

# **NHS England Workforce, Training & Education (WT&E) Advanced Practice Webinar: Frequently asked questions (FAQs)**

The following FAQs were developed from questions posed at the Advanced Practice Training Opportunities for Pharmacists webinar hosted by NHS England Workforce Training and Education (WT&E) London Faculty of Advanced Practice and Pharmacy London. The webinar was held online on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The focus of the webinar was Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ACP) training opportunities available for pharmacists including access, course requirements, funding available, as well as case studies on the benefits of the ACP course from existing pharmacists who have completed ACP training.

A recording of the webinar and the slides presented are available on the Pharmacy London website [here](#).

## Questions asked during the webinar

The following FAQs are in response to questions asked by participants in the webinar chat forum. Before reading these, we would advise watching the webinar for questions answered verbally during the webinar, reading the webinar slides and/or reading the London Region Advanced Practice Handbook frequently asked questions which is available [here](#).

### 1. Advanced practice

#### What is the difference between an ACP and Advanced Pharmacist?

- A useful overview on the differences between an advanced clinical practitioner and advanced pharmacist is described in [section 2.3 of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society \(RPS\) Core Advanced Pharmacist Curriculum](#). The diagram below is from the curriculum.

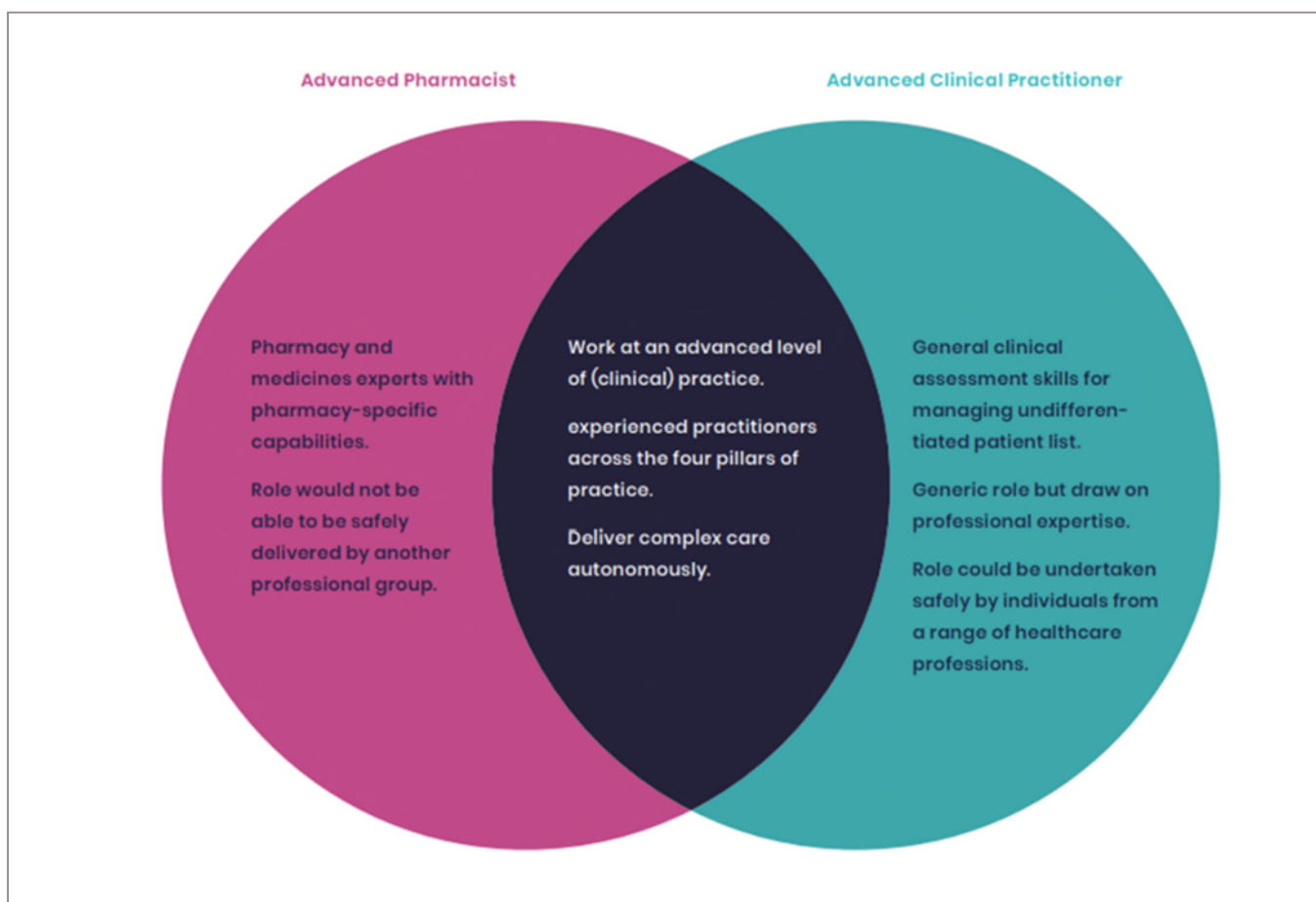


Diagram Source: Royal Pharmaceutical Society Core-Advanced Pharmacist Curriculum

### 2. Funding

#### What advanced practice training route does NHS England WT&E fund supervision for?

Pharmacy London, NHS England WT&E Advanced Practice Webinar Frequently asked questions.

