

Clinical tariff for the pharmacy profession: Frequently Asked Questions

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These FAQs are based on government guidance published on GOV.UK: [Healthcare education and training tariff: 2022 to 2023](#).

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Tariff essentials

What is the education and training tariff?

The education and training tariff (often referred to as 'clinical tariff', 'placement tariff' or 'tariff' for short) is a nationally mandated price for providers of **training placements**, for actual activity delivered. Prices are set by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). Funding is administered by Health Education England (HEE).

Prior to the introduction of tariffs in 2013, payments for training placements were subject to local arrangements, creating inequities in funding across and even within HEE regions.

The aim of the tariff funding is to ensure that:

- Providers are reimbursed consistently for training placements provided and
- Placements are high quality and ensure that learners develop the required skills and knowledge to meet their respective professional competencies.

Is pharmacy, as a profession, eligible for tariff?

Yes. From 1st September 2022, undergraduate pharmacy is eligible for tariff.

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Who is eligible for tariff?

Those eligible to receive tariff are those students completing clinical placements during their General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) accredited Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree programme. Clinical placements in years 1 to 4 (or equivalent stages in non-standard delivery models) will be eligible.

Placements in the following settings will be eligible for the clinical tariff placement fee:

- NHS managed sector (for example, secondary care, mental health trusts, etc)
- General practice or primary care networks
- Community pharmacies
- Other healthcare providers delivering NHS contracted services

Which placements qualify for tariff?

A placement attracts a tariff payment if it meets the following criteria:

- Be a recognised part of the education and training curriculum for the course and approved by the higher education institute (HEI) and the relevant regulatory body, as appropriate
- Meet the quality standards of the regulator, the commissioner and HEE
- Be direct clinical training (including time for clinical exams and study leave) with an agreed programme, being a minimum of one week
- Have the appropriate clinical and mentoring support as defined by the relevant regulatory body
- Is not workplace shadowing or an assistantship
- Have signed the NHS education contract

In response to Covid-19, the rules around the use of clinical tariff were extended to enable tariff funding to flow to providers of eligible simulation-based learning.

What activities can tariff funding be used for?

Tariff covers funding for all direct costs involved in delivering a placement. This includes:

- direct staff teaching time within a clinical placement
- teaching and student facilities including access to library services
- administration costs
- infrastructure costs
- educational supervisors
- pastoral and supervisory support
- study leave/ time for clinical exams; health and well-being
- course fees and expenses; in-course feedback and assessment
- formal examining
- staff training and development relating to their educational role.

Tariff does **not** cover:

- tuition costs
- items funded under education support, for example:
 - foundation programme directors:

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- foundation programme administration support staff
- heads of schools
- programme directors
- relocation costs and exceptional travel costs

What is the rate of tariff payment?

The tariff price for 2022/23 is £5,000 plus Market Forces Factor (MFF) per full time equivalent (FTE) placement.

- Tariff is adjusted by the MFF to compensate for the unavoidable cost differences of providing training placements in different parts of the country.
- NHS England publish MFF rates on an annual basis.
- Tariff payment is reflective of a full-time equivalent (FTE) placement, not an individual student.

From 1st April 2021, payments are based on the following:

- Full tariff will be paid retrospectively.
- Full tariff is for each 40.8 weeks of placement activity.
- One week of placement activity should be reflective of 37.5 hours of placement activity.

Tariff is based on full time equivalent (FTE), what does this mean?

The rate of tariff payment is described as £5,000 (plus Market Force Factors) per full time equivalent (FTE). FTE is defined as 40.8 weeks of placement in a year. The rate of payment for one week of tariff (defined as 37.5 hours) is therefore £5,000 divided by 40.8 to give a payment value per week.

Each 40.8 weeks of placement activity attracts full tariff (£5,000 plus MFF).

When calculating tariff, how many hours equals a day?

One week is reflective of 37.5 hours, therefore, generally one day is equal to 7.5 hours of placement activity.

