

South East Regional Webinar 6th March 2025

Introduction to Advanced Practice for Pharmacists

Answers to questions submitted by attendees

1. E portfolio route

For the portfolio supporter route, do applicants need to be in a full-time post?

Do you need to have an AP job description to do the e-portfolio route?

The ePortfolio (supported) route ***is not a training route*** – It is a route to recognition from the Centre for Advancing Practice, that demonstrates that a practitioner has ***completed a recognised academic route to advanced practice***. It has been designed for those practitioners who have come to AP via modular, non-ACP MSc routes, or who have done a non-accredited ACP MSc (these are usually older programmes from before 2017/18 that will not get ‘legacy accreditation’) or who may have completed an ACP ‘credentialling’ route via their professional body (ie: the RCN or RPS). The details on the criteria and all the info on the ePortfolio (supported) route are on the Centre’s website:

<https://advanced-practice.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/eportfolio-route/>

The brief criteria are:

- Already working in an **advanced practice level role**, across all four pillars of advanced practice
- In a **substantively employed** AP role, for **at least one day a week**, providing NHS services
- Who have a **job plan/description that fully maps to the multi professional framework for advanced practice**
- Can provide a portfolio of evidence to support this (or could provide that in a maximum of 12months)
- Have evidence of the requisite amount of equivalent level 7 study to demonstrate the academic requirement (180 credits) – or can readily demonstrate equivalence within the 1 year period. This should be study that is appropriately current – ie: usually within the last 5 years.

You would also have to have the support and agreement of the AP lead for your organisation or primary care training hub ***and*** your service lead/manager.

Potential candidates for the ePortfolio (supported) route can submit their expression of interest (EOI) via the Centre's webpage – ***anyone wishing to do this should fully read the guidance documents first***, get support from their manager and AP lead and make sure they understand the commitment required for this route.

Is the CPPE route still available?

Those who successfully complete the RPS e-portfolio assessment with CPPE will be credentialed as an advanced pharmacist. This credentialling will mean you will have **recognised equivalence** in level of advanced practice to those who have completed the NHS England ePortfolio (supported) Route or an NHS England accredited advanced practice programme.

The initial pilot of 300 places is now closed. There may be further funding changes later in the year. It is advisable to register interest directly with CPPE.

<https://www.cppe.ac.uk/career/rps-adv-credential>

What are the benefits of having the digital badge?

Digital badges standardise recognition of the quality assurance of advancing practice education, training, and experience.

Further information, including benefits to practitioners, employers and patients is included in the following webpage:

<https://advanced-practice.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/digital-badges/>

2. RPS Credentialing

Will there be specialist advanced for paediatrics?

The RPS is currently developing a framework to articulate our future approach to the collaborative development of future advanced specialist curricula and/or credentials, building on valuable learning gained from working with UKCPA and CMHP on these pioneer joint curricula.

The development of additional curricula defining advanced practice in specific areas of patient-focused pharmacist practice will always be driven and prioritised by patient and service need.

