

Regulatory Requirements for Entry to a Pharmacist Independent Prescribing Programme.

All pharmacists who wish to enrol on an independent prescribing programme must be able to evidence that they meet the General Pharmaceutical Council's entry requirements. The entry requirements for a pharmacist independent prescriber course are that:

- a. Applicants are registered as a pharmacist with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) or, in Northern Ireland, with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI).
- b. Applicants are in good standing with the GPhC and/or PSNI and any other healthcare regulator with which they are registered.
- c. Applicants must have at least two years' appropriate patient-orientated experience post registration, in a relevant UK practice setting.
- d. Applicants have an identified area of clinical or therapeutic practice in which to develop independent prescribing practice. They must also have relevant clinical or therapeutic experience in that area, which is suitable to act as the foundation of their prescribing practice while training.
- e. Applicants must have a designated prescribing practitioner who has agreed to supervise their learning in practice. The applicant's designated prescribing practitioner must be a registered healthcare professional in Great Britain or Northern Ireland with legal independent prescribing rights, who is suitably experienced and qualified to carry out this supervisory role, and who has demonstrated CPD or revalidation relevant to this role. Although an applicant may be supervised by more than one person, only one prescriber must be the designated prescribing practitioner. The designated prescribing practitioner is the person who will certify that successful pharmacists are competent to practise as independent prescribers.