

Application Pack: 2022/23 Approved Clinician Pilot - Development offer for Specialty Doctors and Associate Specialists in Psychiatry

Pilot Approved Clinician training opportunity

An Approved Clinician (AC) is defined as a mental health professional approved by, or on behalf of, the Secretary of State to act as an Approved Clinician for the purposes of the Mental Health Act 1983 (MHA). Some decisions under the MHA can only be taken by professionals who are ACs.

HEE is offering a development opportunity for Specialty Doctors and Associate Specialists (SAS doctors) in psychiatry to be supported in gaining Approved Clinician Status via a commissioned training programme.

This programme has two main elements. Firstly, a deep and comprehensive understanding of mental health legislation; its application in with reference to human rights and ethics, and its application in the best interests of the treatment of people with a mental disorder.

This is usually a training programme delivered by a commissioned training provider as an upskilling course. Secondly, experiential knowledge of the application of those laws in the care and support of patients and their families, and demonstration of that knowledge in skills and abilities as observed by an experienced Approved Clinician.

Both elements are then drawn together in a practice portfolio, which is physically submitted to a regional panel for approval. If successful, the individual is identified and licensed as an Approved Clinician. They are then qualified to act as a Responsible Clinician for the care of one or more patients, whereupon they go on to collate evidence for reapproval every five years.

Education providers and training offer

The education providers offering the HEE-funded postgraduate module in mental health law are as follows:

Training provider	Training duration	Delivery mode	Prospectus
University of East Anglia	17 th Feb 2023 - 14 th July 2023	Postgraduate module over 6 months Virtual delivery	Please view UEA Mental Health Law CPD Programme Proposal - 2023.pdf

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Northumbria University	Feb 2023	<p>Postgraduate certificate over 24 months</p> <p>Year 1 – professional practice in mental health law</p> <p>Year 2 – bolt on support for portfolio development</p> <p>Virtual delivery over a period of 2 year</p>	<p>Please view Northumbria University PG CERT MH AC COURSE SEP_OCT22.pdf</p> <p>Please be aware that this prospectus is for the Oct cohort. The only changes to this context will be with the relevant dates for a Feb 23 intake.</p>
University of Exeter	Feb 2023	<p>Postgraduate certificate over 18 months, similar delivery to Northumbria University</p> <p>Blended learning delivery with virtual and some face-to-face sessions</p>	<p>Please view Uni of Exeter MPAC flyer .pdf.</p>
University Central London	Feb 2023	<p>CPD module delivered across 3 months</p> <p>Face to face</p>	<p>An update prospectus is expected however in the meantime, please visit https://www.ucl.ac.uk/short-courses/search-courses/prepare-approved-clinician-status-under-mental-health-act for more information.</p>

Support available from HEE to complete the training

Support available from HEE:

1. A funded training place on a short postgraduate module in mental health law. This is subject to acceptance of the candidate by the Higher Education Provider. Information on each provider is given above.
2. Training support at £40,000 per year for up to 24 months (or until the trainee submits their portfolio to the approval panel) which is payable directly from HEE to the employer.

The training support funding is to ensure that the trainees are provided sufficient protected learning time, to ensure appropriate mentoring/supervision for the trainee and to support protected time to develop the portfolio. The trainee should be released from their clinical work for one day a week.

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Eligibility

The eligibility criteria for this opportunity are:

1. Employment in the NHS on a substantive national SAS contract (speciality doctor, specialist doctor and the closed associate specialist role). SAS doctors who have locum/acting consultant NHS contracts in the same organisation as their substantive SAS contract are eligible.
2. Seven or more years' experience in Psychiatry (of which 4 or more should have been at a level higher than core trainee).
3. At least 12 months as a Section 12 Approved Doctor.
4. Support from the Medical Director with agreement that the candidate can be released from the clinical post for one day a week.
5. Availability of a mentor who is an existing local AC.

Application

To apply, please send all of the following:

1. An up-to-date CV with details of your clinical experience, highlighting how you meet the eligibility criteria
2. A statement of 300 words saying why you wish to take part in this pilot
3. Confirmation that your Medical Director has agreed to your release for the training
4. A ranking of your preference for the Universities which provide the courses with the one you would most prefer to attend ranked as 1 and the one you are least keen to attend ranked as 4.

Applications should be sent to Transformation.Mids@hee.nhs.uk. The closing date is midnight **Monday 28 November 2022 23:59**.