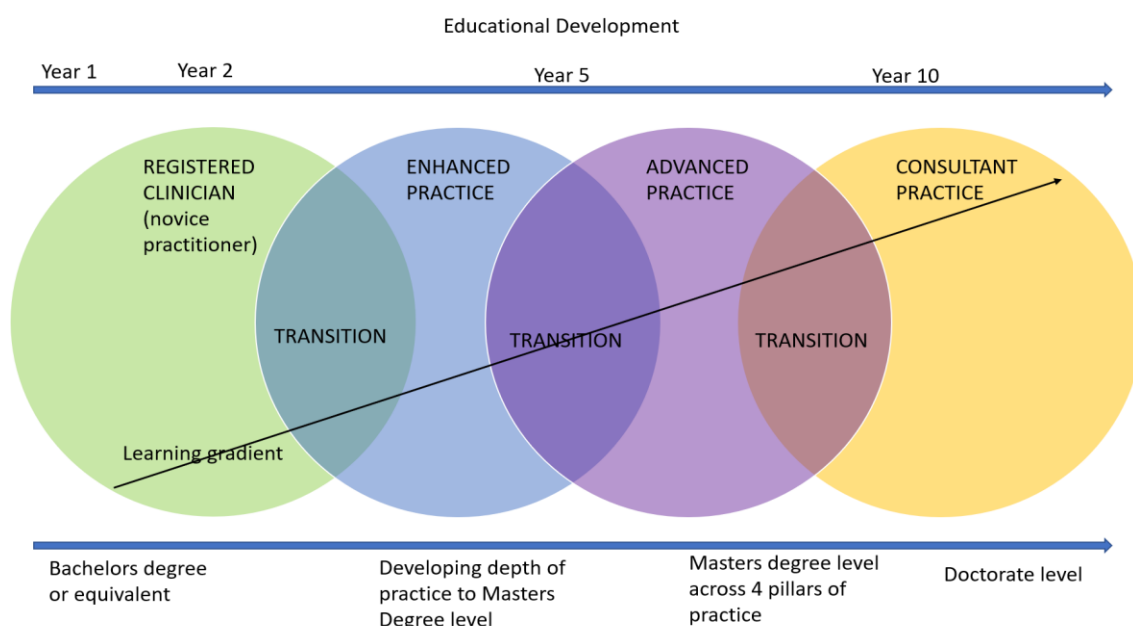
The RPS will be undertaking some work later in the year to produce some guidance for specialist interest groups (SIG) on how to approach supportive guides that are linked to the RPS curricula building on previous work done.

However, at present, there are no plans for a paediatric specialist or other specialist curricula.

Can you become a consultant pharmacist via ACP or AP route?

As described during the webinar, this is a continuum of practice from foundation level to advanced, and then potentially consultant practice.

Not all pharmacists or other health care professionals working at an advanced or enhanced practice level will progress to consultant level, as this also depends on workforce need within your organisation or ICB.



Can you go directly to Advanced Specialist without Core Advanced?

The advanced specialist curricula are supplementary to core advanced.

Achieving the advanced critical care or mental health outcomes in this curriculum **alone** does not confer advanced level practice; these are designed to supplement the core advanced outcomes to assure advanced practice specifically in the critical care or mental health settings.

So, when an individual submits their advanced pharmacist critical care or mental health e-portfolio for assessment, a competence committee will review the portfolio evidence to assess the candidate has met the minimum level of performance to be credentialed. To be credentialed as an advanced pharmacist in critical care or mental health, the candidate will need to meet the standard for all domains of:

- The RPS Core Advanced curriculum

AND

- This critical care or mental health curriculum.

Individuals can submit their advanced pharmacist critical care or mental health e-portfolio for a final assessment when they believe they have compiled sufficient evidence of learning against the outcomes. They can choose to do this at the same time as submitting their evidence for RPS core advanced credentialing, or separately. However, the individual will need to consider the cost implications if submitting separately rather than together.

More details on advanced specialist curricula can be found [here](#)

3. Funding for AP routes

The first steps would be to discuss this with your employer and line manager as this is about wider workforce transformation within your team and organisation.

There is an annual funding window each year (March).

Each sector and geographical area has a different process for considering applications.

If you work in secondary care, applications and possible routes can be discussed with your trust Advanced Practice lead – which will most likely be a nurse or AHP.

If you work in primary care for a practice or PCN and work within Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Buckinghamshire, Oxford, Berkshire West or Frimley : expressions of interest (including job descriptions and supervision plans) are submitted **from employers** via the [Thames Valley and Wessex primary care school](#) before the end of the calendar year. Interviews are held before applications are submitted directly to the Centre for Advancing Practice.

If you work in primary care within Kent, Surrey, or Sussex applications are via your Training Hub and should be discussed directly with the advanced practice lead.

For general queries about advanced practice routes for pharmacists, please contact Clare Thomson, Training Programme Lead for Pharmacy for the SE Region (NHS England):

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