

HEE South Funding Advanced Education & Training Programmes for Pharmacy Technicians

Advanced Education and Training Programmes funding

Health Education England (HEE) South are supporting pharmacy technicians to develop their skills and work towards advancing their practice.

Currently pharmacist independent prescribers are able to access funding offered by HEE towards advanced clinical assessment modules offered by Higher Education Institutes.

Funding is now also available for pharmacy technicians who wish to enrol on an education programme that will support their professional development and advance their practice in their current or future roles. Enrolment onto a programme must have been agreed with the applicant's line manager to be eligible for this funding.

Why are HEE supporting pharmacy technicians?

The value of developing members of the existing healthcare workforce is priority for HEE Health and Care Workforce Strategy team.

The pharmacy workforce represents an underutilised resource within the NHS. There is currently untapped potential to improve patient care, reduce pressure on emergency departments and provide better services to patients. By offering members of our existing pharmacy workforce opportunities to develop their skills and competences we can support the multi-professional team in delivering services for patients and the public.

The roles of pharmacy technicians have been developing at pace over recent years, with pharmacy technicians now practicing in advanced clinical medicines optimisation roles, operational management and leadership, education, training and workforce development and emerging primary care roles.

The implementation of qualifications and apprenticeships that meet the new GPhC Initial Education & Training Standards from February 2020, encompassing some of the roles historically considered advanced, provides an opportunity for the pharmacy technician workforce to focus on what advanced practice looks like for the future and to begin investing in the development of those individuals moving into these roles.

Which training courses would be eligible for this funding?

Applications would be welcomed from pharmacy technicians wishing to undertake advanced education and training programmes in areas such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Clinical/Medicines Optimisation
- Technical Services
- Management and Leadership
- Education & Training
- Supervision
- Project Management
- Research and evaluation

What are the benefits of undertaking advanced education and training programmes?

Pharmacy technicians who have completed advanced courses and qualifications have demonstrated that this has led to enhanced pharmacy workforce capability in many areas of pharmacy.

Completion of these courses and qualifications can also support career development and progression towards advanced and senior roles.

Funding Criteria

HEE are offering £2500 per pharmacy technician to access advanced education and training programmes and to contribute towards educational supervision costs.

Funding is therefore limited to £2500 per successful applicant per round of funding.

To secure funding pharmacy technicians must meet the following criteria:

- Provide services to NHS patients
- Work in an acute, mental health or primary care setting. Pharmacy technicians working in a community setting may also apply, provided they have sufficient time in a general practice setting with appropriate educational supervision to achieve the course competencies
- Identified need for training and advanced role
- Confirmation of educational supervision and support for advanced role (see below)
- Agreement from the employer to release and support
- Applicant is liaising with university or education provider regarding a place on a chosen course

Training providers

A number of universities and education providers deliver advanced education and training programmes for pharmacy technicians. Applicants will need to secure a place via the provider's application process.

Educational Supervision

Educational supervision whilst undergoing this training is a key requirement.

Universities will typically specify what local supervision is required.

The Educational Supervisor must be assured of the pharmacy technician's capabilities and be able to give an overview of how the new skills of the individual fit into that particular service.