How is tariff administered / How does the funding flow?

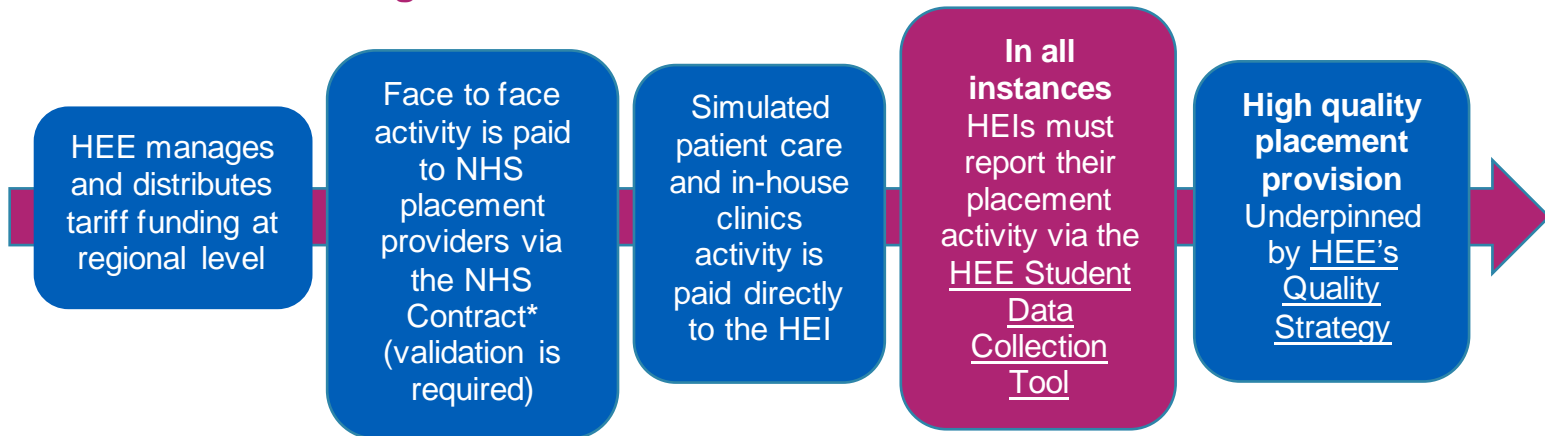
In all instances, the HEI must report the placement activity related to the programme to HEE via the [Student Data Collection Tool \(SDCT\)](#).

1. Direct placement activity (face to face activity) is paid to a placement provider through regional HEE funding routes.
2. Simulation placement activity (simulated patient care) is delivered by an HEI as part of their placement provision. Payment is made to the HEI. This is funded at the tariff rate for activity that constitutes placement learning hours: where the number of hours is compliant with the regulatory or professional body's expectations. HEE will not pay the tariff rate for simulation activity delivered as part of the education provider's teaching requirements.
3. In-house clinics provided as part of an HEI's placement provision are paid directly to the HEI.

This is illustrated in the diagram overleaf.

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How tariff funding flows:



* Payment to private, independent, and voluntary organisations (PIVO) is via HEE regional processes

I am interested in providing an undergraduate clinical placement. Who do I speak to / How do I get started?

Please speak to your local School of Pharmacy and your regional HEE Pharmacy lead. A list of HEE regional pharmacy teams is available at the end of this document.

Eligibility criteria

Who is eligible for tariff?

Those eligible to receive tariff are those students completing clinical placements during their General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) accredited Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree programme. Clinical placements in years to 1 to 4 (or equivalent stages in non-standard delivery models) will be eligible.

Placements in the following settings will be eligible for the clinical tariff placement fee:

- NHS managed sector (for example, secondary care, mental health trusts, etc)
- General practice or primary care networks
- Community pharmacies
- Other healthcare providers delivering NHS contracted services

What happens if the placement provider is in Wales or Scotland? Do they qualify for tariff?

