

Prescribing for Pharmacists, Prescribing for Healthcare Professionals Programme Specification

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/cpd/prescribing-for-pharmacists/>

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/cpd/prescribing-for-healthcare-professionals/>

Academic Year: 2021/22

Teaching Body: The University of Bradford

Accredited By: Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC);
General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC);
Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)

Target Award: Eligibility to record qualification with NMC, GPhC or HCPC depending on module studied

Award Level: Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level 7

Admissions: September and January

Mode of Study: Part-time in Bradford, 5-12 months

Please note: Nurses, midwives, pharmacists and relevant Allied Health Professionals who are legally allowed to train and who successfully qualify as independent and supplementary prescribers receive a qualification in independent and supplementary prescribing. Diagnostic Radiographers receive a qualification in supplementary prescribing only. All are recordable with the relevant professional bodies.

Please note: This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

Minor Modifications Schedule

1. May 2021: Annual changes to programme specification, reformatting for accessibility.
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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 2006). Non-medical prescribing is an integral element of the advanced practice and national leadership agendas and embeds within the modern workforce initiative of the NHS 5 year forward view (2014 amended 2019). Nurse and pharmacist independent prescribing in England is well-integrated and established means of managing a patient's condition and giving him/her access to medicines. The benefits of non-medical prescribing to patient care are significant, facilitating patient centred care, speedy access to treatment and greater patient choice without compromising safety (DH 2005, DH 2006 Latter et al 2010).

Regulatory bodies have provided standards which form the framework for the education of prescribers. Consequently, there has been different terms used to call the 'mentor' in

practice. For the purpose of this document, we refer to the designated prescribing practitioner (DPP), practice supervisor (PS) and Practice assessor (PA). The University of Bradford offers two modules 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 this programme, 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 healthcare professionals.

On successful completion of the 30 credit 'Prescribing for Healthcare Professionals Programme' nurses, pharmacists, and relevant Allied Health Professionals 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).

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 HCPC. The Prescribing for Healthcare Professionals module and Prescribing for pharmacists' module are available at level 7 only in line with GPhC standards (2019) and the advanced practice agenda.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

- A1 Prepare nurses, midwives, 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.
- A3 Enable practitioners to advance non-medical prescribing practice in their field of practice.

Programme Learning Outcomes

- LO1 Holistically assess the patient, undertaking a systematic consultation and appropriate clinical assessment to inform diagnosis and management.
- LO2 Critically evaluate and apply research evidence and knowledge of drug actions to inform prescribing decisions considering the likely risks and benefits for patients.
- LO3 Provide person centred care, communicating effectively to reach shared decisions.
- LO4 Prescribe safely, appropriately and cost effectively working within legal and clinical governance frameworks.
- LO5 Monitor and evaluate response to medication and modify treatment, referring as appropriate.

- LO6 Understand your own responsibilities and limitations in your prescribing role.
- LO7 Reflect and develop your own prescribing practice and that of others.
- LO8 Critically evaluate your own role and develop relationships with other professionals to demonstrate effective partnership working and clinical leadership.

Curriculum

Students study 30 credits, which is one of the following modules:

FHEQ Level	Module Title	Credit	Study Period	Module Code
7	Prescribing for Pharmacists	30	1 or 2	PRE7003-C
7	Prescribing for Healthcare Professionals	30	1 or 2	PRE7004-C

The 30-credit module is designed to be delivered and assessed over a full year. However, it is possible to complete the module within one semester.

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Following successful completion on the programme, students will need to register with the NMC, GPhC or HCPC prior to any prescribing taking place. Nurses and midwives must register their qualification with the NMC within 5 years of completing the programme as failing to do so they will have to retake and successfully complete the programme in order to qualify and register their award as a prescriber.

All students may only prescribe once their prescribing qualification has been annotated on the NMC/GPhC/HCPC register. Students may only prescribe from the legal formulary they are qualified to prescribe from and within their competence and scope of practice.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

The theoretical component will be delivered using a range of evidence-based teaching and learning strategies including lectures, group discussions, role play 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. The student will be encouraged to share experiences and case examples generated through supervised practice. Individualised learning is supported by academic assessor and a learning contract.

The learning, teaching and assessment has 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 recognises 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 DPP/PS/PA and academic assessor throughout the programme.

