

Prescribing for Non-Medical Health Professionals

***Leading to the award of:***

**Community Practitioner Prescriber**

**Pre-Course Information for Prospective Applicants V150**

**Module codes: AC6709 (level 6) & AC7067 (level 7)**

#### **Number of Credits: 20**

**Last updated: May 2020.**

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**Welcome**

This booklet aims to provide managers and prospective non-medical prescribing students with information about the community practitioner prescribing module V150 prescribing module at Northumbria University at Newcastle.

**Programme Title :** Non Medical Prescribing.

**Module and Award:** Community Practitioner Prescribing for Nurses and Midwives (V150)

**Module Code:** Degree level 6 module AC6709

Masters Level 7 module AC7067

**Study Centre**:Department of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Coach Lane Campus, Northumbria University at Newcastle.

**Length :** 3 months (13 Weeks)

10 university led days

10 days (65 hours) supervised practice

**Total: 20 days of study**

**Frequency:** At least once a year

**Times: T**aught days9.30 am to 4.00pm.

**Credits: Degree Level 6 and 7:** 20 credit accumulation transfer points (CAT)

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The application process is managed by our admissions team. For enquiries regarding application or admission please view our website page. Please check that you are able to complete all elements of the application form as incomplete applications may not be considered. This includes all manager (or appropriate other), prescribing lead, practice supervisor and assessor details.

**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 has pioneered the enhancement of community roles and this module continues to build on this expertise. The NMC state that all registered nurses, midwives or SCPHN are eligible to apply for entry to a prescribing programme but must meet the entry requirements..

**Programme and Module.**

The Non-Medical Prescribing Programme includes a number of awards. This handbook provides information for nurses and midwives wishing to prepare to become community practitioner prescribers with authority to prescribe from the Nurse Prescribers’ Formulary (please refer to this section within the BNF). This is also referred to as V150 or V100 prescribing.

The Community Practitioner Prescribing module consists of 20 days of prescribing education and preparation which includes 10 taught days (5 of which are directed learning and 0.5 day for assessment) and 10 days of supervised practice with assessment over 13 -15 weeks (3 -4 months). In addition, students will require personal study time. The amount of time varies between individuals but can be in the region of 50 - 80 hours.

The module includes four elements of assessment. Students must pass each of these 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 are expected to attend all taught sessions and will not leave sessions early. However, we understand there may be occasions when this is not possible. 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 20 days of study time are protected.

A student may miss a maximum of 2 University attended days. Absence in excess of this will result in interrupting the module until taught time is made up with the next intake.

**Please make sure you have the module dates On our NMP web page) and can commit to the dates before you apply.**

**NB Due to COVID19 considerations, exceptional circumstances will be applied to the 2020-2021 academic year whereby some attendance days may be delivered online with live collaborative learning platforms in place of face-to-face teachings. This will require access to Blackboard Ultra via computer/mobile once registered on the programme, so you can actively participate.**

***What will the qualification enable you to prescribe?***

**As an Independent Community Practitioner Prescriber you** will be able to prescribe within your scope of practice, items listed in the Nurse Prescribers’ Formulary in the strength, dose, formulation and for the indication for use listed in the Nurse Prescribers Formulary.

**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 confirmed within the application form/process and be met before the first day of the module.**

**IMPORTANT**

**There are 2 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 for a Health Education England funded place on the programme:**

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

**Nurses and midwives wishing to apply for Health Education England (HEE) funded Community Practitioner Prescribing must meet the following criteria:**

* Registered nurse (level 1) / registered midwife / SCPHN
* Can provide personal NMC pin number and expiry date
* Confirm that they have the competence, experience and academic ability to study at least degree level and can provide evidence of this

Have confirmation of a current Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) enhanced certificate;

* Be competent to undertake a history, clinical/health assessment and make a diagnosis in the area of practice relating to community practitioner prescribing from which you intend to prescribe
* Have approved funding arrangements in place i.e. place confirmed by manager and prescribing lead NHS Trust applicants are eligible for HEE funding )
* Have in place (or will have in place), an appropriate indemnity arrangement for 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 (they will be required to confirm this).
* Take responsibility for your own continuing professional development.

