis to identify areas of existing work where prescribing competencies can be developed and to identify areas where additional experience will be required.
* Periods when the pharmacist observes you conducting assessments, consultations, monitoring and prescribing, normally in areas which are related to the medical conditions and circumstances in which the pharmacist is likely to work. During this time there should be sufficient time to discuss each case and it is important that you not only examine the clinical skills you demonstrated but the other knowledge, skills and attitudes you brought to bear on the process, for example the detection of non-verbal cues, hidden agendas and the value of intuition.
* Periods when the pharmacist conducts assessments, consultations, monitoring and prescribing, under your direct supervision. Direct supervision should be accompanied by reflection; for example ask questions such as “how did you know when to…? Could you explain why…”
* Periods when the pharmacist conducts assessments, consultations, monitoring and prescribing, normally in areas which are related to the medical conditions and circumstances in which the student is likely to work and prescribe, without your direct supervision but with specific opportunities to seek advice to clarify or confirm decisions made. This is also a good opportunity to review any evidence claimed by the student.

It is important that the emphasis is on patient management and use of diagnostic equipment in the area of practice selected by you and the student.

**What supports do the University offer to me if I agree to become a DPP?**
A comprehensive handbook containing information on the course structure and content, requirements for supervised learning in practice and your responsibilities as a DPP will be provided to you, through your trainee, at the outset of the course. You are also invited to attend a 2-hour induction and course overview session delivered to the new intake of non-medical prescribing students and their DPPs. This will take place at the University of Leeds on the first day of the course, either in September or January. You can also access online training materials to supplement the information provided to DPPs during the induction session. DPPs will also have the opportunity to attend ‘Educational Supervision in the Workplace’ sessions which include:

* Pharmacy education supervisors training: essentials for all who support pre and post registration pharmacists and technicians in the workplace
* Developing learning and teaching in the workplace
* Supervising and assessing your trainee in the workplace
* Monitoring progress and supporting trainees who require additional support

Please note places on this course are subject to funding approval.

*Thank you for taking the time to read through this document. We hope that you will be happy to act as DPP for a pharmacist undertaking the Independent Prescribing course at the University of Leeds. Experience has shown that student progress is directly linked to the amount of time invested in their clinical supervision by their DPP. It is a role that is highly valued by students and the course leads alike and is vital for the future development of the healthcare workforce.*