

Faculty of Health Studies

Programme Specification

Programme title: Prescribing for Healthcare Professionals

Academic Year:	2018/19
Degree Awarding Body:	University of Bradford
Partner(s), delivery organisation or support provider (if appropriate):	
Final and interim award(s): Nurses, pharmacists and relevant Allied Health Professional's legally allowed to train as independent and supplementary prescribers receive a qualification in independent and supplementary prescribing. Diagnostic Radiographers receive a qualification in supplementary prescribing. Community Nurses receive a qualification in Community Nurse prescribing. All are recordable with the relevant professional bodies.	Certificate of Continue Education Prescribing for Healthcare Professionals On completion eligible to record qualification with NMC, GPhC or HCPC, depending on the individual module studied. Prescribing for Pharmacists PRE6003-C 30 Credits [Framework for Higher Educations Level 6] PRE7003-C 30 Credits [Framework for Higher Education Level 7] Prescribing for Healthcare Professional PRE6004-C 30 Credits [Framework for Higher Educations Level 6] PRE7004-C 30 Credits [Framework for Higher Educations Level 7] Community Nurse Prescribing PRE6002-B Community Nurse Prescribing [Framework for Higher Educations Level 6] PRE7001-B Community Nurse Prescribing [Framework for Higher Educations Level 7]
Programme accredited by (if appropriate):	NMC, GPhC, HCPC
Programme duration:	Maximum 1 year part time
QAA Subject benchmark	N/A

statement(s):	
Date of Senate Approval:	
Date last confirmed and/or minor modification approved by Faculty Board	May 2018

Introduction

Non-medical prescribing is a key element of NHS modernisation, intended to transcend traditional professional boundaries and make better use of professional skills (Department of Health [DH] 2000, DH 2006). The benefits to patient care of non-medical prescribing are significant, facilitating patient centred care, speedy access to treatment and greater patient choice without compromising safety (DH 2005, DH 2006).

The Department of Health, in partnership with regulatory bodies has provided an outline curriculum, which forms the framework for the education of prescribers. The University of Bradford offers several programmes designed to meet the requirements of experienced practitioners from different professional backgrounds wishing to record a qualification as a prescriber with their relevant professional body. Students undertaking these programmes, delivered by the School of Nursing and healthcare leadership, benefit from the opportunities for inter-professional learning as well as teaching from a wide range of lecturers, pharmacists and medical staff.

On successful completion of the 30 credit 'Prescribing for Healthcare Professionals Programme' nurses, pharmacists, and relevant AHP's receive a Certificate of independent and supplementary prescribing and may record a qualification as an independent and supplementary prescriber with the Nursing Midwifery Council (NMC) (V300), General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) or the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). Alternatively, pharmacists may choose to undertake the 30 credit 'Prescribing for Pharmacists' and receive a certificate of independent and supplementary prescribing and may record a qualification as an independent prescriber with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).

Diagnostic Radiographers, who successfully complete the 'Prescribing for Healthcare Professionals' programme receive a certificate of supplementary prescribing and may record their qualification as a supplementary prescriber with the Health and care Professions Council (HCPC). Alternatively, nurses may choose to undertake the 20 credit, 'Community Nurse Prescriber' programme and record their qualification to prescribe from the Community Practitioner Formulary (V150) with the NMC. Both the Prescribing for Healthcare Professionals programme, prescribing for pharmacists and the Community Nurse Prescriber programme are available at Level 6 (undergraduate) and Level 7 (post graduate).

Programme Aims level 6 & 7:

The programme is intended to:

- A1 Prepare nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals to prescribe from the appropriate formulary within current legal and professional guidelines.
- A2 Enable experienced health professionals to enhance their knowledge and gain critical awareness of contemporary issues in order to become safe, competent, effective and reflective non-medical prescribers.

In addition at Level 7:

- A3 Enable practitioners to advance non-medical prescribing practice in their field of practice.

Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of the Level 6 programme, in relation to the student's own area of prescribing practice, the student will be able to:

- LO1 Appraise local and national policy and apply the relevant legislation.
- LO2 Analyse and evaluate the influences on contemporary prescribing practice
- LO3 Apply knowledge of drug actions (pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics and therapeutics) and research evidence.
- LO4 Undertake a systematic consultation and make a holistic assessment of patients' needs.
- LO5 Evaluate and reflect upon own communication and examination skills.
- LO6 Undertake a comprehensive history, to inform diagnosis and prescribing decision making.
- LO7 Reflect on safe, appropriate and cost effective prescribing practice, using best available evidence.
- LO8 Monitor response to medication and modify treatment and refer where appropriate.
- LO9 Practice within a framework of professional accountability, clinical governance and responsibility.
- LO10 Use a variety of sources of information and advice to support decision making and to enhance personal learning.
- LO11 Evaluate their own role and the roles and relationships of others when working as part of a team.
- LO12 Define problems, engage in decision making and use appropriate verbal and written communication skills.
- LO13 Plan and time manage own clinical and theoretical learning.
- LO14 Undertake numerical calculations to underpin safe prescribing practice.

In addition, on completion of the Level 7 programme, in relation to their own area of prescribing practice, the student will be able to:

- LO15 Critically appraise recent research in order to inform diagnosis or therapeutic management of patients and clients.
- LO16 Manage change(s) in practice to improve access to treatment for patients/clients
- LO17 Use skills in data capture and analysis to support decision making.

Curriculum

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Credits	Semester (s)	Module Code
6	Prescribing for Pharmacists	30	1 or 2	PRE6003-C
7	Prescribing for Pharmacists	30	1 or 2	PRE7003-C
6	Prescribing for Healthcare Professionals	30	1 or 2	PRE6004-C
7	Prescribing for healthcare professionals	30	1 or 2	PRE7004-C
6	Community Nurse Prescribing	20	1 or 2	PRE6002-B
7	Community Nurse Prescribing	20	1 or 2	PRE7001-B

Learning and Teaching Strategy

The theoretical component will be delivered using a range of evidence based teaching and learning strategies including lectures, tutorials and seminars. Role play, ward visits and formative objective structured clinical examinations (OSCEs) are used to support learning in the classroom in addition to the more traditional lectures. Inter-professional learning is promoted through the use of student and lecturer generated case studies and event analyses. The student will be encouraged to share experiences and case examples generated through supervised practice. Individualised learning is supported by a learning contract for some programmes.

The learning, teaching and assessment have been designed to develop the student's skills as a reflective practitioner, critical thinker and to promote continued engagement in lifelong learning. The research orientated teaching and learning strategies also recognise the diversity and prior education that different students bring to the classroom; this presents an opportunity for those differences to be used creatively in order to facilitate valuable inter-professional learning. Supervised prescribing practice is a formal element of the learning and the student's development of competency as a prescriber will be supported by a mentor throughout the Programme.

The theoretical elements are directly linked to the student's supervised practice experience, facilitating educational coherence for the student and their mentor and ultimately employer and importantly patients. Learning and teaching will be undertaken over one semester, this normally also includes the required days of practice learning working alongside a mentor, however the programme team are aware that completing the required practice based learning on the 30 credit 'Prescribing for Healthcare Professionals' programme can be a challenge therefore the student may negotiate with the Programme Leader and mentor to extend the practice days over two semesters. It is not possible to undertake the practice experience before the taught element of the programme.

It is essential that pharmacists complete 100% of the timetabled clinical skill training sessions. It is expected that students will achieve 100% attendance at taught sessions. In exceptional circumstances the student can negotiate learning activities with their personal tutor and present written work to demonstrate learning. Any student failing to meet the minimum required attendance of 80% of

mandatory sessions would be offered intercalation through the 'suspension of studies' process.

Assessment Strategy

Theoretical elements are assessed using a multiple choice and short answer question examination (MCQ) and a summative objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE). As well as the formal examination the student will be expected to demonstrate their understanding through reflective writing, the development of a portfolio and completion of a competency framework. The single competency framework for all prescribers was developed by the (Royal Pharmaceutical Society 2016) is used as the basis for prescribing practice development and assessment of competence by students working with a mentor. Assessment is carried out jointly between the mentor and the teaching team.

