



Prescribing for Non-Medical Health Professionals

Leading to the award of:

**Non-Medical Prescriber (Independent
and/Supplementary Prescriber)**

Pre-Course Information for Prospective Applicants V300

Utilising Recognition of Prior Learning (V100/V150)

Module code: AC6765/AC7112

Number of Credits: 20

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Welcome

This booklet aims to provide managers and prospective non-medical prescribing students with information about v300 qualification recognising your established community practitioner prescribing qualification

Programme Title :	Non Medical Prescribing.
Module and Award:	Non Medical Prescribing (V300)
Module Code:	Degree level 6 & 7:
Study Centre:	Department of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Coach Lane Campus, Northumbria University at Newcastle.
Length :	5-6 months (22-26 Weeks)
Frequency:	Twice a year
Times:	Taught days 9.30 am to 5.00pm.
Credits:	Degree Level 6 and 7: 20 credit accumulation transfer points (CAT)

The application process is managed by our admissions team. For enquiries regarding application or admission please view our website page.

Background.

Over the past 20 years, Northumbria University has established itself at the forefront of initiatives, working with our partners to develop the potential of health professionals as prescribers and we have received excellent feedback from students. Community Practitioner Prescribing and Independent and Supplementary Prescribing has pioneered the enhancement of roles and service development and this module continues to build on this expertise.

Programme Team

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Module Information

The Non-Medical Prescribing module includes a number of awards. This handbook provides information for nurses, wishing to prepare to become independent and/or supplementary prescribers with authority to prescribe from the British National Formulary. This is also referred to as V300 prescribing.

The Non Medical Prescribing module consists of a range of preparation activities. The days and allocation of learning is detailed on the application web page.

The module can be studied at level 6 (degree) or at level 7 (masters). Your choice depends on the level of your V100/V150 qualification. This can be found by using your academic records.

The professional award of V300 and prescribing authority, independent and supplementary prescribing, is the same regardless of level of study. Completion at degree level provides an academic award of 20 degree (level 6 equivalent) credits and at masters of 20 masters (level 7 equivalent) credits. There are differences in the assessment of degree and masters level as detailed on page 8.

If you have any questions about level of study please contact one of the team

You will need to state your choice by selecting the correct level at application point. Please give careful consideration when choosing your level of study, degree or masters. You will not be able to change the level of study once the course has started.

The module (with RPL) includes two elements of assessment• 1) Achievement of Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) competencies in clinical practice with OSCE, CMP, service user feedback & personal reflection, 2) a written assignment to include an academic poster. Students must pass each of these four assessments to achieve the award. There is no compensation between assessments.

If a student fails to answer correctly, any question that may result in direct harm to a patient/ client or provides an answer that may potentially lead to patient harm the assessor will be awarded a referral/fail mark. The module must be completed within 2 calendar years of starting.

Module Attendance.

Taught days.

Students will be required to undertake all taught sessions and will not leave sessions early so please make your normal arrangements for childcare etc. In exceptional circumstances students may miss a maximum of two University attendance days. The module leader must be notified of absence and the student must also complete an absence notification through the Student Portal system. Absence in excess of this will result in interrupting the module until taught time is made up with the next intake.

The directed study days may be taken flexibly at the discretion of the student. You will however be expected to complete learning activities during directed learning/personal study time in preparation for programmed sessions and to support formative/summative learning experiences. Students are therefore, advised to ensure that days of study time are protected.

What will the qualification enable you to prescribe?

The programme has 2 prescribing routes; the prescribing qualification awarded is the dual qualification of independent and supplementary prescribing

As an Independent and/or Supplementary Prescriber you will be able to prescribe within your scope of practice and your specific regulatory and professional body restrictions.

There are legal frameworks which also specify items listed/restricted within the legally specified formularies (British National Formulary). These vary between Nursing and Midwifery Council registered nurses and midwives and allied health professionals regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council. It can get confusing but that's why the module team are here to help!

Broadly ...

As an independent prescriber you will be able to prescribe licensed and unlicensed medicines, within and outside of their license for any medical condition within your scope of practice, including controlled drugs.

