

# Training for non-medical prescribers

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Non-medical prescribing (NMP) is the term used to describe any prescribing completed by a healthcare professional other than a doctor or dentist.

## What are the benefits to non-medical prescribing?

NMP has demonstrated patient care and economic benefits. Consequently, investing in NMP is seen as 'an investment to save' and encouraging NMP capacity is seen as a vital upskilling priority and features as a key enabler in the planning and delivery of new care models and transforming care.

NMP training can support role and career development by enabling practitioners to take on greater responsibilities for managing patient care. NMP enhances patient care by supporting patients' timely access to treatment with medicines, enabling choice whilst helping to reduce waiting times, reduce hospital admissions and maximising the wider skills of the healthcare team.

**Who can  
become a non-  
medical  
prescriber?**

The department of Health specify which registered professionals can become non-medical prescribers. At present the included professionals are:

### Independent and supplementary prescribers

- Nurses/Midwives
- Pharmacists

- Physiotherapists
- Podiatrist
- Paramedics
- Optometrists
- Therapeutic Radiographers

### **Supplementary prescribers only**

- Diagnostic Radiographers
- Dieticians

### **Community Practitioner Prescribers**

- Nurses (Health Visitors and District Nurses)

## **How can an individual become a prescriber?**

The preparation for and acquisition of NMP skills is achieved by eligible practitioners undertaking an accredited programme, delivered by a Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Non-medical prescribing programmes provide the knowledge, skills and training to prescribe safely and competently.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has created a Prescribing Competency Framework [8] for all prescribers that has been designed to help maintain prescribing standards, inform education curricula and provide a source of recognised guidance for those involved in NMP.

All prescribing roles build on and extend registered professions ability to deliver full episodes of patient care. In turn this enhances patients' timely access to treatment with medicines and patient experience whilst reducing waiting times, hospital admissions and more effectively using members of the healthcare team.

## **Where are NMP courses available in the North of England?**

Within the North of England, there are currently 21 HEIs that have been approved to deliver non-medical prescribing programmes. The Non-medical Prescribing HEI Information table below contains the names of the HEIs and includes core information including, the number of academic credits, the academic level(s), the number of face to face study days, the cost and the professions that can access the course.

Further specific detail, e.g. courses content, assessment, start dates, is available to view on individual University websites.

### **How does an individual apply for a course?**

Application forms can be supplied by the University or the local NMP Lead (if your organisation has one).

Some organisations will require a local NMP lead to check the application and sign it off, before it is submitted to the university.

The university or NMP lead, will be able to provide further details.

### **Is funding available for NMP courses?**

NMP courses are funded in a variety of ways.

Across the North many courses are funded by HEE, there are criteria that must be met in order to access this funding (see below), this may also include agreement from your organisation or CCG to use their allocation of funding.

Employing organisations can fund courses directly.

Candidates are also able to self-fund the course.

Some pharmacists, undertaking specified roles, may be able to access funding via the Pharmacy Integration Fund [9].

### **What criteria must be satisfied to qualify for funding from HEE?**

In order to qualify for a HEE funded place on a prescribing course you must:

- Be working in or providing an NHS service where NMP can be used as part of the service (i.e. not private aesthetic services)
- Have employer/organisational approval to use NMP as part of their service/practice
- Have appropriate and confirmed access to a prescribing budget and prescription pad, if needed
- Have confirmed access to the appropriate supervisor(s)
- Have a commitment to the appropriate number of hours of supervised practice from both your employer and the prescribing supervisor
- Meet the HEI admission criteria
- Meet any local/employer requirements.

### **What is a**

## prescribing supervisor?

The prescribing supervisor is an independent supervisor who completes assessment and teaching in practice (previously known as a designated medical practitioner (DMP)). The Practice Supervisor (PS) is a colleague in practice who must be able to provide guidance and supervision of your practice-based learning whilst you're on the course. The PS must be someone with whom you normally work, and they must meet specific criteria as outlined by the HEI.

Support for the practice supervisor role is provided by the University NMP course leads and NMP leads in organisations.

## What happens after completing the NMP course?

The newly qualified NMP must:

- Register with the relevant regulator i.e. GPhC, NMC, HCPC
- Provide confirmation to their employers of their successful annotation
- Complete any other local/employer requirements e.g. scope of practice/formulary
- Ensure they have appropriate indemnity arrangements
- Maintain competence and undertake annual CPD and revalidation as specified by their regulator
- Ensure they have appropriate support to undertake their prescribing role.

## Related Documents

- Non medical Prescribing HEI Information (.pdf) 114.01 KB [10]

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**Source URL (modified on 02/03/2021 - 13:25):** <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/medicines-optimisation/training-non-medical-prescribers>

### Links

- [1] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work>
- [2] <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/>
- [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>
- [4] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/news-blogs-events>
- [5] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/about>
- [6] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/covid-19>
- [7] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/complaints>
- [8] <https://www.rpharms.com/resources/frameworks/prescribers-competency-framework>

[9] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/pharmacy/pharmacy-integration-fund>

[10]

[https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Non%20medical%20Prescribing%20HEI%20Information\\_Feb](https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Non%20medical%20Prescribing%20HEI%20Information_Feb)