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- The supervision fee is paid to trainees on the NHS England WT&E funded Advanced Practice MSc and Apprenticeship MSc route only.
- NHS England WT&E does not provide supervision funding for the Advanced Practice e-portfolio route. This is because applicants applying for the supported e-portfolio route should already be working at Advanced Practice level and the supervision requirement for this differs from a trainee.

### **Does the employer receive funding support for the Advanced Practice e-portfolio route?**

- There is no cost to the employer for the e-portfolio route as access to the training is funded by NHS England WT&E.
- Please see the Employer advice in the London Advanced Practice Programme Handbook available [here](#).

## **3. Registration & application process**

### **When should the application process begin?**

- Applicants working in NHS Trusts should contact their organisation Advanced Practice leads as soon as possible to give them enough time to be prepared.
- Applicants working in primary care should contact their Advanced Practice Lead or Training hub for advice on application process.
- Advice on application process can also be sought from the London Faculty for Advancing Practice, see contact details in the handbook and under [Further information](#) below.

### **How should a learner register or express interest in the e-portfolio route?**

- Completing an expression of interest will enable the Centre for Advancing Practice to gauge training requirements and interest in this training offer to inform advanced practice planning.
- Guidance regarding the e-portfolio route is available under the [Further information](#) section and in the advanced practice handbook.
- Once interest is submitted, the national team can be contacted for an update on timelines for access to this training route by email [england.advancedpractice@nhs.net](mailto:england.advancedpractice@nhs.net).
- Completing an expression of interest does not mean a learner is registered for the course.

## **4. Course requirements**

### **If the independent prescribing (IP) qualification has been completed, is there an exemption from the year 2 non-medical prescriber (NMP) module or would there be a replacement module?**

- It is not a requirement to repeat independent prescribing training if a learner has already completed this training.
- If the IP course has been completed, the advanced practice course can still be undertaken without the IP module.
- The IP course credits may be used towards a different module (known as accreditation or recognition of prior learning, APEL or RPEL)
- Applicants will need to contact individual universities directly for advice on their APEL/RPEL process for this. The decision for this is dependent on the individual university.
- Once the application has been submitted, the university may ask for the certificate of completion or a transcript to be assessed for recognition of this learning. The London Advanced Practice faculty can support and guide learners through this process.

**Is it a requirement to be able to differentially diagnose before applying or will the course support learners to build these skills?**

- No, the applicant would not need to feel competent in providing differential diagnoses.
- It is good to have an awareness of differential diagnoses, but the course will build and develop these skills alongside the learner's workplace and supervision.
- It is essential that learners have a solid clinical foundation to build on within the area they wish to do their MSc e.g. cardiology.

**Is it a requirement to be a specialist in the area to undertake the portfolio and the masters?**

- It is recommended that a learner has a minimum of five years post-registration experience.
- It is also recommended that a learner has two years in the speciality they wish to train in for advanced clinical practitioner training.
- Details on course entry requirements are available through the individual universities.
- NHS England WT&E funding application requirements and process are outlined in the London Advanced Practice Programme Handbook available [here](#).

## 5. Supervision

**What is the supervision requirement for advanced practice training?**

- It is a requirement for the applicant to have a named co-ordinating supervisor.
- There may be a number of associate supervisors that may support the applicant for different areas of a practitioners practice.
- The co-ordinating supervisor must be an advanced practitioner or medical doctor.
- When the co-ordinating supervisor is a medical doctor they must be a Registrar or above. <https://advanced-practice.hee.nhs.uk/workplace-supervision-for-advanced-clinical-practice-2/>

- In addition to the above requirements, individual universities may have other specific requirements as part of their programme. Learners should check requirements with the individual universities.
- The requirements for supervisors for NHS England funded training can be found in the NHS England WT&E supervision documents, see under the [Further information](#) section and in London Advanced Practice Programme Handbook available [here](#).

**How would a learner find a supervisor within a community pharmacy setting and is there any support for community pharmacists?**

- All pharmacists should consider how they develop their professional networks within and outside of their organisation and how these can support supervision of training.
- Community pharmacists could also contact their ICB (Integrated Care Board), training hub or other local professional networks for advice and support with finding a supervisor.
- Further advice on finding a supervisor can also be sought from the London faculty.

