

# INDEPENDENT/SUPPLEMENTARY PRESCRIBER PREPARATION PROGRAMME AND SHORT COURSE (V300) APPLICATION GUIDANCE NOTES FOR NMC REGISTRANTS



The application forms for this Prescriber Preparation Programme/Short Course are designed to ensure that practice learning for the prescribing student complies with *Realising Professionalism: Standards for education and training Part 1: Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education, Part 2: Standards for student supervision and assessment* (NMC, 2018a) and, specific to this Programme and Short Course: *Part 3: Standards for prescribing programmes* (NMC, 2018b).

Applicants must provide evidence that they meet the criteria set by the NMC to undertake an Independent/Supplementary Prescriber Preparation Programme or Short Course:

- You must be a registered nurse (level 1), a registered midwife or a Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (SCPHN) [Part 3, 1.1].
- You must have been registered with the NMC for a minimum of one year prior to application for entry onto the programme [Part 3, 1.7].
- You must have the competence, experience and academic ability to study at the level required [Part 3, 1.5].

## Academic level

Participation in and successful completion of an NMC approved prescribing programme leads to accreditation at a level equivalent to a bachelor's degree as a minimum award [Part 3, 5.2].

If you are applying for the under-graduate degree level Short Course (level 6), you will be required to present your original nursing diploma. If applying to undertake the programme at Master's level (level 7), you are required to have either an under-graduate degree or be able to present evidence of recent degree level study. Please contact the Professional Development Centre (PDC) for further details.

You will need to evidence the support for your application from:

- **Your employer:** the University of Lincoln will work collaboratively with your employer in order to confirm that the necessary governance structures are in place (including clinical support, access to protected learning time and employer support where appropriate) to enable students to undertake and be adequately supported throughout their programme. Self-employed applicants will need to demonstrate appropriate clinical governance in the area in which they practice (registration with the Care Quality Commission) [Part 3, 1.3].
- **Your Prescribing Lead** If you work in an NHS Trust, there will be a senior manager who acts in the capacity as Prescribing Lead and takes a strategic responsibility for prescribing policy and

developments within the organisation. If you are self-employed or work in an organisation without a designated prescribing Lead, this section of the application form does not need to be completed.

- **The University of Lincoln:** As part of the selection process, and following successful shortlisting of your application, you will need to complete a drug calculation test, comprising twenty questions, with a minimum mark of 80%.

## Practice learning

In addition, you will need to nominate a practice supervisor and a practice assessor:

- **The practice supervisor** can be any registered health and social care professional working in a practice environment. The University of Lincoln, in partnership with our practice partners, require the practice supervisor for prescribing programmes to hold their V300 prescribing qualification. They must also have completed the necessary educational preparation for the role of practice supervisor. The only exception relates to medically qualified practitioners who can evidence the required experience in teaching and assessing as detailed in Section 3 of the application form.
- **The practice assessor** is a registered healthcare professional and an experienced prescriber with suitable equivalent qualifications for this V300 independent/supplementary prescriber preparation programme [Part 3, 4.5]. They must have completed their educational preparation for the role of practice assessor. The only exception relates to medically qualified practitioners who can evidence the required experience in teaching and assessing as detailed in Section 4 of the application form.
- **Please note:** Practice assessors cannot act as the practice supervisor simultaneously for the same student [Part 2, 7.10].

## Selection, admission and progression

### Approved education institutions, together with practice learning partners must:

- 1.1 ensure that the applicant is a registered nurse (level 1), a registered midwife or a SCPHN before being considered as eligible to apply for entry onto an NMC approved prescribing programme
- 1.2 provide opportunities that enable all nurse (level 1), midwife or SCPHN registrants (including NHS, self-employed or non-NHS employed registrants) to apply for entry onto an NMC approved prescribing programme
- 1.3 confirm that the necessary governance structures are in place (including clinical support, access to protected learning time and employer support where appropriate) to enable students to undertake, and be adequately supported throughout, the programme
- 1.4 consider recognition of prior learning that is capable of being mapped to the RPS *Competency Framework for all Prescribers*
- 1.5 confirm on entry that any applicant selected to undertake a prescribing programme has the competence, experience and academic ability to study at the level required for that programme
- 1.6 confirm that the applicant is capable of safe and effective practice at a level of proficiency appropriate to the programme to be undertaken and their intended area of prescribing practice in the following areas:
  - 1.6.1 Clinical/health assessment

1.6.2. Diagnostics/care management

1.6.3. Planning and evaluation of care, and

1.7 ensure that applicants for V300 supplementary/independent prescribing programmes have been registered with the NMC for a minimum of one year prior to application for entry onto the programme.

*NMC (2018b) Realising professionalism: Standards for education and training. Part 3: Standards for prescribing programmes.*

### **Supervision of students**

**Approved education institutions, together with practice learning partners, must ensure that:**

- 2.1 all students on an NMC approved programme are supervised while learning in practice
- 2.2 there is support and oversight of practice supervision to ensure safe and effective learning
- 2.3 the level of supervision provided to students reflects their learning needs and stage of learning
- 2.4 practice supervision ensures safe and effective learning experiences that uphold public protection and the safety of people
- 2.5 there is sufficient coordination and continuity of support and supervision of students to ensure safe and effective learning experiences
- 2.6 practice supervision facilitates independent learning, and
- 2.7 all students on an NMC approved programme are supervised in practice by NMC registered nurses and midwives, and other registered health and social care professionals.

