

What is a Practice Educator (PEd)?

A practice educator (PEd) is a multi-faceted role, these include being a leader, Role Model, Coach, Teacher, Mentor, and Assessor, with a responsibility of ensuring the clinical supervision, leadership and development of a learner (student paramedic) in the practice based education environment.

College of Paramedics (2017, Page 15)

The college of paramedics recently released a handbook designed for practice educators (PEd) to provide support and information whilst they are supporting all students. They have created a diagram, which shows the multi-faceted role of a practice educator.



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This diagram shows the complexity of a PEd, but also shows the skills and knowledge PEd will gain through the facilitation of their students learning.

Being a Practice Placement Educator (PEd) for a Sheffield Hallam University student generally involves being a supportive, facilitative guide to the student, encouraging them to develop and bridge the gap between the theory and practice learnt in university to the real life aspects of practice in the ambulance service.

Therefore, the role of the PEd is a combination of role modelling, supervising, supporting and teaching. It forms a critical element in ensuring that the student gains from the learning experiences on offer whilst on placement.

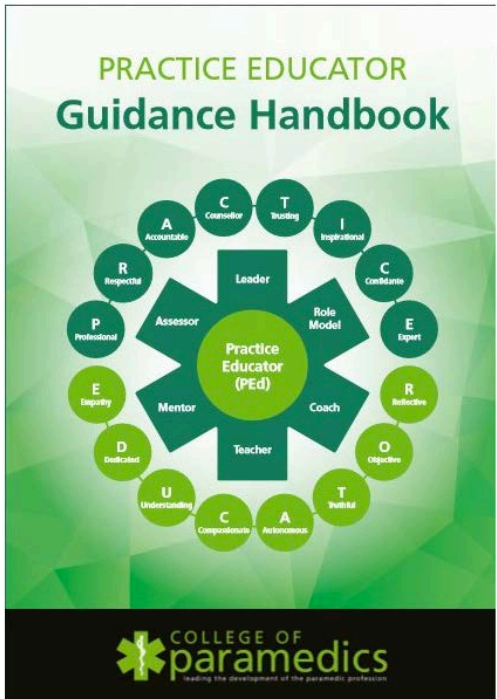
The benefits of being a Practice Placement Educator

Taking on the role of a PEd can lead to the following benefits for an individual;

- ✚ Increased job satisfaction, motivation and self-esteem, and recognition from staff and management for their practice education skills.
- ✚ Personal satisfaction from contributing to the development of the student, and in seeing them learn and progress through their competencies.
- ✚ Significant skills development and refinement, including improved interpersonal and influencing skills, as well as encouragement to remain up-to-date with professional and technical issues that the student may be experiencing.
- ✚ The provision of "thinking time" and interaction with students who may have different views on the organisation, thereby leading to healthy discussion over key organisational issues.
- ✚ Building relationships with people at different levels and often in different disciplines of the organisation, thereby increasing both interpersonal relationships and organisational understanding.
- ✚ Development of leadership skills and management skills.
- ✚ It is also a contribution towards your CPD, as practice education is an effective development tool.

As part of this role, PEds can.....

1. Help students develop greater self-confidence and increased motivation, through assisting with increased self-reflection and understanding.
2. Focus students on key aims and objectives, which can support and develop students' personal development plans.
3. Help students to develop key managerial competencies, such as using strategic thinking, problem solving and influencing skills as well as how to apply competencies in the workplace.
4. Help to orientate students who are new to NHS organisations, which are usually complex in structure. PEds can also increase organisational knowledge through sharing their understanding and experiences.
5. Provide invaluable advice on career progression and advancement, and guidance on the importance of building networks.
6. Enable a dedicated focus on personal and professional development, which contributes towards Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for both PEds and students.



This handbook provides a detailed guide to supporting your student throughout their journey to become a register paramedic.

It discusses all of the titles highlighted in the diagram providing different approaches to supporting your student.

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