

University of Nottingham - Information for Prospective Practice Supervisors, Practice Assessors & Practice Educators

Non Medical Prescribing - Independent & Supplementary

1. Terminology:

a) What do the terms 'practice supervisor', 'practice assessor' and 'practice educator' mean?

- **Practice assessor / Practice educator**

Practice assessors are any qualified prescribers who assess student practice learning for a placement or a series of placements. The terms 'practice assessor' and 'practice educator' can be used interchangeably for members of Allied Health Professions (AHP's).

- **Practice supervisor**

A registered health professional who supports the student and serves as a role model for safe and effective practice. Assigning a practice supervisor is mandatory for nurses / midwives and encouraged for AHPs (see section 3b).

b) What is a 'designated prescribing practitioner?'

A term employed by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) that encompasses prescribing clinicians designated to supervise, educate and/or assess the practice of students undertaking a non medical prescribing course. The University of Nottingham will not utilise this term in its supportive documents.

2. Non Medical Prescribing - Course summary and scope of practice:

The course is typically **6 months** long.

a) Allied Health Professions (AHP's):

Physiotherapists, podiatrists, chiroprodists, and paramedics completing the course will be eligible to work as independent and supplementary prescribers. At the time of writing dietitians will only be permitted to supplementary prescribe. All of the aforementioned applicants must have an agreement from a medical or non medical prescriber to take the role of practice **educator**.

The practice educator will act as both practice supervisor and practice assessor. The student must complete 12 days (defined as **90 hours**) of practice under the supervision and assessment of the practice educator.

b) Nurses / Midwives:

A requirement of nursing and midwives when applying for the independent and supplementary prescribing course (V300) is that the student prescriber has agreement from a medical or non medical prescriber to take the role of practice **supervisor**. They must also have an agreement from a medical or non medical prescriber to take the role of practice **assessor**. The nurse or midwife must have a different person for each role.

The student must complete 12 days (defined as **78 hours**) of practice under the supervision and assessment of the practice assessor / supervisor.

3. Do I qualify as an assessor / educator / supervisor?

a) Assessment:

Applicants must make sure a practice assessor / practice educator has been assigned. They must be a registered healthcare professional and an experienced prescriber with suitable equivalent qualifications for the programme the student is undertaking.

The practice assessor / practice educator must not be the same person as the practice supervisor. The criteria for a **medical** professional to be a practice assessor / practice educator is shown below:

Department of Health eligibility criteria to act as the practice assessor for the assessment of non medical prescribers by medical prescribers:

- Has normally at least 3 years recent clinical experience for a group of patients/clients in the relevant field of practice
- Is within a GP practice and is either vocationally trained or is in possession of a certificate of equivalent experience from the joint committee for Post-graduate Training in General Practice (JCPTGP)

OR

- Is a specialist registrar, clinical assistant or a consultant within an NHS Trust or other NHS employer
- Has the support of the employing organisation or GP practice to act as the practice assessor who will provide supervision, support and opportunities to develop competence in prescribing practice
- Has some experience or training in teaching and / or supervising in practice

Non medical prescribers taking the role of practice assessors / practice educators must meet the School of Health Sciences role eligibility criteria shown below. This guidance has been developed in partnership with NHS Trust:

School of Health Sciences eligibility criteria to act as the practice assessor for a nurse/midwife prescribing student:

- A registrant on a health professions register
- To assess a V300 nurse prescribing student the assessor must be a V300 prescriber or other health professional who is an independent and supplementary prescriber
- To assess a V150 nurse prescribing student the assessor must be a V100, V150 or V300 prescriber
- An active prescriber with a minimum of one year post prescribing qualification experience
- Has some experience or training in teaching and / or supervising in practice
- Has agreement from the line manager for time to support the nurse prescribing student

b) Supervision:

Nurse and midwifery applicants must ensure that a practice **supervisor** has been assigned who has suitable equivalent qualifications for the programme the student is undertaking.

The practice supervisor must be a registered nurse or midwife, doctor or registered health professional who:

- Is an active prescriber
- Works in the same clinical area as the nurse prescribing student
- Is a role model for safe and effective practice
- Has up to date knowledge of prescribing skills in the clinical area
- Can commit time to supervise and support the student

Note:

The designated practice assessor / practice educator, practice supervisor and manager must all be different people. If this isn't possible please contact a member of the academic team.

4. Team contact details: Who are we?

The prescribing team comprises of three core members: Alison Mostyn, Dianne Bowskill, and Daniel Shipley. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries, questions or comments you may have before or during the course. We seek to support students, supervisors, educators and assessors throughout the programme.

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