Formative assessment will be ongoing throughout the programme of study. Formative assessments are timetabled so the student can assess their own learning within the confines of a 'safe' setting. Summative assessment will normally be undertaken, or submitted, at the end of the semester that they originally registered. The diet and volume of assessment reflects the breadth of the curriculum and the understandable necessity to ensure robust assessment of their fitness for purpose and practice.

Each element of assessment must be passed to be deemed as having successfully achieved the programme and to qualify as a prescriber. Supplementary assessment on one occasion of any unsuccessful element(s) in the same mode is normally allowed.

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Assessment Regulations which are available at the link below

<http://www.bradford.ac.uk/aqpo/ordinances-and-regulations/>

However, there are 4 exceptions to these regulations as listed below:

1. All elements of assessment must be passed at 40%, the MCQ and OSCE Components must be passed at 80%.
2. Students will be permitted an automatic supplementary assessment subject to Assessment Committee and do not necessarily need to be presented at a Board of Examiners meeting.
3. Students will be permitted one supplementary attempt as of right, with no further attempts unless there are approved extenuating circumstances that can be applied.
4. Students who fail to identify a serious problem which would cause patient harm in any assessment of the programme will result in an overall failure of the programme and therefore students would forfeit the right to be given a supplementary attempt.

Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential students regardless of their previous academic experience; offers are made following detailed consideration of

each individual application. Most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on this particular programme. Entrance requirements for each programme will vary but consideration of an application will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

Students will be selected on the basis of having met the requirements of the NMC, GPhC or HCPC for admission to prescribing programmes. Admission requirements vary according to professional background and programme choice but include:

- Valid registration on NMC Register as a nurse, midwife or community public health nurse, or registration with the HCPC as an allied health professional or registered pharmacist on the membership register of the GPhC and/or Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.
- Nurses - minimum of 3 years experience since qualifying, including one year, immediately preceding the programme, working in the area of practice in which they intend to prescribe. Nurse applicants must be competent to take a history, carry out an appropriate clinical examination and make a diagnosis. Alternatively Nurse applicants may be enrolled on an appropriate educational advanced practice programme.
- Allied Health Professionals – minimum 3 years experience as a qualified allied health professional.
- Pharmacist – minimum of two years experience following registration.
- Support from the applicant's employing organisation to undertake the programme and practice subsequent to successful completion; that costs generated by their prescribing (once qualified) will be met, that appropriate DBS checks have been undertaken and access to continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities will be available on completion of the Programme.
- The employing organisation must have assessed the applicant to be competent in their area of practice.
- The applicant must also have demonstrated appropriate numeracy skills.
- Demonstrate an ability to study at appropriate level (6/7) through prior learning. Potential entrants would normally have studied at level 5 for level 6, and level 6 for level 7. Any judgments on prior learning will follow normal procedures for assessing academic standing through the University of Bradford RPL process. On successful completion, a student might wish to import the credit into a University of Bradford award.
- Have written evidence (proof) that the learner has access to an appropriate mentor who has agreed to provide support, supervision, and opportunities for the individual to develop competence as a prescribing practitioner for the duration of the programme. The mentor must be approved by the Programme leader and any non-medical prescribing lead for the employing organization.

Admission is on the basis of submission of an application, curriculum vitae, letter of support from the applicant's manager and any organisational non-medical prescribing lead.

Recognition of Prior Learning

It is a professional body requirement that there is no recognition of prior learning and no exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

REFERENCES

Department of Health (2000) *The NHS Plan* London: HMSO

Department of Health (2005) *Supplementary Prescribing by Nurses, Pharmacists, Chiropodists/Podiatrists, Physiotherapists and Radiographers within the NHS in England*,
Department of Health (2006) *Improving Patients' Access to Medicines: A Guide to Implementing Nurse and Pharmacist Independent Prescribing within the NHS in England*,

Royal Pharmaceutical Society (2016) a competency framework for all prescribers RPS