



UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

Faculty of Health

Professional Development Unit Independent and Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing (NMP) Application Guide

The Independent and Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing (NMP) programme is mapped to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's [Competency Framework for all Prescribers \(2016\)](#), a comprehensive framework providing prescribers with common foundations.

Our regulatory bodies require that teaching resulting in an NMP qualification be termed a 'programme' of study. However, due to the fact that NMP can also sit within a wider programme (e.g. a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Critical Care Practitioner) and be undertaken on a 'stand-alone' basis, it is sometimes referred to as a 'module'. The programme/module carries 40 credits at either degree level (sometimes referred to as 'level 6') or master's level ('level 7').

The following information has been designed to assist you in ascertaining your suitability to undertake this NMP programme. The entry requirements and levels of study available are stipulated by regulatory bodies and professional organisations.

The following is a guide rather than an exhaustive list of everything that could be considered. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that you read your own professional specific publications to ensure that undertaking an NMP programme is right for you. These publications provide useful checklists and also highlight exactly which medications can be prescribed within your individual scope of practice. Some suggested further reading is listed at the end of this application guide.

Please use the flowchart overleaf to determine your suitability to study NMP as a programme or module.

Faculty of Health

Have you and your organisation agreed the need for you to undertake the NMP programme? This should include consideration of how, upon successful completion, you would implement NMP and what benefits would accrue to patients within your service.

If yes, please proceed.

Have you completed study at level 6 or higher within the last 5 years? If you have completed this level of study less recently, please contact PDU Admissions (pduadmissions@plymouth.ac.uk) with further details of your most recent study.

If yes, please proceed.

Are suitable and effective arrangements and governance for practice learning in place? This includes areas where applicants are self-employed.

If yes, please proceed.

PHARMACISTS

Level 7

NURSES & MIDWIVES

Levels 6 & 7

PHYSIOTHERAPIST,
PODIATRISTS &
THERAPEUTIC
RADIOGRAPHERS

Level 7

PARAMEDICS

Level 7

AT ALL ACADEMIC LEVELS HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONALS SHOULD BE WORKING TOWARDS ADVANCED PRACTICE AS DEFINED BY HEE ([click link](#)): AP DEFINITION

Entrants must be a pharmacist registered with the GPhC or the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

Entrants must be a nurse (level 1), a midwife, or a SCPHN registered with the NMC.

Entrants must be registered with the HCPC in one of the relevant Allied Health Professions.

Entrants must be a paramedic registered with the HCPC.

Entrants must have at least **2 years** appropriate patient-orientated experience post registration, in a relevant UK practice setting.

Entrants must have been registered with the NMC for a minimum of **1 year** prior to entry onto the programme.

Entrants must normally have at least **3 years** relevant post-qualification experience in the clinical area in which they will be prescribing.

Entrants must have been qualified and registered for at least **5 years** and normally have at least **3 years** relevant post-qualification experience in the clinical area in which they will be prescribing.

Entrants must have an identified area of clinical or therapeutic practice in which to develop independent prescribing practice. They must also have relevant clinical or therapeutic experience in that area, which is suitable to act as the foundation of their prescribing practice whilst training.

Entrants must possess the competence, experience and academic ability to study at the level required for the programme. This includes advanced practice skills such as:

- Clinical / health assessment.
- Diagnostics / care management.
- Planning and evaluation of care.

Entrants must be working at an advanced practitioner or equivalent level.

Entrants must have (or be working towards) an advanced practice qualification. Entrants must have a qualification, experience and evidence of competency in diagnostics, physical examination and decision-making skills relevant to their area(s) of prescribing practice.

All students must have identified a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) prior to admission onto the programme. The umbrella term DPP brings a number of different profession-specific titles together within the Royal Pharmaceutical Societies' new guidance: [A Competency Framework for Designated Prescribing Practitioners \(2019\)](#) Pages 9-10 specify the criteria which must be fulfilled to support and assess a student on this programme. The titles, used by professional regulators, which are covered by the term DPP (when applied in the context of prescribing training) are:

- Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP)
- Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP)
- Named Practice Supervisor
- Practice Assessor
- Practice Educator

The RPS (2019, p.3) state that aim of the DPP role is **“To oversee, support and assess the competence of non-medical prescribing trainees, in collaboration with academic and workplace partners, during the period of learning in practice”**

The RPS guidance allows greater flexibility around who may undertake the role of DPP, when previously this role was primarily performed by DMPs. Please, however, bear in mind that, as per the RPS (2019, p.6) guidance:

“The framework is a generic framework for any prescriber working in the DPP role, it does not contain competency statements that relate to specific professions or sectors of practice. The framework reflects the key competencies needed by all DPPs but must be contextualised to reflect different environments and areas of practice”.