As a Supplementary Prescriber:

Within the bounds of an agreed patient specific clinical management plan you will be able to prescribe all licensed and unlicensed medicines within and outside of the license within your scope of practice including controlled drugs.

Prescribing for Children

Students who are, or are likely in the future to prescribe for children must demonstrate achievement of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society competencies within the context of prescribing for children.

Module Entry Requirements

All entry requirements MUST BE MET before the first day of the module.

Practitioners wishing to apply for Non Medical Prescribing (utilising RPL) must meet the following criteria:

- Have undertaken the community practitioner nurse prescriber (V100/V150) **within five years of the course start date**, and are working as community practitioner nurse prescribers,
- Have current NMC, v100/v150 registration
- Have the competence, experience and academic ability to study at least degree level and can provide evidence of this
- Be able to provide evidence of a Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) enhanced certificate; issued within 3 years of applying to the module
- Be competent to undertake a history, clinical/health assessment and make a diagnosis in the area of practice relating to where you intend to prescribe as a V300 prescriber
- Have approved funding arrangements in place (see module application webpage for more details) or state self funding
- Have in place (or will have in place), an appropriate indemnity arrangement for their prospective role as a prescriber
- Have a clinical placement (e.g. ward, GP surgery) with an educational audit in place or have completed the non medical prescribing 'self-audit' for practice learning prior to enrolment on the module
- Have support from a manager, employing organisation or other appropriate authority and supply their name and contact details

Take responsibility for own continuing professional development

Application forms and process

There are 2 application forms to complete for this programme; One is the standard University Application Form and the other being an application form addressing specific entry criteria and information required specifically for the prescribing module.

Prior to completing your application:

You must ensure that you can name and provide email contact details of your manager and prescribing leads who have approved your study prior to your application to the University. You will also need to have full details of your Practice Assessor and Practice Supervisor (see details below) which includes their PIN and professional background so we can check their active registration and prescribing qualifications.

Independent funded applications e.g. Aesthetic Practitioners need to provide details of a business associate or professional colleague who can confirm some of the entry requirements, as well as Practice Supervisor and Assessor details (Under specific circumstances this may be the same person). Independent Practitioners also need to have an Educational audit form completed to meet practice learning requirements.

NB All applicants need to have full details completed on the online University Standard Application Form and the Prescribing Study Application Form before their application can be processed.

Supervision and Assessment

All NMC applicants must also ensure that:

- A practice **supervisor** has been assigned who is a registered healthcare professional with suitable equivalent qualifications for the programme due to be undertaken.
- A practice **assessor** has been assigned who is a registered healthcare professional and an experienced prescriber with suitable equivalent qualifications for the programme the student is undertaking. The practice assessor can be nurse prescriber with the V300 prescribing qualification or another non-medical independent and supplementary prescriber or doctor

The Practice Supervisor

Must be registered nurse, midwife, allied health professional or doctor who

- Is an active, registered prescriber
- works in the same clinical area as the prescribing student
- is a role model for safe and effective practice
- has up to date knowledge of skills of prescribing in the clinical area
- is able to commit time to supervise and support the student
- If a Designated Medical Practitioner, then they must meet the Department of Health criteria below

The Practice Assessor

Nurses and other non-medical prescribers undertaking the role of practice assessors must meet the Department of Nursing, Midwifery and Health role eligibility criteria below. This criteria has been developed in partnership with local NHS Trusts.

Eligibility criteria to act as the Practice Assessor for a nurse or midwife prescribing student

The practice assessor must:

- Be a registrant on a health professions register.
- Be a V300 or medical prescriber.
- Be an active prescriber with a minimum of one year post prescribing qualification
- Have some experience or training in teaching and / or supervising and assessing in practice
- Have agreement from the line manager for time to support the nurse prescribing student
- Be willing to undertake Preparation for Assessing Prescribers
- If a Designated Medical Practitioner, then they must meet the Department of Health criteria below

Department of Health eligibility criteria to act as the Designated Medical Practitioner for the assessment of non-medical prescribers by medical prescribers.

