

**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**INDEPENDENT PRESCRIBING COURSE FOR PHARMACISTS**



**CONTENT, STRUCTURE AND DELIVERY**

Am I eligible to apply for the independent prescribing course?

The GPhC stipulate the course entry requirements, for more information please see: <https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacist-independent-prescriber/entry-requirements>

What is the content of the independent prescribing module? Does it include clinical teaching?

The Clinically Enhanced Pharmacist Independent Prescribing (CEPIP) course is a 60 credit module that can be taken 'stand-alone' or in combination with other Pharmacy Practice modules.

The course content for the CEPIP programme is defined by the GPhC, and the Certificate is accredited by them. The content of the CEPIP module is described on the CEPIP course prospectus.

The GPhC also stipulate the learning outcomes and entry requirements, for more information see <https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacist-independent-prescriber>

There is no clinical content - the course focuses on the skills and behaviours that are required for safe and effective prescribing. You are expected to already have the clinical expertise in your chosen area of practice.

Can I apply for the CEPIP if I have not previously completed a postgraduate Diploma?

It is recommended that all applicants to the CEPIP module have previously undertaken a postgraduate programme, such as a Diploma in Pharmacy Practice. However, consideration will still be given to pharmacists who can demonstrate that they have sufficient clinical expertise in their chosen scope of practice through other means.

	For pharmacists who have not previously completed any post-graduate study and do not have sufficient demonstrable clinical expertise, it is recommended that they undertake the Diploma in Pharmacy Practice at KCL or other academic institutions before applying to the CEPIP module.
How is the course assessed?	Competence to prescribe is assessed by multiple methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portfolio of practice demonstrating prescribing competencies</li> <li>• Work-place based assessment with your DPP or nominated others</li> <li>• Written examination</li> <li>• Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)</li> <li>• Viva-voce review of your portfolio of practice</li> </ul>
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	
Do I need to attend all the taught sessions and assessments?	Attendance at the taught sessions and assessments are compulsory. Exceptions only for mitigating circumstances which will require supporting documentary evidence according to King's College London policy. It is expected that annual leave or holiday will not be taken on these days. Please note that absence on the physical skills teaching is not permitted.
Does my DPP need to attend the training session?	Your DPP must attend an online training session and attendance certificate for the DPP will be issued. An exception will be allowed for DPPs who have recently supervised pharmacists on the King's College London course.
<b>ADMISSIONS AND FEES</b>	
How much is the course?	See the course webpage for current fees
Is funding available?	If you are an NHS employee of an acute NHS trust or mental health trust, there is funding available via Health Education England. For community and practice pharmacists, there is funding available via Health Education England if you meet their criteria (see their webpage for more information). Please check the HEE website for more details: <a href="https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/medicines-optimisation/training-non-medical-prescribers">https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/medicines-optimisation/training-non-medical-prescribers</a>

	<p>It is the student's responsibility to secure funding for the course and there is currently no bursaries awarded or funding available from King's College London. You must ensure that your funding arrangements are clearly stated on the additional information form.</p>
<b>SCOPE OF PRACTICE</b>	
How do I decide on a scope of practice?	<p>Prior to starting the course, you will need to consider the scope of practice within the service that you wish to offer. You will be expected to work within the scope of practice to demonstrate your prescribing competence and to support the development of your portfolio. Your scope of practice needs to be defined in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Group(s) of patients</li> <li>○ Disease state(s) and drugs</li> <li>○ Setting</li> </ul> <p>You are advised to choose no more than three classes of drugs within the scope.</p>
Will the course teach me the clinical knowledge within my scope of practice?	<p>The course does not teach you the clinical and drug specific knowledge within your scope of practice (you are expected to already possess this). The learning objectives focus on the skills and behaviours required to be a prescriber.</p> <p>As part of the course, you will need to demonstrate diagnostic skills, relevant to your scope, for patient assessment as part of the prescribing decision making process and to monitor response to treatment.</p> <p>Remember that initially you will be a novice prescriber, but that your scope of expertise can widen as you gain experience.</p>
What if I do not have a scope of practice?	<p>You will require a scope of practice to apply for the course, and be able to demonstrate the relevant knowledge and skills within that area.</p>

	If you do not have a specialism, then consider your local service and patient needs and how a pharmacist independent prescriber would support these objectives.
After gaining my independent prescriber qualification, can I choose to prescribe outside of my scope of practice?	Legally you are able to prescribe outside of your scope of practice once qualified. However, you will need to consider your competence to do so, including your local non-medical prescribing (NMP) policy, your liability and indemnity insurance cover.
<b>DESIGNATED PRESCRIBING PRACTITIONER</b>	
Who is eligible to be my designated prescribing practitioner to supervise me whilst I undertake this course?	As a result of an update from the GPhC in 2019, supervision of training pharmacist independent prescribers can now be undertaken by a designated prescribing practitioner (DPP) rather than a designated medical practitioner (DPP).  Please see the course webpage for more information on DPP requirements.
How can I find a DPP?	King's College London is unable to help prospective students in finding a DPP. Please note, it is not permitted for the DPP to be closely related to or in an intimate relationship with a student, as the DPP will be professionally involved in assessing the student.
<b>HOW TO APPLY</b>	
If I am self-funding, do I still need the support of my employer?	It is important to have the support of your employer for the course, even if you are paying for it yourself. You will need your employer to provide a reference, and to support your study leave and the 110 hours in practice.  In addition, when you have completed the course, and intend to start as novice pharmacist prescriber, you will need your employers support for the service  If you intend to self-fund, please indication this on the application form.
How do I apply for the course?	You must apply via the KCL admissions portal: <a href="https://apply.kcl.ac.uk/">https://apply.kcl.ac.uk/</a>  Search for the course, and select: "Postgraduate Certificate in Independent Prescribing (Practice Certificate) (Part time)".

	<p>Please note that late application submissions will not be considered.</p>
<p>Where do I upload the “Additional Information” form on the portal</p>	<p>The “Additional Information” form must be uploaded for your application to be considered. All incomplete applications will be rejected by the admissions team and/or cause a delay in offers being made. Complete the application fully, and to the best of your ability, as the course is extremely popular, so there is a competitive application process.</p> <p>All required documentation can be added to the “supporting statement” section and reviewed on the “check and submit” tab.</p> <p>If you have a query about the application process, contact the admissions department via the “contact us” link.</p>