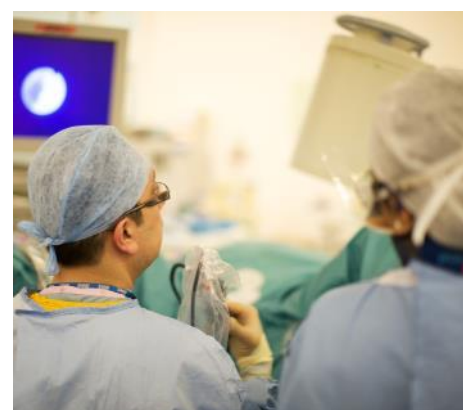


# Centre for Advancing Practice Independent Portfolio Route Feasibility Study Briefing Note for Cohort 3: Psychological Professions

Date: 14 June 2021\_7 February 2022



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## Introduction

The Health Education England (HEE) Centre for Advanced Practice (the Centre) is working towards offering recognition to registered health and care practitioners who are working at an advanced practice level and who can demonstrate complete fulfilment of the capabilities set out in the Multi-professional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice in England (2017)<sup>1</sup> (the ACP Framework).

The Centre is proposing to develop several routes to gaining recognition via the successful completion of for example:

- a Centre accredited advanced clinical practice programme of study
- a Centre accredited apprenticeship advanced clinical practice route
- the Centre's Independent Portfolio Route (IPR) through which a practitioner presents evidence for review and verification (by peers) and the portfolio is deemed to map fully to the ACP Framework capabilities.

The feasibility study is only in relation to the Independent Portfolio Route (IPR).

### Purpose of the feasibility study – cohort 3

As part of the development process, the Centre is inviting a small number of individuals from the psychological professions to join the feasibility study in order to explore the validity of IPR in the context of non-statutory regulated professions. More specifically whether the principles of the process and its approach can support such a group evidencing that they meet the capabilities within the ACP Framework. It will also provide the opportunity to test whether the guidance materials and portal through which the process could be operated are sound, robust, sustainable and scalable.

The participants in cohort three will go through the IPR process fully, but will not be eligible to join the Centre for Advancing Practice Directory on successful completion of the process as currently the Directory will only be open to those who are statutory registered. The Centre will retain the details of those who successfully complete the process should this position change.

### Scope of the feasibility study – cohort 3

Participants in cohort 3 will undertake Independent Portfolio Route application as set out in the *Independent Portfolio Route: Guidance for Participants (cohort 3)*

The deadline for submitting the IPR portfolio is 22 November 2021

<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Multi-professional%20framework%20for%20advanced%20clinical%20practice%20in%20England.pdf>

The IPR involves three broad stages:

Stage 1: Application. This stage includes:

- setting up the participant's personal profile on the Centre's portal
- verification of the participant's email address
- uploading the portfolio (critical narrative of between 3,500 and 5,000 words, and supporting evidence)
- linking supporting evidence to the critical narrative and the capabilities

Stage 2: Verification of the portfolio. This stage includes:

- review of the portfolio by two IPR reviewers against the ACP Framework. Normally, one of the reviewers will be an experienced clinician<sup>2</sup> and one will be an academic with experience of advanced practice
- outcome agreed by reviewers
- internal quality assurance process

Stage 3: Notification of outcome. This stage includes:

- notification of outcome to the participant

Stage 4: Evaluation of the IPR as tested

To fulfil the ACP Framework capabilities and gain recognition, practitioners need to demonstrate the following:

- level 7<sup>3</sup> learning and writing (as appropriate to advanced practice), particularly in terms of demonstrating their ability to safely and effectively manage high levels of complexity, uncertainty and risk
- a self-awareness of their level, scope and sphere of practice, including the limits of their decision-making, freedom to act and level of autonomy in the context of their advanced practice.
- their ability to reflect critically on their learning, professional development and practice, their contribution to service delivery, service development, and quality improvement, the evidence base underpinning their practice, and ethical issues raised by their practice
- the integration of their advanced practice learning into their practice (including in ways that reflect their scope and sphere of practice, the population groups and individuals whom they serve, and details specifically in relation to the context of their area of service delivery)
- their responsiveness to changing needs, relating to population groups and individuals, service delivery, and workforce needs
- the currency<sup>4</sup>, authenticity and validity of the supporting evidence and the portfolio as a whole.

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<sup>2</sup> Where possible the clinical will be from the same profession as the participant

<sup>3</sup> Descriptors of what is expected at level 7 can be found at in the Quality Assurance Agencies Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications (2014, p28), available at: <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/qualifications-and-credit-frameworks>

<sup>4</sup> Participants will be advised that their supporting evidence needs to show the currency of their learning and how they have applied their learning in their practice. If they are drawing on learning they completed some time ago,



## **Preparing the participants**

Participants in cohort 3 will be invited to join a Centre online briefing event before joining the feasibility study. They will also have access to a series of resources to support the development of the portfolio and the process more broadly.

## **Who can be part of the feasibility study?**

Participants in cohort 3 will be invited to join the IPR feasibility study.

## **Evaluation**

The feasibility study will include an evaluation of the IPR process as tested and is likely to include a brief survey, interview and/or a feedback event.

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they will need to explain and evidence how they have actively used, maintained and developed their learning through their recent and current practice.