- has normally at least 3 years recent clinical experience for a group of patients/clients in the relevant field of practice.
- is within a GP practice and is either vocationally trained or is in possession of a certificate of equivalent experience from the joint committee for Post-graduate Training in General Practice (JCPTGP)

OR

- is a specialist registrar, clinical assistant or a consultant within an NHS Trust or other NHS employer.
- Has the support of the employing organisation or GP practice to act as the designated medical practitioner who will provide supervision, support and opportunities to develop competence in prescribing practice.
- Has some experience or training in teaching and / or supervising in practice

Exceptional Circumstances for NMC registrants

There may be exceptional occasions where it is not possible for the supervisor and assessor to be different people. This situation must be made clear on the application form. Arrangements in such situations are subject to scrutiny and agreement of the module leader but where there is no opportunity for different people to act as supervisor and assessor in the clinical area the student must identify a prescriber who meets the requirements to be a practice assessor. This person will act as both supervisor and assessor.

Please note: You must not be related to or in a relationship with your practice assessor.

Prescribing Lead

All NHS applications for prescribing programmes must be processed through and confirmed by your Employing Organisations' Prescribing Lead. This allows a smooth process of managing any of the above issues/practice concerns. Your Prescribing Lead also usually manages the process of internal recognition of your prescribing qualification once you have completed the module and facilitates the issuing of prescription pads/authority to prescribe.

The final requirement for entry requires support from the programme/module lead. The module team will check your application for compliance with the entry requirements set out above. Where all requirements are met the programme/module lead formally supports the application. **Please note that a place on the module cannot be offered until all criteria has been met.** It takes time to make the checks required therefore applications received after the closing date cannot be accepted. Applications will not normally be accepted within 6 weeks of the module start date.

Recognition of Learning

The university has established systems for the verification of prior credit and expertise within the Department to provide guidance and support for this process where required.

Recently qualified nurses and midwives who have completed the Community Practitioner Prescribing module (V100/V150) and are accessing this **module within 5 years of module completion** will have recognition of prior learning applied. This student must complete all of the practice learning hours but have some attendance exemptions.

Module Content: Non Medical Prescribing

- Assessing the patient and considering prescribing options,
- Pharmacology for prescribing and de-prescribing,
- Legal and regulatory frameworks,
- Providing information, reaching shared decisions,
- Monitoring and reviewing treatments,
- Prescribing safely, professionally and as part of a team and
- Improving prescribing practice.

Module Learning Outcomes Level 6

By the end of the module, you will be able to:

Knowledge & Understanding:

1. Articulate the legal, ethical and professional frameworks for accountability and responsibility for prescribing within your own sphere of practice
2. Critically analyse evidence to support your prescribing decisions
3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics of drugs used within your sphere of practice

Intellectual / Professional skills & abilities:

4. Demonstrate professional skills in consultation, decision making and prescribing safely and effectively
5. Work in partnership with patients to monitor and review treatment, manage/report adverse drug reactions

Personal Values Attributes:

6. Reflect on prescribing practice and support others to prescribe safely and effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team

Module Learning Outcomes Level 7

By the end of the module, you will be able to:

Knowledge & Understanding:

1. Articulate and debate the legal, ethical and professional frameworks for accountability and responsibility for prescribing within your own sphere of practice
2. Critically evaluate evidence to support your prescribing decisions
3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics of drugs used within your sphere of practice

Intellectual / Professional skills & abilities:

4. Demonstrate professional skills in consultation, decision making and prescribing safely and effectively
5. Work in partnership with patients to monitor and review treatment, manage/report adverse drug reactions

Personal Values Attributes:

6. Reflect on prescribing practice and support others to prescribe safely and effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team

Module Assessment

There are two elements of assessment in this module: numeracy assessment, pharmacology examination, academic and practice assessment. There is no compensation between assessments; you must pass all components.

