

Funding for Pharmacy Technician Upskilling: Expression of Interest

Dear Contractor

As the world of community pharmacy evolves, having a capable and skilled workforce is now more crucial than ever. Using the skill mix of the whole pharmacy team will help community pharmacies to adapt to increasing demand for clinical interventions and patient-facing consultations.

Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire has secured a modest amount of funding to support the development of the pharmacy technician workforce in community pharmacies in Lincolnshire.

This funding will be used to support some of the costs of releasing pharmacy technicians to complete an approved development programme. This can be used to arrange appropriate cover while they undertake some elements of the training, for example through the use of locum pharmacy technicians or additional hours for other staff, up to a maximum of 21 hours at £20 per hour (£420).

Background:

The vision for community pharmacy published on 19th September 2023 predicts that by 2030, community pharmacy will provide an even greater patient-centred approach to care and services, with pharmacists making maximum use of their clinical skills. Pharmacy technicians will lead medicines management processes, both in technical roles focused on the safe and efficient supply of medicines, and in patient-facing roles to support patients' use of medicines. It is also proposed that there are changes in the law to allow pharmacy technicians to deliver some services to patients via Patient Group Directives (PGDs), expanding on the supporting roles they have in service delivery such as hypertension case-finding and vaccination.

To support this, it is acknowledged that many pharmacy technicians in community pharmacy will wish to grow their skills and knowledge so that community pharmacy can fully utilise the skill mix within pharmacy teams.

What is the funding for?

The fund will enable pharmacy contractors to release their frontline staff to take part in the “**Community pharmacy technician: advancing your role**” programme. There is no cost for the course itself, as this is funded through NHS Workforce, Training and Education (formerly known as Health Education England). More details can be found on CPPE's website here:

<https://www.cppe.ac.uk/career/pt-ayr/pt-advancing#topMenu>

Initially, this funding is only being offered to independent contractors in Lincolnshire. The window for Expressions of Interest for independent contractors will close on Monday 15th April, and after this time places will be offered more widely within the Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire contractor network.

The CPPE “Community pharmacy technician: advancing your role” programme aims to develop the knowledge, clinical skills and behaviours of pharmacy technicians working in community pharmacy to increase patient access to clinical services by widening the skills mix in community pharmacy.

The programme consists of approximately 4 months of self-directed learning at 4-6 hours per week, one compulsory face-to-face, full-day clinical assessment skills workshop, one two-hour mandatory reflective practice evening online workshop, a self-directed log of clinical skills, and workplace-based sign-off of clinical assessment skills. Learning needs are self-assessed, supported by an education supervisor.

Whilst we recognize the vast majority of learning will still need to be completed in the employee's own time, providing funding to replace employees that need to attend training during the working day will facilitate participation and completion.

The programme requires that students:

- are a community pharmacy technician.
- have access to a pharmacist or other health care professional in practice who is able to observe and sign off your clinical assessment skills in practice.
- will provide the postcode of their place of work.
- agree to attend one of the mandatory Clinical assessment skills face-to-face workshops and one online peer reflection workshop to guarantee their place and gain access to the e-course.

Please note that places on the CPPE programme are limited, and Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire cannot guarantee acceptance.

How will the funding be allocated and accessed?

Places will be initially offered on a first come, first served basis to contractors applying for funding who meet the criteria outlined below:

- Employ a registered pharmacy technician who agrees to sign up for and complete the CPPE [Community pharmacy technician: advancing your role programme](#)
- Provide the name, contact details and registration number of the technician.
- Provide the name, contact details and registration number of the pharmacist or other health professional in practice who agrees to observe and sign-off the student's clinical skills in practice
- Both the contractor and the pharmacy technician will need to sign the Memorandum of Understanding shown [here](#), to confirm they understand their responsibilities when accessing the funding.

Funding will be provided as follows, with submission of the required evidence:

- An initial payment of £100, paid upon receipt of a signed of the MOU **and** confirmation of signing up for the relevant CPPE workshops.
- A second payment of £160, paid on receipt of proof of attendance at a face-to-face Clinical Assessment workshop **and** an online peer reflection workshop.
- A final payment of £160, paid upon proof of completion of the course within nine months of registration.

To note, the dates for the most local clinical assessment skills (CAS) workshops are shown below and a full list can be accessed here under programme dates: <https://www.cppe.ac.uk/career/pt-ayr/pt-advancing#topMenu>

Students need to agree to attend both the CAS and peer reflection workshops to enrol on the Community pharmacy technician: advancing your role programme. Students will choose the dates that work best for them. More dates will be released in due course for further cohorts of this programme.

Please note that these are part of CPPE's national programme, and Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire cannot influence or amend these dates.

The Clinical Assessment Skills workshops are held nationally, and run from 10.00am to 4.30pm. Those we consider most local accessible for contractors in Lincolnshire are:

- Tuesday 11th June – Manchester
- Tuesday 18th June – Nottingham
- Monday 24th June – Birmingham
- Thursday 27th June – London
- Tuesday 2nd July – Milton Keynes
- Wednesday 10th July – Leeds

The Peer Reflection workshops are held online and run from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Current planned dates for these are:

- Wednesday 1st May 2024
- Wednesday 22nd May 2024
- Tuesday 25th June 2024
- Tuesday 9th July 2024

Optional online monthly peer support sessions will run from 12.30pm-1.30pm on selected dates for the duration of the programme. The planned dates for these sessions are:

- Wednesday 3rd April
- Wednesday 17th April
- Wednesday 8th May
- Tuesday 21st May
- Wednesday 19th June
- Thursday 27th June
- Thursday 4th July
- Thursday 18th July

If you wish to register your interest in receiving this funding support please complete the Microsoft form

[here](#): including details of the employed pharmacy technician who will be completing the programme.

Initially, this funding is only being offered to independent contractors in Lincolnshire. The window for Expressions of Interest for independent contractors will close on Monday 15th April, and after this time places will be offered more widely within the Community Pharmacy Lincolnshire contractor network. Please note that completion of your expression of interest does not imply, nor guarantee that funding will be provided to you.