It would therefore be expected that DPPs would fully familiarise themselves with profession specific regulatory guidance and only support students whom are practising in a very similar environment. **Nurses and Midwives must also have a named supervisor before admission to the programme.**

Useful Publications and Information

- Allied Health Professions Federation (2018) *Outline Curriculum Framework for Education Programmes to Prepare: Physiotherapists, Podiatrists, Therapeutic Radiographers and Paramedics as Independent/Supplementary Prescribers*. Available at: [http://www.ahpf.org.uk/files/Joint OCF 2018 update College of Paramedics March18 minor error corrected.pdf](http://www.ahpf.org.uk/files/Joint%20OCF%202018%20update%20College%20of%20Paramedics%20March18%20minor%20error%20corrected.pdf)
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapists (2018) *Practice Guidance for Physiotherapist Supplementary and/or Independent Prescribers in the safe use of medicines*. Available at: [https://www.csp.org.uk/system/files/publication_files/PD026 PracticeGuidancePrescribing 4thEd 2018.pdf](https://www.csp.org.uk/system/files/publication_files/PD026_PracticeGuidancePrescribing_4thEd_2018.pdf)
- College of Paramedics (2018) *Improving Patients' Access to Medicines: A Guide to Implementing Paramedic Prescribing within the NHS in the UK*. Available at: <https://www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk/publications/independent-prescribing>
- College of Podiatry (2018) *Good Practice in Prescribing and Medicines Management for Podiatrists*. Available at: <https://cop.org.uk/resources/assets/attachment/full/0/54512.df>
- Disability services. Available at: <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/services/learning-gateway/disability-and-dyslexia>
- General Pharmaceutical Council (2018) *Guidance on Tutoring and Supervising Pharmacy Professionals in Training*. Available at: [https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/sites/default/files/document/guidance on supervising pharmacy professionals in training august 2018.pdf](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/sites/default/files/document/guidance%20on%20supervising%20pharmacy%20professionals%20in%20training%20august%202018.pdf)
- General Pharmaceutical Council (2019) *Standards for the Education and Training of Pharmacist Independent Prescribers*. Available at: [https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/sites/default/files/document/accreditation of independent prescribing programmes - guidance for providers 2018-19 final.pdf](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/sites/default/files/document/accreditation%20of%20independent%20prescribing%20programmes%20-%20guidance%20for%20providers%202018-19%20final.pdf)
- Health and Care Professions Council (2019) *Standards for Prescribing*. Available at: <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-relevant-to-education-and-training/standards-for-prescribing/>
- Nursing and Midwifery Council (2018) *Standards for Prescribing Programmes*. Available at: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/education-standards/programme-standards-prescribing.pdf>
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society (2016) *A Competency Framework for All Prescribers*. Available at: [https://www.rpharms.com/Portals/0/RPS document library/Open access/Professional standards/Prescribing competency framework/prescribing-competency-framework.pdf](https://www.rpharms.com/Portals/0/RPS%20document%20library/Open%20access/Professional%20standards/Prescribing%20competency%20framework/prescribing-competency-framework.pdf)
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society (2019) *A Competency Framework for Designated Prescribing Practitioners*. Available at: <https://www.rpharms.com/Portals/0/RPS%20document%20library/Open%20access/Professional%20standards/DPP%20Framework/DPP%20competency%20framework%20Dec%202019.pdf?ver=2019-12-18-150746-160>
- Society and College of Radiographers (2016) *Practice Guidance for Radiographer Independent and/or Supplementary Prescribers*. Available at: https://www.sor.org/sites/default/files/document-versions/prescribing_practice_guidance_final.pdf