

# Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme: Supporting supervised learning events

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Supervision and supervised learning events (SLEs) are core elements of the Interim Foundation Pharmacist Programme (IFPP).

An SLE is an episode, organised in advance, where a supervisor assesses a learner's performance in the clinical or practice setting. It is a learning opportunity that provides time for reflection and developmental feedback.

Whilst some supervisors and learners will be very familiar and experienced in the use of these formative assessments, others may feel that they would like additional guidance and support. This guide is intended to provide signposting to resources which may help you to undertake and record SLEs for the IFPP.

We also want to take this opportunity to remind supervisors to **encourage your foundation pharmacists to map all their evidence (including SLEs) against the IFPP Learning Outcomes**. This is so that they can monitor and track their progress, helping them to identify their strengths and areas for development to focus their ongoing learning.

Details of the Learning Outcomes are available in the [IFPP Pharmacist's Handbook](#). Learning outcomes can be recorded electronically in the RPS E-Portfolio (more information below).

## Supervised Learning Events: Mandatory requirements

The [IFPP Supervisor's Handbook](#) highlights the mandatory requirements for the learner's completion of the programme in August 2021, which includes the completion of four supervised learning events (SLEs).

### The IFPP minimum assessment requirements for SLEs are:

- One mini clinical evaluation exercise (Mini-CEX)
- One direct observation of practical skills (DOPS)
- One case-based discussion (CBD)
- One assessment using the medication-related consultation framework (MRCF) or equivalent

### SLE resources for supervisors

A good place to start is the **e-Learning for Healthcare's (e-LfH) Introduction to SLEs**, which will provide a broad overview of these assessments and their use in pharmacy.

More detailed information about each of the assessment types is provided below and in the links to the relevant e-LfH modules.

- [e-LfH Introduction to SLEs](#)

### Mini clinical evaluation exercise (Mini-CEX)

A Mini-CEX is used to assess the trainee's ability to identify, action and resolve issues effectively when providing pharmaceutical care for a patient. It enables supervisors to review various skills, attitudes, knowledge and behaviours of the trainee, and is useful for developing pharmacy staff.

A Mini-CEX can be adapted to many scenarios, such as carrying out a medicines reconciliation, taking in and resolving an issue with a request for a medication (e.g. out-of-stock or contraindicated medications) and medicines use reviews. The assessed scenario must involve a patient who is either 1) new to the trainee, or 2) already known to the trainee but for whom a new therapy has been prescribed or there has been a significant change in clinical status.

- [Find out more about Mini-CEX](#)

### Direct observation of practice (DOPS)

A DOPS assesses the trainee's ability to carry out an activity that adheres to a defined protocol. Examples of suitable activities are influenza vaccination administration, final checking of dispensed items, monitoring of blood pressure or other physical assessment, completing an incident report or taking in a medicine information enquiry.

- [Find out more about DOPS](#)

### Case-based discussion (CBD)

In a CBD the trainee discusses pharmaceutical management and understanding of a patient case with a supervisor. During the discussion, supervisors should probe a trainee's knowledge and approach to managing the case. For example, a CBD might cover a patient care interaction and intervention with a patient who has a chronic illness such as diabetes.

- [Find out more about CBD](#)

### Medicines related consultation framework (MRCF)

The MRCF is a structured validated patient-centred approach to patient consultation. It supports trainees in developing consultation skills. This tool enables the supervisor to assess whether the trainee is an effective communicator and able to shape the patient's behaviour through a shared agenda to ensure medicines optimisation.

- [Find out more about MRCF](#)

### Providing constructive feedback

This is a new short session intended to provide foundation pharmacists and new supervisors with some helpful advice on giving and using feedback constructively.

- [Microlearning: Providing constructive feedback](#)

### Recording SLEs in the E-Portfolio

Foundation pharmacists are encouraged to record their SLEs in their RPS E-Portfolio. Non-members of the RPS on the IFPP can [register for free as a 'registered user'](#).

For you (as a supervisor) to complete the SLE, your foundation pharmacist will need to invite you as a 'collaborator' within their RPS E-portfolio. This will enable you to complete the assessment and provide feedback.

Once your foundation pharmacist has invited you to collaborate, you will receive an automated email from a third-party supplier (axiadigital) on behalf of the RPS asking you to accept the invitation and activate your account.

If you do not receive this email within 24 hours of the invitation, please check your junk mail. If you cannot locate it, contact the **RPS Provisional Registration Service Support Line** (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm) at: [ProvReg@rpharms.com](mailto:ProvReg@rpharms.com), Tel: 0207 572 2737 or 0333 733 2570.

You will need to accept the invitation to view your foundation pharmacist's E-portfolio and associated resources, by selecting 'Educational supervisor/Tutor' as the 'Portfolio Collaborator Type'. Details of this process are provided in the [E-Portfolio user guides](#).

Paper copies of the assessment forms are also available if these are practical for you to use. These can either be transcribed into the E-Portfolio or scanned and uploaded. Your foundation pharmacist can access these paper copies of the assessment forms, or templates, from the [Learning Hub](#).

In addition, further information is available in the following E-Portfolio videos:

- [Learners](#)
- [Supervisors \(collaborators\)](#)

Finally, the RPS Provisional Registration Service Support Line is also available to answer questions, Monday to Friday from 9am until 5pm:

- Email: [ProvReg@rpharms.com](mailto:ProvReg@rpharms.com)
- Telephone: 0207 572 2737 or 0333 733 2570

### Support and contact details

The IFPP will continue to develop as the year progresses and we will keep in regular contact with you. However, if you have a query, please contact the IFPP team by email at: [fpp@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:fpp@hee.nhs.uk). You can also find out more information about the programme on the [IFPP website](#).