The theoretical elements are directly linked to the student's supervised practice experience, facilitating educational coherence for the student and their DPP/PS/PA 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. 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 DPP/PS/PA to extend the practice days over two semesters. It is not possible to undertake the practice experience prior to commencing the taught element of the programme.

All theory components of the module are delivered and assessed on campus in semester 1 or semester 2.

The practice days where you are learning by working alongside your DPP/PS/PA, are verified by completion of a portfolio demonstrating evidence of skills and completion of required hours. If you can negotiate with your DPP/PS/PA to complete this within one semester then it is possible for you to submit this and gain the qualification earlier. This will be explained in more detail when you start the course.

It is essential that pharmacists complete 100% of the timetabled clinical skill training sessions and e-learning (GPhC 2019). It is expected that all 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. However, any student failing to meet the minimum required attendance of 80% of taught sessions would be offered 'step off' 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 examination (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) and is used as the basis for

prescribing practice development and assessment of competence by students working is carried out jointly between the DPP/PS/PA and academic assessor.

Assessment for learning, (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 with a view to improving student attainment. Summative assessment will normally be undertaken, or submitted, at the end of the semester that they originally registered. Service Users and Carer Representatives are an integral component of the assessment process, suitably trained individuals will join academic members of staff. 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.

Failure to identify a serious problem which would cause patient harm in any assessment will result in an overall failure of the programme.

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 Regulations which are available at the following link: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/regulations/>

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

- Students must successfully pass a pharmacology exam (the pharmacology exam must be passed with a minimum score of 80%), and
- Students must successfully pass a numeracy assessment related to prescribing and calculation of medicines (the numeracy assessment must be passed with a score of 100%).
- 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

We take into consideration a number of factors when assessing your application. It's not just about your grades; we take the time to understand your personal circumstances and make decisions based on your potential to thrive at university and beyond. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

Admission is on the basis of submission of an application, curriculum vitae, evidence of support from the applicant's manager and any organisational non-medical prescribing lead or the completion of a practice audit if a non-medical prescribing lead is not employed in the student's organisation entry 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. Service Users and Carer Representatives are

an integral component of the admissions process, suitable trained individuals will join academic members of staff in reviewing CVs and will contribute to the selection and recruitment of students.

Students will be selected on the basis of having met the requirements of the NMC, GPhC or HCPC for admission to prescribing programmes as well as having sufficient clinical experience. Admission requirements vary according to professional background and module 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
- 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.
- Demonstrate an ability to study at level 7 through prior learning. Potential entrants would normally have studied at level 6 for level 7. 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 DPP/PS/PA 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 DPP/PS/PA must be approved by the Programme leader and any non-medical prescribing lead for the employing organisation.

Plus, the following specific requirements:

Pharmacists

A minimum of 2 years UK based appropriate patient orientated experience following registration. Applicants should have an identified area of clinical practice in which they have relevant experience.

Nurses and Midwives

A minimum of 2 years' experience since qualifying, including one year, immediately preceding the programme, working in the area of practice in which they intend to prescribe. The Practise Supervisor and Practise Assessor supporting your application must be two different people. Nurse applicants must be competent to take a history, carry out an appropriate clinical examination and make a diagnosis.

Paramedics

You have been qualified and registered for at least 3 years. Should have (or be working towards) an advanced practice qualification and have been practicing in the clinical area in which you will be prescribing for at least 12 months.

All other Allied Health Professionals

A minimum of 2 years' experience as a qualified allied health professional.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Appropriate prior learning may be mapped against the taught content of the module following negotiation with the programme leaders.

In clinical practice appropriate prior learning would need to be assessed by the practice supervisor/ practice assessor prior being applied to the RPS (2016) Competency Framework for all Prescribers and would be evidenced by the signing of a particular or group of competences.

For more details about our Recognition of Prior Learning procedures visit the website: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/teaching-quality/prior-learning/>

Please note: The information above relates to the contemporary recruitment cycle at time of publication and therefore may now be out of date. The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programmes is published on the programme course listings: Prescribing for Pharmacists <https://www.brad.ac.uk/courses/cpd/prescribing-for-pharmacists/> or Prescribing for Healthcare Professionals <https://www.brad.ac.uk/courses/cpd/prescribing-for-healthcare-professionals/>

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