



NQP Preceptorship FAQs

Q: Who can be my Preceptor?

A: In most areas this will be facilitated by an LP L&D Paramedic. There may also be Band 6 Paramedics or nurses within your county that are named preceptors. A preceptor should have one year of Band 6 experience. In some cases, this may need to be on a 2:1 preceptee: preceptor basis during busy periods.

Q: I am an apprentice paramedic, what happens if I register before I can attend a preparing for practice course?

A: As per the Apprenticeship portal FAQs, you will only begin your preceptorship shifts once you are registered with the HCPC and have received an NQP contract. At the point of registering please ensure your CBM is aware so that preceptorship can be planned for you to coincide with a NQP contract offer.

Q: I have been planned preceptorship shifts of various lengths, is there a total number of hours I need to achieve?

A: If all 14 shifts are of a short length, more may be required to bring you closer to the 150-hour mark. This will be done on a case-by-case basis and overseen by the Preceptor. Focus should be on the shift number rather than the hours, but 150 is a good target.

Q: Are Band 6 shifts completed as a third-person?

A: Monthly band 6 shifts can be with any Band 6 Paramedic ideally on a DCA, 1:1 as a crew. They are not to be completed as a third person.

Q: What if my 14 Preceptorship shifts are not at my preferred place of work?

A: It is recognised that on occasion Preceptors need to be in centralised locations to benefit people travelling from all over the county. Wherever possible preceptorship shifts will be planned in line



with the Relief and Working Hours policy, but due to capacity it may at times be necessary to plan their preceptorship shifts in neighbouring county areas or outside of the normal 30- miles radius. Should this be needed, consideration will be given to overall travel time. Due to the flexibility of the LP L&D teams this will usually be resolved with open dialogue.

Q: Can an NQP be my preceptor?

A: Under no circumstances can a Band 5 Paramedic be a named Preceptor. A NQP who has completed their practice educator training and is 12 months into their NQP journey (NQP 2) can mentor a university student but not be a Preceptor for another NQP. As per the skills mix document a preceptorship shift may be conducted with another NQP if there is no available Band 6, but they will still have a named Band 6 preceptor who will check in.

Q: Can I swap my recall days so that I can be with my friends?

A: Unfortunately recall days are planned with your rota and working time arrangements and cannot be swapped easily.

Q: Does the NQP framework apply to me if I'm an international paramedic?

A: International Paramedics will require a slightly different support package. This will be tailored to the individual and their circumstances and as such is not detailed in the NQP framework. For more information, please discuss with your local LDO team.

Q: Is RRV familiarisation at six months mandatory?

A: No. The legislation is due to change in 2023 which will require individuals to undertake an additional RRV driving course. This may affect the ability to undertake a RRV familiarisation at the six-month point. Please refer to the Trust's driving department for updates on this.



Q: How does Preceptorship fit into my Consolidation of Learning as an NQP?

A: Preceptorship forms the first six months of your 24-month Consolidation of Learning period. It is not six-months plus 24 months. It is six months plus 18 months.

Q: If I am signed off to complete overtime after my 7th preceptorship shift, can I work with any Paramedic?

A: No. Any overtime undertaken prior to completing your 14th shift will need to be with a Band 6 Paramedic.

Q : What if I am offered a rota line immediately?

A: Unless your rota line is with an appropriate preceptor it is likely you will have to complete your preceptorship elsewhere before joining your rota line.

Q: Can my Preceptor take a university student during my 14 preceptorship shifts?

A: No, during these shifts the preceptor should not be mentoring a university student as they are there to support you on a 1:1 basis. This is why Preceptors are allocated in advance to ensure university students are not also planned with them.

Q: Can shifts on overtime count towards preceptorship?

A: This will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Discuss with your LP L&D team to determine whether the shift was completed with an appropriate Band 6 preceptor and without a third person aboard.



Q: What happens if I've completed my Blue Light Driving elsewhere?

A: If you are not completing a driving course as part of your induction, please ensure to make contact with your LP L&D team with as much notice as possible as they will need a minimum of 6 weeks to plan your preceptorship shifts.