Allied Health Profession / Clinical Scientist: Supporting Return to Practice across the East Midlands Frequently Asked Questions

Within the East Midlands Health Education England (HEE) are keen to support Allied Health Professionals (AHP) and Clinical Scientist to return to practice.

- If you have an AHP / Clinical Scientist qualification gained in the UK which is recognised by the Health Care Professions Council.
- You were previously registered with the HCPC but have allowed this to lapse or have never registered with HCPC since you qualified
- You are prepared to undertake clinical updating which could lead to employment in the East Midland region with services delivering NHS care /services
- You have not been struck off or have any conditions of practice against you

You may be suitable for support on the Allied Health Profession / Clinical Scientist: Supporting Return to Practice across the East Midlands project

Why should I consider returning now?
You already have the skills and experience that can make a big difference to patients, clients, carers and their families. Across the East Midlands local healthcare providers are looking to develop and grow their workforce with skilled AHP's and Clinical Scientists. This includes AHP’s and Clinical Scientists who's HCPC registration has lapsed.

Do I need to re-train?
No you do not need to retrain. The amount of updating of skills and knowledge required is stipulated by the time you have allowed your registration to lapse, this is set by the HCPC. People locally in trusts can work with you on an induction back to healthcare. The route you take is chosen by you but a variety of self-direct study, formal study and clinical hours is advised. Some universities in the East Midlands are running profession specific AHP RtP courses. Follow the links on their websites. It is advised before embarking on your Return to Practice journey you sit down and draw up a plan of what and where you need to update your skills but more importantly how you intend to achieve this. The supporting organisations can only support you to do this if you have a clear structured plan. Remember the organisation is not obliged to provide a placement in the area you request and some flexibility may be required.

Will my return phase be funded?
Within the East Midlands some local providers and universities are supporting a pilot to assist potential returnees. Some funding is available. Please contact HEE, local providers or universities for further information. Some Trust may ask you to fund your DBS.
Will this AHP / Clinical Scientist return to practice pilot lead directly in to a job once I complete it?
Many places now offer an RTP placement that leads on to a permanent position, but it is entirely dependent on each organisation. See the HEE website for participating organisation.

I have retired and received an NHS pension but I am interested in returning part time – is this possible?
In respect of employment, we recommend reading the factsheet on the NHS pension’s website.

Will I be able to work flexibly if I return?
Flexible working for AHP’s and Clinical Scientist is an option but we suggest you discuss this with local healthcare providers on an individual basis.

Is there anything I can do to prepare for before RTP?
Do not underestimate the time and effort it will take to RtP. The NHS has changed and therefore you will be requiring you to show how you’re learning and understanding meets with the needs of the present workforce. Healthcare is under a lot more scrutiny now days and the healthcare professional employed in today’s healthcare environment has to show they are competent and provide care in a safe and caring way. Universities are able to offer a reading list of key documents that you might be interested in studying to help you update your knowledge of current policy. Some local trusts and universities may offer open days so that you can visit and look around.

How long does it take to return to practice?
This will depend on the requirements stipulated by the HCPC. Once completing the relevant hours you will be required to get a fellow AHP from your profession and on the HCPC register to sign you have completed the hours you are stating. They are not signing to say you are competent or safe that is your responsibility to justify your competency to the HCPC. You need to be aware some organisation may request you understand and adhere to any national or local competencies if they provide clinical experience for you.

How long does it take to be placed back on the HCPC register once I apply?
In most cases it can take up to 10 working days for your name to be added to the relevant profession HCPC register. On some occasion this can take longer if verification of the information is required. The most common reason for delay is that the form has not been completed and therefore returned to the applicant. The HCPC advice you read all the information correctly and check before submitting.

I haven’t practiced as an AHP / Clinical Scientist for a long time. Does this matter?
The return to practice programme is open to all, regardless of how long you have been out of practice. It is important to understand that the delivery of healthcare has moved forward. It is also important you gain the correct support and meet the minimum requirements stipulated by the HCPC.