## 6. Training pathways & credentialling

**Where does ACP fit in terms of the workforce and within the other NHS England WT&E (formerly HEE) funded offers available for post-registration pharmacists?**

- ACP is just one route to support advanced practice development for multiprofessionals including pharmacists. It is a specific training route to support individuals working within an ACP role.
- Another route is through the RPS Pharmacist Core Advanced practice credentialling for pharmacists moving from early careers to advanced pharmacist practice.
- The route taken is very individual and will depend on an individual's career direction, experience and training to date, job role, organisational support, and individual professional development requirements.
- See the webinar recording and slides for case studies of how the webinar speakers have used ACP training for their own professional development and the benefits this has brought for their professional practice and careers.
- For further information on post-registration pharmacist funded training, see the [Pharmacy London website](#).

**Whilst doing the CPPE primary care pathway (PCPEP), is it advised to complete the pathway before applying for the ACP course? Is the CPPE pathway a requirement for ACP?**

- Completion of the PCPEP pathway is not a requirement to access the ACP course.
- However, it is recommended that learners have a minimum of five years post-registration experience with two years in the speciality they wish to train for advanced clinical practitioner funded training.

- Details on course entry requirements are available through the individual universities.
- NHS England WT&E funding application requirements and process are outlined in the London Advanced Practice Programme Handbook available [here](#).

### **What are the differences in accreditation between the RPS and Centre for Advancing Practice training routes?**

- Those who are already working at advanced practice level and who complete the advanced practice supported e-portfolio route with [NHS England Centre for Advancing Practice](#) will be awarded both the NHS England Centre for Advancing Practice digital badge and RPS advanced practice recognition.
- The e-portfolio route is only available to those already working at an advanced practice level.
- If the applicant is not already working at an advanced practice level, they will need to successfully complete the Advanced Practice MSc to receive the NHS England Centre for Advancing Practice digital badge. This route does not include the RPS advanced practice recognition.
- Currently pharmacists who are credentialed against the RPS Core Advanced practice framework do not automatically gain dual accreditation from the Centre for Advancing Practice. This may change in the future as the frameworks have been benchmarked.
- Further queries and support regarding this can be found on the websites under [Further information](#) section below and from the London region faculty.

### **Is it a requirement to have an AP badge before becoming a consultant pharmacist?**

- No, this is not a requirement of the RPS Consultant Pharmacist credentialing pathway.
- If the applicant is planning to work towards the RPS consultant pharmacist accreditation through Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS), this can currently only be done through the RPS Core Advanced practice credentialing process.
- Further advice should be sought from the RPS and is available on their website [here](#).
- Further information is available on the NHS England Centre for Advancing Practice website [here](#).

### **Does the UCL Advanced Pharmacy Practice Masters map across to the Multiprofessional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice?**

- This course is not currently accredited by NHS England Centre for Advancing Practice.
- All generic advanced practice (AP) masters will need to go through the accreditation process first, then after this specialist routes will be eligible to go through in the London region.
- Not all courses may become accredited as it is the choice of the University if they decide to apply for NHS England accreditation or not.
- There is currently one pharmacy specific course that has been accredited which is at [University of Bath](#).

## 7. Job role

**For those who have qualified as an ACP from a secondary care background, does the job role as a trainee ACP sit with pharmacy or another department or team?**

- Although some job roles may be funded by the pharmacy department or organisation, time will be spent with the wider clinical teams to be able to learn on the job.
- In some cases the initial training role may be funded by one department, but the ACP job role may be funded by another team or directorate. An example provided by one of the speakers was that the training funding was supported by the pharmacy dept through HEE, but on qualifying as an ACP, the job role was funded by the acute medicine team.

**If the employer does not have any roles available and does not find the role to be essential is there any support available to do the course?**

- Unfortunately, NHS England WT&E funding is only available where there is a workforce need which has been identified.
- It may be advisable to look for trainee ACP positions, work with an employer to see if a business case can be made, such as collecting data to see where an ACP may be beneficial to meet the population need.

## Further information

**Where can I find more information on advanced practice training offers for pharmacy?**

Further information is available through the following websites:

1. London Region Advanced Practice Faculty: <https://advanced-practice.hee.nhs.uk/regional-faculties-for-advancing-practice/regional-faculty-for-advancing-practice-london/>
2. Centre for Advancing Practice: <https://advanced-practice.hee.nhs.uk/>
3. Pharmacy London: <https://www.lasepharmacy.hee.nhs.uk/pharmacists/advanced-practice/>
4. E-Portfolio Advanced Practice Route:
  - Centre for Advancing Practice: <https://advanced-practice.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/eportfolio-route/>

- RPS: <https://www.rpharms.com/development/credentialing/core-advanced-pharmacist-curriculum/collaboration-between-rps-nhse-wt-e-centre-for-advancing-practice-and-cppe>

### **Need further advice?**

All the information regarding funded training opportunities available, application processes, and course requirements is available through the websites and resources listed above.

If you cannot find the advice you need, please send your email enquiry to one of the following:

Advanced Practice London Faculty email [england.acpenquireslondon@nhs.net](mailto:england.acpenquireslondon@nhs.net)

Pharmacy London email [england.wtpharmacy.london@nhs.net](mailto:england.wtpharmacy.london@nhs.net)