A placement at any type of provider organisation in England attracts tariff, that meet the criteria in section 2.11 of the [Healthcare education and training tariff: 2022 to 2023](#). As per section 2.12, this is locally determined by the placement provider and HEE Commissioner. Training placements that take place outside England but are commissioned by HEE should be paid for at a locally agreed rate; although it may be appropriate to use the published national tariff as a starting point, as per section 2.15 of the guidance.

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Are trainee pharmacists (previously pre-registration pharmacists) eligible for tariff??

No. Trainee pharmacists (those undertaking their Foundation year after completing the MPharm) are **not** eligible for tariff. Undergraduate pharmacy students are eligible for tariff. (See earlier question 'Who is eligible for tariff?')

Can tariff be claimed for training courses delivered prior to a student's placement?

No. Tariff covers funding for all direct costs involved in delivering a placement. This includes:

- direct staff teaching time within a clinical placement
- teaching and student facilities including access to library services
- administration costs
- infrastructure costs
- educational supervisors
- pastoral and supervisory support
- study leave/ time for clinical exams; health and well-being
- course fees and expenses; in-course feedback and assessment
- formal examining
- staff training and development relating to their educational role.

From what date will pharmacy be eligible for tariff?

Pharmacy is eligible for tariff from 1st September 2022.

Do simulation-based learning / online placements qualify for tariff?

Yes. Simulation-based learning / online placements are tariff eligible, as long as they meet the criteria detailed in section 4.11 through to 4.14 of [Healthcare education and training tariff: 2022 to 2023](#). HEE will not pay the clinical tariff rate for simulation activity delivered as part of the education providers teaching requirements.

Are pharmacy students eligible to access the Learner Support fund?

No. Pharmacy students are not currently eligible for funding via the Learning Support Fund. This funding is administered by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), who are responsible for determining the eligibility criteria. Further information on the Learning Support Fund can be found here: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf

If a student is 'booked' in for a placement and does not attend, will the placement provider still receive payment?

The payment of placement tariff is a retrospective payment based on activity that has been undertaken. If activity has not been undertaken, then no payment can be provided.

Placement essentials

Is the provision of placements mandated?

No. HEE do not mandate the provision of placements.

How can HEIs find placements?

There are existing networks within your regions, please contact your Regional Pharmacy Lead. A list of HEE regional pharmacy teams is available at the end of this document.

How can HEIs support placement providers to develop clinical placements that are more than shadowing?

HEE are working in collaboration with the Pharmacy Schools Council to develop resources and approaches that support placement activities that are participative. This includes the exploration of 'Entrustable Professional Activities' or 'EPAs'. EPAs can help placement providers and universities describe activities that students can participate in while on placement that are participative rather than shadowing. They also describe the appropriate level of supervision for these activities. [More information can be found on the HEE website.](#)

Can placement providers work with more than one School of Pharmacy to provide placements?

Yes, placement providers can receive students from more than one school of pharmacy. Consideration should be given to the activities that each group of students are asked to complete while on placement, and how the placement provider will manage this effectively. Additionally, schools of pharmacy can work with more than one placement provider; this will enable placement capacity expansion and a varied placement experience for the learner.

What is the quality framework for placements?

The NHS Education Contract is the mechanism for the relationship between HEE and providers. It provides the framework for quality responsibilities, which the HEE Quality Strategy underpins. Links can be found below to both these documents:

- [NHS Education Contract](#)
- [HEE Quality Strategy](#)

What are the quality standards for placements?

HEE's Quality Strategy underpins quality standards for placements. The strategy can be found at: www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/quality

Can training hubs help to provide pharmacy placements?

Yes, training hubs can help to provide placements in Primary Care Networks and General Practice. Learn more about training hubs here: www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/primary-care/training-hubs/training-hubs-how-they-work

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Are pharmacy students on placement 'delivering clinical services'?

No, pharmacy students on placement are not delivering clinical services.