*NMC (2018a) Realising professionalism: Standards for education and training. Part 2: Standards for student supervision and assessment.*

### **Practice supervisors: role and responsibilities**

**Approved education institutions, together with practice learning partners, must ensure that practice supervisors:**

- 3.1 serve as role models for safe and effective practice in line with their code of conduct
- 3.2 support learning in line with their scope of practice to enable the student to meet their proficiencies and programme outcomes
- 3.3 support and supervise students, providing feedback on their progress towards, and achievement of, proficiencies and skills
- 3.4. have current knowledge and experience of the area in which they are providing support, supervision and feedback, and
- 3.5 receive ongoing support to participate in the practice learning of students.

### **Practice supervisors: contribution to assessment and progression**

**Approved education institutions, together with practice learning partners, must ensure that practice supervisors:**

- 4.1 contribute to the student's record of achievement by periodically recording relevant observations on

the conduct, proficiency and achievement of the students they are supervising

4.2 contribute to student assessments to inform decisions for progression

4.3 have sufficient opportunities to engage with practice assessors and academic assessors to share relevant observations on the conduct, proficiency and achievement of the students they are supervising

4.4 are expected to appropriately raise and respond to student conduct and competence concerns and are supported in doing so.

*NMC (2018a) Realising professionalism: Standards for education and training. Part 2: Standards for student supervision and assessment.*

### **Practice supervisors: preparation**

**Approved education institutions, together with practice learning partners, must ensure that practice supervisors:**

5.1 receive ongoing support to prepare, reflect and develop for effective supervision and contribution to, student learning and assessment, and

5.2 have understanding of the proficiencies and programme outcomes they are supporting students to achieve

*NMC (2018a) Realising professionalism: Standards for education and training. Part 2: Standards for student supervision and assessment.*

### **Assessment of students and confirmation of proficiency**

#### **Assessor roles**

**Approved education institutions, together with their practice learning partners, must ensure that:**

6.2 all students on an NMC approved programme are assigned to a nominated practice assessor for a practice placement or a series of practice placements, in line with local and national policies

6.6 students studying for an NMC approved post-registration qualification are assigned to practice and academic assessors in accordance with relevant programme standards

6.7 practice and academic assessors receive ongoing support to fulfil their roles, and

6.8 practice and academic assessors are expected to appropriately raise and respond to concerns regarding student conduct, competence and achievement, and are supported in doing so.

#### **Practice assessors: responsibilities**

**Approved education institutions, together with their practice learning partners, must ensure that:**

7.1 practice assessors conduct assessments to confirm student achievement of proficiencies and programme outcomes for programme learning

7.2 assessment decisions by practice assessors are informed by feedback sought and received from practice supervisors

7.3 practice assessors make and record objective, evidence-based assessments on conduct, proficiency and achievement, drawing on student records, direct observations, student self-reflection, and other resources

7.4 practice assessors maintain current knowledge and expertise relevant for the proficiencies and programme outcomes they are assessing

- 7.5 a nominate practice assessor works in partnership with the nominated academic assessor to evaluate and recommend the student for progression for each part of the programme, in line with programme standards and local and national policies
- 7.6 there are sufficient opportunities for the practice assessor to periodically observe the student across environments in order to inform decisions for assessment and progression
- 7.7 there are sufficient opportunities for the practice assessor to gather and coordinate feedback from practice supervisors, any other practice assessors and relevant people, in order to be assured about their decisions for assessment and progression
- 7.8 practice assessors have an understanding of the student's learning and achievement in theory
- 7.9 communication and collaboration between practice and academic assessors is scheduled for relevant points in programme structure and student progression
- 7.10 practice assessors are not simultaneously the practice supervisor and academic assessor for the same student, and
- 7.11 practice assessors for students on NMC approved prescribing programmes support learning in line with the NMC Standards for prescribing programmes.

NMC (2018a) *Realising professionalism: Standards for education and training. Part 2: Standards for student supervision and assessment.*

### **Qualification to be awarded**

- 5.1 Following successful completion of an NMC approved programme of preparation, the registered nurse (level 1), midwife, or SCPHN is eligible to be recorded as a prescriber in the category of:
  - 5.1.2 a nurse or midwife independent/supplementary prescriber (V300).
- 5.3 the award must be registered with the NMC within five years of the student successfully completing the programme and if they fail to do so, they will have to retake and successfully complete the programme in order to qualify and register their award as a prescriber, and
- 5.4 the student may only prescribe once their prescribing qualification has been annotated on the NMC register and they may only prescribe from the formulary they are qualified to prescribe from and within their competence and scope of practice.

NMC (2018b) *Realising professionalism: Standards for education and training. Part 3: Standards for prescribing programmes.*

### **References**

NMC (2018a) *Realising professionalism: Standards for education and training. Part 2. Standards for student supervision and assessment.* London. NMC. Available from <https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards-for-education-and-training/standards-for-student-supervision-and-assessment/> [accessed 27 February 2018]

NMC (2018b) *Realising professionalism: Standards for education and training. Part 3. Standards for prescribing programmes.* London. NMC. Available from <https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/education-standards/programme-standards-prescribing.pdf> [accessed 27 February 2018]

