

North School of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation

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1st June 2021

FAO: Chief Pharmacists, Chief Technicians, CCG Leads (for CCG teams and primary care pharmacists), LPCs, Technical Services Managers, Education and Training Leads/networks

Dear Colleagues,

RE: INVITATION FOR BIDS RELATING TO PHARMACY POST-REGISTRATION EDUCATION FUNDING

Development of the pharmacy workforce is recognised as a priority area for transformation within the NHS Long Term Plan. Lord Carter in his first report identified clinical pharmacy, the Hospital Pharmacy Transformation Programme and medicines optimisation as key to enabling change. More recently the NHS England Medicines Value Programme has been set up to improve health outcomes from medicines and ensure we are getting best value.

Accordingly, the strategic plan for the North School of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation demonstrates Health Education England's (HEE) commitment and strategy to support the workforce transformation challenges and NHS People Plan.

The School of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation can now offer some funding for 2021-22 to support post-registration education and training for upskilling pharmacy staff working in NHS organisations/services across the North of England.

The School invite bids for funding, by completion of the survey which can be found [here](#) by **Thursday 24th June 2021 at 23.59.**

HEE North has provided a fixed budget to support bids around workforce transformation investment priorities (NB: for courses not supported by other funding streams):

- o Clinical knowledge and skills development
- o Mental health specialist knowledge
- o Pharmacy technical and quality assurance

Please note: **Due to large demand, we may only be able to offer a contribution towards costs. Funding contributions for one year only will be offered and payable to employers only. Employers MUST arrange to pay for tuition fees directly to the Training Provider and these invoices MUST NOT be sent to Health Education England**

Please see principles and FAQs below. If you have any additional questions please contact medicinesoptimisation.north@hee.nhs.uk

Principles for funding

- Please complete one application form per organisation/department (multiple submissions can be made for different staff groups in an organisation (i.e., clinical staff, tech services).
- Funding for those trainees on programme, entering year 2 will be prioritised; please confirm the named trainee(s) who will progress.
- If the scheme is oversubscribed, HEE will allocate places/ funding on a fair-share basis across the applying organisations.
- **Courses must be paid for directly by your organisation** and the agreed HEE training contribution will only be transferred to organisations via the HEE Learning and Development Agreement payments or by purchase order, **upon receipt of proof of enrolment. Funding will not be paid directly to education providers or individuals.**
- We will consider co-funding arrangements; please state this on the application form.
- Organisations must inform us at the earliest opportunity, where assigned funds cannot be utilised.
- Evidence of course completion will be required, and HEE reserve the right to reclaim monies where funding has not been utilised as stated in the bid.
- **This funding cannot be used where other funding is available** (e.g. HEE commissioned PG Diploma training, independent prescribing, ACP MSCs). If other funding streams are available, you may be directed to access those instead.
- Funding will be provided for named learners only (name substitutions will need to be discussed and may not be approved)
- Funding will not be provided for provisional registrants wishing to undertake a post-graduate clinical diploma (although funding may be requested for a provisional registrant with a start date after their anticipated transition to full registration)
- Funding will not be provided for short courses (e.g. 1 day), conferences, subscriptions, organisation membership fees or non-clinical/technical courses (e.g. leadership courses).

- Funding will not be offered retrospectively (i.e. where courses have commenced and been paid for, where starts are before 1 April 2021)
- Late submissions **will not be accepted**, for this first round.

Organisations will be advised of the outcome of the application by the **15th July 2021**, with further details provided to successful applicants thereafter regarding transfer of funds.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on medicinesoptimisation.north@hee.nhs.uk if you have any questions about this initiative.

Kind regards,

Helen Fawcett, Pharmacy Specialist Education Lead (North East and North Cumbria)
Jane Brown, Pharmacy Specialist Education Lead (North West)
Gill Risby, Pharmacy Specialist Education Lead (Yorkshire and the Humber)

North School of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation
Health Education England
<https://hee.nhs.uk/our-work/medicines-optimisation>

Frequently Asked Questions

Should the application be completed by the individual or an employer?

Applications should be made by a manager on behalf of the individual who required the funding. The individual can support the completion of the application, but it must be submitted by their manager.

Is there a limit of funding per person, per course?

Yes. The maximum funding available for clinical knowledge and skills development (for both mental health and physical health) is £3500 per person, per course for 1 year. The maximum funding available for pharmacy technical and quality assurance development is £6500 per person, per course for 1 year. However due to high demand, a percentage funding may be awarded.

Can funding be used for post-graduate clinical diplomas?

Yes, applications can be made for post-graduate clinical diplomas if there are no funded places available via a local commission. This includes the specialist mental health diploma at Aston University.

Can funding be used for independent prescribing?

No. Across the North of England there is provision for funded independent prescribing courses. More information on NMP can be found on the [HEE website](#) or contact Stephen.doherty@hee.nhs.uk

Can the funding be used for independent prescribing if it is part of a post-graduate clinical diploma?

Yes, however, if the non-medical prescribing requires an additional payment this should be funded by local NMP funding.

Can more than one application be made for the same person?

If an individual wishes to undertake more than one course in this financial year (e.g. 2 short courses) then two applications should be made. Please note that in the event of demand surpassing the available funds additional applications for the same individual will be given lower priority.

Can funds be used to retrospectively reimburse organisations for training that is currently underway?

Applications for training that has already commenced before the start of this financial year **will not** be considered.

Is there a list of potential courses available?

It is up to individuals and their employers to decide on appropriate development requirements. The funds can be used for any course that supports the development of clinical or technical knowledge and skills, where other funding is unavailable.

Can funding be requested without knowledge of the course it will be used for?

No. Specific details of the desired course must be included in the application. A place on the course does not need to have been secured in advance of applying for funding; however, funding will not be released until evidence is provided confirming a place on the specified course.