All 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 V100, V150 or V300 prescribing qualification of another non-medical independent and supplementary prescriber

**The Practice Supervisor**

Must be registered nurse or midwife, who

* Is an active prescriber
* works in the same clinical area as the community practitioner 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

**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 Community Practitioner nurse or midwife Prescribing student;**

* A registrant on a health professions register.
* To assess a V150 nurse prescribing student the assessor must be a V100, V150 or V300 prescriber.
* An active prescriber with a minimum of one year post prescribing qualification
* Has some experience or training in teaching and / or supervising and assessing in practice
* Has agreement from the line manager for time to support the nurse prescribing student
* Is willing to undertake Preparation for Assessing Community Practitioner Prescribers

**Exceptional Circumstances**

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 non -professional 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 Northumbria University Preparation to Prescribe module as part of their UG or PG studies (graduate entry nursing) pre registration studies, accessing this module within 5 years of module completion will have recognition of prior learning applied following mapping to the RPS Competency Framework for All Pescribers. These students must complete all of the practice learning but they may have some attendance and assessment exemptions as detailed below;

**Module Content:**

* 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 appraise evidence to support your prescribing decisions
3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of products used within your sphere of practice

**Intellectual / Professional skills & abilities:**

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

**Personal Values Attributes:**

1. 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. Appraise and interpret the legal, ethical and professional frameworks for accountability and responsibility for community practitioner prescribing within your own sphere of practice
2. Evaluate evidence to support your prescribing decisions
3. Summarise your knowledge and understanding of products used within your sphere of practice

**Intellectual / Professional skills & abilities:**

1. Demonstrate professional skills in consultation, decision making and prescribing safely and effectively
2. Employ partnership approaches with patients/carers to monitor and review treatment, manage/report adverse drug reactions

**Personal Values Attributes** (Global / Cultural awareness, Ethics, Curiosity) (PVA):

1. Critique your prescribing practice and support others to prescribe safely and effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team

**Module Assessment**

There are four elements of assessment in this module: numeracy examination, two-part portfolio, pharmacology examination, poster presentation and practice assessment. There is no compensation between assessments.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Assessment Component** | **Assessment method** | **Pass mark (%)** | **Overall weighting**  **(%)** |
| Numeracy Assessment | Assessment of numeracy skills relating to prescribing | 100 (pass/refer) | 0 |
| Pharmacology Written examination (2 hours) | Unseen exam comprising multiple choice, short answer and best response questions | 80 | 20 |
| Academic Assessment | 1. Written assignment focussed upon the legal, professional and ethical principles of prescribing within your sphere of practice   1200 words level 6  1500 words level 7   1. Accurate sample prescription | 40  50  Pass/refer | 80  0 |
| Practice Assessment | 1. Achievement of Prescribing Competency Standards (RPS 2016) in Practice & Evidence of 65 hours (10 days) of prescribing related learning experiences recorded within a learning log to include service user feedback & personal reflection | 100 (pass/refer) | 0 |

**The Assessment of Numeracy.**

In accordance to regulatory body requirements, all prescribing students must successfully complete a numeracy assessment. The pass mark for this assessment is 100%. The exam is a computer based numerical calculation of 10 questions to answer. This will take place within the first 4-6 weeks of the module and you will have access to an online resource called Safe Medicate to prepare for this. Please see the later section relating to how you may prepare for the module.

We hope having read the information you will want to study with us and may be asking -

**How do I apply?**

1. Check you meet the entry criteria determined by the NMC and detailed on page 6 of this booklet.
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. The practice supervisor must meet the role criteria set out on page 6. The practice assessor must meet the role criteria set out on page 5.
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 current a 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**.
8. What happens once I have applied?

The admission team will process your application

Your manage/Prescribing Lead will confirm you meet the entry requirements

Your supervisor and assessor will be contacted to confirm agreement to take the role

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. Whilst this is part of the module as the nurse prescribers formulary includes nicotine replacement products, students find it very useful to revise these systems before starting. Other body systems should also be revised to help understand interactions, in particular, respiratory, cardiac, kidneys and liver. A pre registration nursing A&P book will be sufficient. Students have also found GCSE revision guides and websites such as BBC bitesize to be useful. Click on this weblink, go to biology and you will see different exam specifications include different content, all include cell biology , some circulatory system , some nervous system, etc. <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/z9ddmp3>

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 revise your numeracy skills there are lots of online resources and text books to choose from. We find that people approach maths differently and we therefore do not recommend a particular resource. Have a browse around and choose what works best for you.

For those who feel they need to go back to the beginning with maths the open university offer a free online course. There are two parts that can be studied, each part takes 8 weeks with a requirement for 3 hours study per week and there is an option to pay to continue study too.

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/science-maths-technology/succeed-maths-part-1/content-section-overview?active-tab=content-tab>

If you want to know more about non-medical prescribing go to the Department of Health web site [www.dh.gov.uk](http://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.