

UK-01

Clinically Enhanced "Fast Track" Non-Medical Prescribing for Pharmacists - 2014-15 Pilot

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From August 2014, Health Education West Midlands launched a pilot programme, blending Pharmacist Non-Medical Prescriber training with clinical health assessment, diagnosis and minor injury / illness training. This UK-first pilot programme has delivered two cohorts – numbering 100 pharmacists in the West Midlands - from primary, secondary and community care. The project aims to provide a foundation clinical training programme, suitable for developing pharmacists to conduct clinical work in an Urgent and Acute setting. The programme is aligned to the advanced practice pathway and aims to prepare pharmacists for extended clinical practice, as a part of the future multi-professional, multi-skilled urgent and acute workforce.

The programme includes a 3-4 month condensed version of the GPhC-accredited Non-Medical Prescribing (NMP) module, alongside additional skills training in diagnostics and the management of minor illnesses and injuries. With Phase 1 of the pilot showing positive initial results and potential for further development, Phase 2 was authorised for a March 2015 commencement.

Phase 2 Deliverables:

- The provider was able to provide / does already provide a GPhC accredited Fast-Track NMP module for Pharmacists, with content as determined by HEWM in Phase 1 of the programme.
- Within the same programme, specific additional clinical training - relating to minor injuries / illness and clinical health assessment - suitable for working within an Urgent and Acute setting will be offered.
- The programme should award a postgraduate certificate (60 credits), reflecting the extended curriculum and providing a suitable background to support further studies for higher awards.
- The entire programme – comprising Fast-Track NMP and clinical skills training – take no longer than 6 months to complete.

Phase 1 Pilot Data:

University of Wolverhampton

Commenced on 21st April and concluded 4th July 2014.

18 students enrolled

Final Pass Rates:

- Fifteen passed at first sitting;
- One passed following an extension for portfolio resubmission;
- Two withdrawals for personal reasons.

Aston University:

Commenced on 1 August 2014 and completed in November 2014.

24 students were enrolled on the course: 20 secondary care-based Pharmacists and 4 community pharmacists.

20 of the students undertook the attached Minor Injuries course.

Feedback for the minor injuries course has been overwhelmingly positive to date and suggests that the course structure may be highly relevant for pharmacists in a wide range of clinical settings.

University of Worcester:

Six Pharmacists elected undertook the Advanced Health Assessment module from 13th June 2014 for four

months.

Following an intensive start to the module where the Pharmacists undertook 'Head to toe Physical Examination Skills,' the Pharmacists proved their ability to adapt to new skills and excelled in their formative Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE).

All of the Pharmacists were assigned Medical Supervisors in practice, who are reported to be supportive and committed developing competency in health assessment.

Health Education West Midlands has received endorsement from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, regional Chief Pharmacist's Network, Health Education England (HEE) Pharmacy Sub-Group and regional / national employers (both in secondary and community care).