Assessment Component	Assessment method	Pass mark (%)	Overall weighting (%)
Academic Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written assignment focussed upon the legal, professional and ethical principles of prescribing within your sphere of practice to include pharmacology poster 1250 words level 6 1500 words level 7 	40 50 Pass/refer	
Practice Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement of Prescribing Competency Standards (RPS 2021) in Practice including CMP, include service user feedback & personal reflection & Evidence of 78 hours of prescribing related learning experiences recorded within a learning log 	100 (pass/refer)	

How do I apply?

1. Check you meet the entry criteria determined by the NMC
2. The majority of healthcare Trusts have their own systems for employees wishing to enrol on a University programme of study. Please contact the Prescribing Lead for your organisation. Their support is needed for you to access a funded place. Once you have gained agreement from your employer you must apply to the University for a place using the online application system.
3. Apply online on the University Non Medical Prescribing web page. Please ensure your NMC details are up to date and the information you submit on the application form is consistent with the details held by your regulatory body. We do check your pin registration and that of a nurse, midwife practice supervisor and assessor.
4. As part of the application process you will be asked to provide the name of your practice supervisor and practice assessor.

5. Think carefully about your choice of practice supervisor and practice assessor. Think about who might be best placed to help you meet your learning needs as well as who meets the criteria. You will need to have this discussion with your manager and prescribing Lead. You will not be able to commence the module without a practice supervisor and practice assessor. Please speak to a member of the team if you are not able to identify a different supervisor and assessor.
6. Contact the people you have in mind and ask them if they are willing to undertake the role.
7. Check your DBS status, **healthcare professionals wishing to enrol on prescribing modules must have a current DBS (CRB check). If your DBS is out of date or you do not have one please arrange for your employer to apply for you.** Your employer is required to confirm that this is in place (not applicable to some independent individuals e.g. aesthetic practitioners).
8. What happens once I have applied?
 The admission team will process your application
 Your manager/Prescribing Lead will confirm you meet the entry requirements
 Your supervisor and assessor will be contacted to confirm agreement to take the role
 Our Admissions team will check the entry criteria are met and funding is in place
 ~The Programme/module team will confirm professional entry requirements are met.
 a place will be formally offered by the admissions team, usually 4-6 weeks prior to the start of the module.

How can I prepare for the Module?

There are many ways to prepare for the module but student feedback suggests that as the pharmacology element of the module is generally new to prescribing students and this is the area where preparation time is best spent.

We strongly recommend prescribing students bring their knowledge of normal anatomy and physiology of the major body systems up to date. A good working knowledge of normal anatomy and physiology helps you to understand where the drug acts and what the drug does in the presence of disease or altered physiology.

In particular, the pharmacology of a large number of drugs requires knowledge of the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous system.

You may also like to think about yourself and your role as a prescriber. It is useful to start to think about the drugs and products you will regularly prescribe and begin to develop a personal prescribing formulary. Think about -

- How prescribing may enhance your present role and how it might be used to offer new services.
- What benefits will nurse prescribing offer your patients / clients, yourself and your colleagues?
- During a patient / client consultation or situation when a prescription is given, medication is supplied or a patient / client is given advice to purchase an item from the pharmacy consider the following:-
 - Look up the item in the British National Formulary.

- Are there any cautions, contraindications, side effects or potential interactions associated with the prescribing of the item?
- Think about the assessment / consultation that preceded the decision to request a prescription from a prescriber. If you were to prescribe the item would the assessment / consultation be different? why?
- Do you have sufficient knowledge and clinical skills to diagnose the conditions for which you would want to prescribe?
- Consider if you might need additional information from the patient / client or about the product before you would feel safe to prescribe in that situation.

The module uses an online system called Blackboard Ultra. This system is great for busy practitioners like yourselves because it allows access 24/7 to course resources from anywhere with wifi. You will be sent instruction to access the timetable and some pre course information once your place is confirmed but if you have limited experience of using computers you may like to take this opportunity to find out more before you start.

If you want to know more about non-medical prescribing go to the Department of Health web site www.dh.gov.uk and search using the terms independent prescribing, supplementary prescribing.

Please contact a member of the team if you have any questions.

We hope you will join us in the near future.

Claire Pryor
Programme and Subject Lead
Non Medical prescribing