Learning Beyond Registration (Undergraduate) Framework

Non Medical Prescribing

Information for Students
Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors.

Distance Learning Route

B73 PR 1,2,3 Degree Level
B74 PR 1,2,3 Masters Level

2015-2017

Last updated: June 2015.
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Welcome

This booklet aims to provide managers and potential non medical prescribing students with information about the Non-Medical Prescribing Distance Learning Course run by the University of Nottingham.

Course Title:  Non Medical Prescribing.

Award:  Independent and supplementary prescribing. V300 – (Nurses.)

Module Code:  The course comprises of 3 modules undertaken simultaneously B73 PR1, B73 PR2 & B73 PR3
or
B74 PR1, B74 PR2 & B74 PR3

Study Centre:  Education is delivered in Sussex and West Surrey.
Our West Sussex course is delivered at
Holiday Inn London-Gatwick Airport
Povey Cross Road
Horley
Surrey
RH6 0BA
01293 787 675

Our Surrey course is delivered at
Holiday Inn Guildford,
Egerton Road,
Guildford,
Surrey
GU2 7XZ
0871 942 9036

Length:  6 months (26 Weeks)
8 taught days plus 2 attended assessment days
18 days Timetabled Distance Learning
12 days (78 hours) medically supervised practice.

Total:  38 days of study.

Frequency:  The course will run once in the 2015 – 2016 academic year commencing in January.

Times:  Taught days begin at 9.30 am and end at 4.00pm 45 minutes – 1 hour for lunch.

Credit:  Level 3: B73 PR1,2,3: 40 credits at Level 3.
or
Level 4: B74 PR1,2,3: 40 credits at Level 4.
1. Module Team

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Programme.
The programme is 38 days consisting of 10 taught days, 18 Distance learning days and 12 days of medically supervised practice with assessment over 26 weeks. The 12 days (78 hours) of medical supervision are to be agreed between the student and supervisor and taken across the 26 weeks. To help you we have however timetabled both Distance learning and supervised practice days. In addition to the 38 taught / supervision days students will require personal study time. The amount of time varies between individuals but can be in the region of 1 - 200 hours.

There are 7 assessments on the course. All assessments must be passed, students have 2 attempts at each assessment and there is no compensation between assessments.
Course Attendance.

Taught days.
It is expected that students will attend all taught sessions and will not leave sessions early. However, we understand there may be occasions when this is not possible. A student may miss a maximum of 2 university attended days. Absence in excess of this figure will result in suspension from assessment until taught time is made up with the next group. We do however remind students of their responsibility to make up the missed sessions and consider whether they feel adequately prepared for assessment.

Distance Learning.
This is a Distance Learning course and students are provided directed learning activities to undertake away from the classroom. Whilst these days can be taken flexibly you will be expected to complete work before your next attendance days. We strongly advise students to remember this is a 38 day course and to ensure they have agreed learning time with their employer.
Distance learning materials are provided via the web in Moodle. We use audio podcasts and video recording of lectures and provide these with access to lecture slides, reusable learning objects and workbooks for distance learning work.

Please make sure you have the attendance and examination dates and can commit to the dates before you apply.

Medical Supervision
These 12 days (78 hours) are part of the module’s 38 days and are to be arranged by the student and supervisor evenly over the 6 month duration of the course. Students must complete all 78 hours before the final assessment of practice competence is made by the medical supervisor or Designated Medical Practitioner. You are required to provide details of your medical supervisor at application. Medical Supervisors (DMP’s) must meet the Department of Health criteria detailed on page 10.

What will the qualification enable you to prescribe?

Once qualified you will be an independent and supplementary prescriber.
As an independent prescriber.
Nurse independent prescribers can prescribe licensed and unlicensed medicines for any medical condition, including controlled drugs.

As a Supplementary Prescriber:
Within the bounds of an agreed clinical management plan the Practitioner can prescribe any item in the British National Formulary. The supplementary prescriber can within the boundaries of an agreed clinical management plan, prescribe outside the product license and prescribe unlicensed medicines.

Prescribing for Children
The NMC require you to achieve an additional learning outcome assessed in practice by the medical supervisor in the half way and final practice assessment.
Course Entry Requirements:
Applicants must meet NMC requirements for entry to prescribing courses and Health Education Kent Surrey and Sussex.

Applicants must achieve a score of 7 or more out of 10 in the application numeracy test. We will send you a link to the test when you complete your application to the University. The test comprises of 10 numerical questions to complete within 45 minutes.

When completing the test please do not round numbers up or down simply write the calculation answer in the space provided.
You will have 2 attempts to complete 10 numeracy questions in 40 minutes.

All entry requirements MUST BE MET before the first course day.

Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors: determined by the NMC
- A first level nurse midwife and / or specialist community public health nurse.
- You must have at least 3 years experience as a practicing nurse and be deemed competent by your employer to undertake the programme. Of these 3 years the year immediately preceding application must have been in the clinical field in which you intend to prescribe.
- You must be able to provide evidence of your ability to study at a minimum academic level 3 (degree).

In addition you will need
- support from the employing organisation
- support from the programme lead
- a designated medical practitioner (DMP) who meets eligibility criteria and has agreed to provide the required term of supervised practice.
- There must be a Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) current within the last 3 years (valid to the end of the programme).

Please make sure that you meet the entry requirements set by your professional body before applying. Each application is checked by the course lead and a place will not be offered until all criteria are met.

