

CPTAP 2026 – Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme (PTPT Funding)

Quick Guidance for Employers

Overview:

Overview: The Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme (CPTAP) 2026 provides funding to support the recruitment, salary costs and training of Pre-registration Trainee Pharmacy Technicians (PTPTs) within community pharmacy.





Funding

- £15,505 per trainee, per year
- Funding duration: 2 years



Eligibility

- Minimum working hours 30 hours per week (including study time)
- Part-time considered – funding on a pro-rata basis (subject to regional approval)
- Candidate must meet apprenticeship funding rules



Allocation

- 1 PTPT per pharmacy group, per NHS England region
- Maximum of 7 nationally (one per region)
- Applications for multiple pharmacies under the same ownership or directorship are not permitted



Application Process

- Submitted via **NHS England regional application links**
- Must include **site ODS code**
- Where pharmacies span multiple regions, you must submit a separate application for **each region**.
- Template for Application of Funding in the Contractor Guidance document: **Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2026**

CPTAP 2025

Key notes on differences between **CPTAP 2025 and CPTAP 2026:**

• Full written application

• Open to interpretation

• Time and resource intensive, particularly for smaller pharmacies

• Strict word count requirements

CPTAP 2026

• 32 questions, largely a tick-box format

• Structured into 4 clear sections:

Section 1: Pharmacy learning environment

Section 2: Supervision and PTPT support

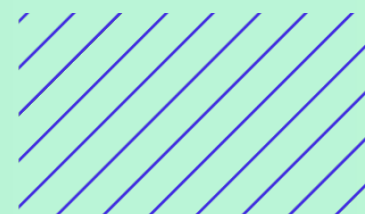
Section 3: Training and learner experience

Section 4: Pharmacy owner and site information



Key NHSE Dates

- Applications of Funding (AoF) open: **27 April 2026 (09:00am)**
- Deadline to submit AoF: **18 May 2026 (midday)**
- Employer engagement and drop-in sessions: April–May 2026
- AoF applications reviewed: **May–June 2026**
- Outcome notifications issued: Week commencing **22 June 2026**
- Deadline to confirm acceptance of funding: **3 July 2026**
- Recruitment and enrolment of apprentices starting throughout: **July–August 2026**
- Final deadline for apprentices to be recruited and enrolled: **30 September 2026**
- Above dates can be found on page 13 in the contractor guidance document: **Community Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship Programme 2026**



Prioritisation (If oversubscribed)

- 1. Pharmacies that have **never received NHS England PTPT funding**
- 2. Last funded **in or before 2023/24**
- 3. Last funded **in 2024/25**
- 4. Last funded **in 2025/26**

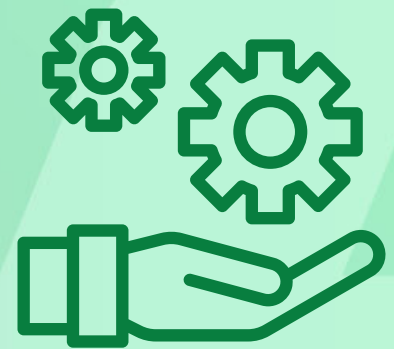


Important Notes

- Places are limited - application window may close early if oversubscribed
- Apprentices must be enrolled on an apprenticeship programme
- Apprentices must receive **protected off-the-job training time** (minimum one day per week)
- Delays must be communicated to NHS England
- Unfilled placements may be **withdrawn and reallocated**

How Skills4Pharmacy Can Support

- Application guidance and support
- Full apprenticeship delivery
- Levy transfer support (where available)
- Complimentary recruitment support
- Advice on additional local incentives



Next Steps

Apply early to secure your place and make the most of this funding opportunity. If you have not received the NHSE WT&E email, please use the link below to [visit our landing page](#), where you'll find all the details and can submit your application.