Are students undertaking summer placement eligible for tariff?

No. Students undertaking summer placements are not eligible for tariff, as this does not form part of the education provider's curriculum.

If a student repeats a year of study, can tariff be used to fund placements within their requested year?

Yes. All activity aligned to tariff criteria attracts tariff payment, including students repeating stages of study.

Placement activity and funding mechanisms

How is placement activity recorded and submitted?

Schools of Pharmacy will submit their placement activity to HEE at specified time points each year, via the Student Data Collection Tool (SDCT). The SDCT is an eCollection portal. Find out more at <https://ecollection.hee.nhs.uk/SDCT>

Are there set time points to report placement activity?

Yes, there are 3 points in the year for Schools of Pharmacy to submit data to HEE. These points are currently: 30th October, 14th February and 30th June. Please see for the latest information: <https://ecollection.hee.nhs.uk/SDCT>

Are there set time points when NHS providers receive tariff funding?

NHS Providers receive monthly payments, which are reconciled against placement activity.

Is placement data validated?

Yes. Placement data is validated through the Student Data Collection Tool (SDCT). The data submitted by education providers is then shared with NHS placement providers to validate the data, upon which HEE will make payment.

How does tariff funding flow to placement providers? Is a contract needed?

Tariff funding will flow from HEE to NHS placement providers through the NHS Education Contract. Regional processes are in place to flow funding to non-NHS organisations. Please refer to 'How tariff is administered / How does the funding flow' question in 'Tariff essentials' and the [tariff funding flows diagram](#). Please contact your Regional Pharmacy Lead for further information. A list of HEE regional pharmacy teams is available at the end of this document.

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What happens if a placement is delivered in a different region to where the School of Pharmacy is located?

Where placements occur in an NHS Organisation, the funding will flow directly through the NHS Education Contract. For non-NHS organisations, regional processes are in place. Please contact your Regional Pharmacy Lead for further information. A list of HEE regional pharmacy teams is available at the end of this document.

Are Schools of Pharmacy able to 'top up' tariff funding to incentivise placement providers?

No. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) are responsible for setting the tariff price, and this is to ensure consistency of funding. Incentivising via 'top up tariff' is not permitted.

What is MFF? How do I know which MFF applies?

MFF short for Market Forces Factor. This is used to compensate the unavoidable cost differences of providing training placements in different parts of the country. NHS England publishes current rates on an annual basis for each placement provider, and can be found [here](#).

Simulation-based learning

What is simulation-based learning and does this attract tariff?

Funding arrangements are in place for simulation-based learning that meets the criteria in section 4.11 through to 4.14 of the [Healthcare education and training tariff: 2022 to 2023](#), for activity that constitutes placement learning hours. HEE will not pay the clinical tariff rate for simulation activity delivered as part of the education provider's teaching requirements.

What type of activities are classed as 'simulation'?

Please refer to section 4.11 through to 4.14 and section 2.11 of the guidance, [Healthcare education and training tariff: 2022 to 2023](#).

Do HEIs need to have the simulation hours approved by HEE?

There is no requirement for HEE to approve the simulation hours, in line with section 4.11 through to 4.14 of the guidance, [Healthcare education and training tariff: 2022 to 2023](#).

HEE regional pharmacy teams

For additional enquiries, please contact your local HEE pharmacy team:

- North West: medicinesoptimisation.north@hee.nhs.uk
- North East and Yorkshire: medicinesoptimisation.north@hee.nhs.uk
- Midlands: pharmacy.me@hee.nhs.uk
- East of England: pharmacy.eoe@hee.nhs.uk
- London: lasepharmacy@hee.nhs.uk
- South East (Kent, Surrey and Sussex): lasepharmacy@hee.nhs.uk

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- South East (Thames Valley and Wessex): pharmacy.south@hee.nhs.uk
- South West: pharmacy.south@hee.nhs.uk

Please send any editorial comments to pharmacyteam@hee.nhs.uk.