

The School of Health and Human Sciences
HS604 Preparation for Non Medical Prescribing
Nurses, Midwives and SCPHN's

Introduction

This NMC accredited module will prepare nurses to prescribe as both an Independent Prescriber AND a supplementary prescriber working in partnership with an Independent Prescriber and the patient. This programme has been designed for qualified nurses, working in a variety of healthcare settings. Its underpinning philosophy is that successful participants will be able to enhance patient care by providing quicker and more efficient access to healthcare, by making better use of their own skills, and allowing doctors more time to deal with more complex and serious health problems.

Learning outcomes for the module

At the end of the module you are expected to be able to:

- Perform thorough and competent consultation and assessment with patients.
- Prescribe safely, appropriately and cost-effectively.
- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge of drug actions (most especially of those medications commonly used in their area of professional practice).
- Understand the legislative framework relevant to the practice of nurse prescribing.
- Demonstrate how to access best-available evidence to support prescribing decisions.
- Understand the principles of health promotion, concordance, and the enhancement of coping strategies.
- Acknowledge the accountability and responsibility of a nurse prescriber, and be able to manage ethical dilemmas.

Module pre-requisites

You may pursue an application for the module, provided you:

- Are registered with the NMC as a first-level nurse
- Have a minimum of 3 years experience as a qualified nurse
- Have worked in the area of practice in which you will be prescribing for a minimum of one year
- Have arranged for a suitable funding source, and have support from your employing organisation
- Are able to study at academic level 6
- Have identified a designated medical practitioner, who will provide you with supervision and support to develop competence in prescribing practice
- Have evidence that you are competent to undertake a consultation and assessment with patients
- Have a current CRB certificate

Module outline

The programme will run over a period of six months, during which there will be 28 days of contact time in order for the theory component to be delivered. The module will cover all of the areas that would be expected of a safe and effective prescriber (i.e. knowledge of anatomy and physiology, consultation and assessment, pharmacology, psycho-social aspects of prescribing, effective medicines management, legal and ethical issues, and health promotion/concordance considerations).

Between study days, you will be expected to shadow your prescribing designated medical practitioner for an equivalent of half a day per week (12 days) of educationally-led practice.

Assessment strategy

In complying with NMC requirements, assessment will comprise successful completion of:

- Portfolio: a 4500 client-specific reflective analysis in the form of 2 case studies (one of which should illustrate Independent Prescribing, and the other should be of Supplementary Prescribing). This assessment has a 40% pass mark at level 6 (or 50% at M level), and forms 80% of the marks.
- Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) in a simulated learning environment, and to be marked as "pass" or "fail".
- One 90 minute written final examination, consisting of 10 multiple-choice questions and 10 short answer questions. This assessment has an 80% pass mark, and forms 20% of the total marks for the module.
- One 30 minute drug calculation examination, consisting of 5 multiple choice questions. This assessment is marked as "pass" or "fail", but the student must answer all questions correctly.
- Completion of the logbook with the designated medical mentor to assess practice-based competency. This assessment is marked as "pass" or "fail".
- In addition, there are two 500-word formative essays during the module.

Module dates

This module is delivered at the University of Essex, Colchester and Southend Campuses.

Dates can be found on the Module Calendar: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/hhs/cpd/modules.aspx>

Module fee

This module is worth 30 credits and is available at Level 6 and Level 7.

Fee details can be found at: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/hhs/documents/cpd/cpd-module-fees.pdf>

Funding and how to apply

In the first instance approach your Education Liaison Manager to see if funding can be secured via your employer.

There is further information on other sources of funding at www.essex.ac.uk/hhs/cpd/funding.aspx.

Once you have secured funding please fill in the module application form: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/hhs/cpd/apply.aspx>.

Following completion of the application form and having had it signed off by your manager and your education liaison manager (if employer funded), please forward it to cpd@essex.ac.uk.

For further information on this module, please contact

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