



RCP professional certificates in clinical practice for adult gender identity healthcare

Who are these certificates for?

Professional certificate in advanced capabilities

- > Statutorily regulated healthcare professionals who work in the 'lead clinician' role described in NHS (England) service specifications for specialist adult gender services and for specialist gender service clinical leads
- > Clinicians must complete the certificate in core capabilities before the certificate in advanced capabilities – it is not available on a standalone basis.

Professional certificate in prescribing capabilities

- > Statutorily regulated healthcare professionals who prescribe or who make specific prescribing recommendations to prescribers, such as GPs, for the treatment of gender incongruence in specialist adult gender services (currently medical practitioners and non-medical prescribers, such as nurses and pharmacists)
- > Clinicians must complete the certificate in core capabilities before the certificate in prescribing capabilities – it is not available on a standalone basis.

Funded places are available for those working as statutorily regulated healthcare professionals in England as defined above.

What are the key aims of the certificates?

Professional certificate in advanced capabilities

Learners who complete this certificate will be able to assess and agree diagnostic coding, create a comprehensive treatment plan and manage individuals with more complex needs. They will explore collaboration, referrals and good clinical leadership.

Professional certificate in prescribing capabilities

Learners who complete this certificate will be able to act upon an endorsement for endocrine intervention for gender incongruence, complete an assessment relevant to prescribing and provide information on the full range of options available to the individual. They will cover prescribing safely, monitoring and good prescribing governance.

How will learners study?

The certificates will centre on workplace-based learning and assessment:

- > Learners will be supported to learn in their workplace by a suite of e-learning resources that are hosted on the RCP's dedicated virtual learning environment (VLE)
- > Learners will be able to access and engage with these e-learning resources at their own pace, in the order that best supports their workplace-based learning
- > Learners will also have opportunities to engage with other learners via online discussion forums, sharing their experiences of learning and creating networking opportunities
- > Learners will attend an online induction day using our virtual classroom which will work through how to use the resources and complete their portfolio.

How will learners be assessed?

- > Learners will meet the capabilities in practice (CiPs) of the relevant professional certificate. These CiPs describe the professional tasks or work within the scope of the relevant professional certificate that have been deemed essential attributes for clinicians working in adult gender identity services.
- > Learners will submit a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate the CiPs:
 - this includes evidence of workplace-based assessments, evidence-based reflective entries and feedback from patients and colleagues
 - to do this they will need to identify a supervisor to support them
 - the evidence needs to be gathered whilst working in an approved centre or network.

How long does the programme last?

- > Learners can complete each certificate in a minimum of three months and a maximum of 12 months.
- > This provides flexibility for each learner to progress through the certificates at their own pace and facilitates learning across the range of employment patterns in gender identity healthcare settings.

Evidence collected prior to starting

Participants may have previous experience working in gender identity healthcare from the period before starting the certificate. While some evidence can be counted, it is important that clinicians demonstrate learning and development during the course and make experiences purposeful. Only evidence collected in the previous 12 months can be submitted and this may contribute to up to a third of the overall certificate requirements. There will be no reduction in the fee for the professional certificate.

Costs

- Professional certificate in advanced capabilities: £1,800
- Professional certificate in prescribing capabilities: £900

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