Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing

Course Aim
This part-time course has been developed in response to the Government initiative to extend prescribing and prepares pharmacists to meet the standards for independent and supplementary prescribing set by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).

Learning Outcomes
The learning outcomes specified by the GPhC are that by the end of the training course, pharmacists will be able to:

- understand the responsibility that the role of independent prescriber entails, be aware of their own limitations and work within the limits of their professional competence – knowing when and how to refer / consult / seek guidance from another member of the health care team
- develop an effective relationship and communication with patients, carers, other prescribers and members of the health care team
- describe the pathophysiology of the condition being treated and recognise the signs and symptoms of illness, take an accurate history and carry out a relevant clinical assessment where necessary
- use common diagnostic aids e.g. stethoscope, sphygmomanometer,
- able to use diagnostic aids relevant to the condition(s) for which the pharmacist intends to prescribe, including monitoring response to therapy
- apply clinical assessment skills to:
  - inform a working diagnosis
  - formulate a treatment plan
  - the prescribing of one or more medicines if appropriate
  - carry out a checking process to ensure patient safety.
  - monitor response to therapy, review the working/differential diagnosis and modify treatment or refer / consult / seek guidance as appropriate
- demonstrate a shared approach to decision making by assessing patients’ needs for medicines, taking account of their wishes and values and those of their carers when making prescribing decisions
- identify and assess sources of information, advice and decision support and demonstrate how they will use them in patient care taking into account evidence based practice and national/local guidelines where they exist.
- recognise, evaluate and respond to influences on prescribing practice at individual, local and national levels
- prescribe, safely, appropriately and cost effectively
- work within a prescribing partnership
- maintain accurate, effective and timely records and ensure that other prescribers and health care staff are appropriately informed
- demonstrate an understanding of the public health issues related to medicines use
- demonstrate an understanding of the legal, ethical and professional framework for accountability and responsibility in relation to prescribing
- work within clinical governance frameworks that include audit of prescribing practice and personal development
- participate regularly in CPD and maintain a record of their CPD activity

Teaching and Learning
The Course, which requires 26 days of study, is run over 5 weekends in 2015:
6, 7 June; 11, 12 July; 19, 20 September; 17, 18 October; 21, 22 November; with an additional 16 self directed study days.
In addition you are required to undertake 12 days learning in practice.
A variety of teaching methods will be used; to include lectures, seminars, e-learning, workshops, role-play, discussion, reflection and critical incident analysis. In addition students complete a Portfolio, which includes an individual learning contract, a reflective journal, case studies, a record of practice/learning experience and overall achievement.

Each student will have to find a designated medical practitioner (DMP) from his or her own field of practice, who will provide supervision, support and shadowing opportunities for the equivalent time of 12 days, the Period of Learning in Practice. Information on the role of the DMP can be obtained from the Course Secretary.

**Assessment**

Review of Portfolio
Satisfactory completion of Period of Learning in Practice
Final Examination to consist of
- Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
- Multiple choice, short and long answer questions

**Academic Accreditation**
The course is offered at Masters Level 7. On successful completion students will be awarded 60 academic credits and receive the University of Reading Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing.

**Location of teaching**
CIPPET is based within the School of Pharmacy at the University of Reading, Whiteknights campus. Teaching is on the Whiteknights campus, Reading.

**Fees**
Pharmacists within the Thames Valley and Wessex areas of Health Education England wishing to obtain funding for the course need to discuss this with their NHS Trust or CCG Non-medical Prescribing Lead. Pharmacists from other areas should approach their own Health Education area or Employer for support. Please contact the Course Secretary for details of fees.

**Entry Requirements**
All entrants to this education programme must meet the following requirements set by the GPhC:
- be a registered pharmacist with the GPhC or the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI)
- have at least two years appropriate patient-orientated experience in a UK hospital, community or primary care setting following their preregistration year.
- Have identified an area of clinical practice in which to develop their prescribing skills and have up-to-date clinical, pharmacological and pharmaceutical knowledge relevant to their intended area of prescribing practice.
- Demonstrate how they reflect on their own performance and take responsibility for own CPD.

In addition, the DMP, identified by the pharmacist, should have training and experience appropriate to their role. This may be demonstrated by adherence to the Department of Health Guidance (2001). The DMP must have agreed to provide supervision, support and shadowing opportunities for the student. Details of these requirements are available from the course secretary.

**Course Enquiries**
Enquiries about the course should be made to the Course Secretary.
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