Level 4
Applicants to level 4 maters level study will hold a first degree (usually a 2:2 or above) or equivalent.
Accreditation of Prior Learning

The university has established systems for the verification of prior credit and expertise within the school to provide guidance and support for this process where required. Prescribing education is new to the professions and it is therefore considered unlikely that students accessing the module will have any significant prior claim.

Course Content: Non-Medical Prescribing.
Course content and learning outcomes are set by The Nursing and Midwifery Council.

- Consultation and decision making
- The Psychology of prescribing and influencing factors
- Prescribing in a team context
- General Principles and application of pharmacology and therapeutics
- Principles and methods of Patient Monitoring.
- Evidence-based practice and Clinical Governance in relation to Supplementary prescribing.
- Legal, policy, professional and ethical aspects
- Prescribing in the public health context

Course NMC Learning Outcomes.

1. Assess and consult with patient/clients, clients, parents, carers. Demonstrate effective consultation skills including the following
   - Ability to communicate effectively with patients, clients, parents, carer.
   - Ability to conduct a relevant physical assessment/examination of patients with those conditions for which they may prescribe.
   - The process of effective clinical decision-making
   - How to assess patients’ needs for medicines, taking account of their wishes, values, ethnicity and the choices they may wish to make in their treatment.
   - Ability to make prescribing decision (prescribe, not to prescribe, non drug treatment or referral for treatment.

2. Undertake a thorough medical history including medication history and current medication including over the counter, alternative and complementary health therapies and demonstrate the ability to inform a working diagnosis in independent prescribing.

3. Understand and apply the relevant legislation to the practice of nurse/midwife prescribing.

4. Critically appraise, use sources of information/advice and decision support systems in prescribing practice.

5. Understand the influences that can affect prescribing practice, and demonstrate your understanding by managing your prescribing practice in an ethical way.
6. Understand and apply knowledge of drug actions in prescribing practice

7. Demonstrate an understanding of the roles and relationships of others involved in prescribing supplying and administering medicines.

8. Prescribe safely, appropriately and cost effectively

9. Practice within a framework of professional accountability and responsibility

10. Develop a clinical management plan within legislative requirements

11. Students who are or are likely to be prescribing for children in the future must be able to take an appropriate history, clinical assessment and make an appropriate diagnosis, having considered the legal, cognitive and physical differences between children and adults.

Assessment.
There is no compensation between assessments on this course. Students must achieve a pass in all elements.

Level 3:
Module 1: B73 PR1
Students will be required to submit a portfolio (100%) containing;

- (A) Critical application of the principles of law accountability and ethics to a patient prescribing scenario from medically supervised practice. This should consist of 1,500 words. (50%)

- (B) Critical analysis of a case study in relation to a patient case study from medically supervised practice exploring the influences on prescribing and considering your CPD learning needs. This should consist of 2,000 words (50%)

- A correctly written prescription [pass/fail]

- A clinical management plan [pass/fail]

Students must achieve a pass mark of 40%.

Module 2: B73 PR2: Prescribing in Practice.

- Objective structured clinical examination (50%) You will be required to video a prescribing consultation with a patient or simulated patient in your clinical area. Patients must give consent and the video is submitted for marking. Prescribing consultation

- Practice assessment 78 hours - signed off by the medical supervisor and including Learning Log (Running record of number of hours supervision and learning associated with each period of supervision).

Module 3: B73 PR3: Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

- Pharmacology Examination. (45%) 1 hour twenty minutes computer based examination comprising of Multiple choice, Stem Branch, True / False and extended matching short answer questions. 80% Pass
- Individual poster presentation (100%). (45%) Individual choice of drug in relation to a student defined client group and a student defined condition 40% pass mark with mandatory minimum scores of 10% in each of three sections.
- Numeracy examination. (10%) This is a computer based assessment of 10 numeracy questions to be completed over 30 minutes. 100% pass.

**Level 4: B74 PR 1,2,3.**

**Module 1: B74 PR1: B74 AP 6: General Principles of Prescribing.**
Students will be required to submit a portfolio (100%) containing;

- (A) Critical application of the principles of law accountability and ethics to a patient prescribing scenario from medical supervision and to make recommendations for clinical governance of prescribing. 1,500 words. (40%)
- (B) Critical reflection of a prescribing situation or incident from medically supervised practice. You should include consideration of local and national prescribing policy in your discussion. 2,000 words. (60%)
- A correctly written prescription [pass/fail]
- A clinical management plan [pass/fail]

Students must achieve a pass mark of 50%.

**Module 2: B74 PR2: Prescribing in Practice.**

- Objective structured clinical examination (50%) You will be required to video a prescribing consultation with a patient or simulated patient in your clinical area. Patients must give consent and the video is submitted for marking.
- Practice assessment 78 hours- signed off by DMP and including Learning Log. (Running record of number of hours supervision and learning associated with each period of supervision).

**Module 3: B74 PR3: Pharmacology and Therapeutics.**

- Pharmacology Examination. (30%) 1 hour and twenty minutes computer based examination comprising of Multiple choice. Stem Branch, True / False and extended matching short answer questions. 80% Pass
- Individual poster presentation (60%). Individual choice of drug in relation to a student defined client group and a student defined condition 50% pass mark with mandatory minimum scores of 10% in each of four sections.
- Numeracy examination. (10%) This is a computer based assessment of 10 questions to be completed over 30 minutes. 100% pass
Medical Supervision; further information

All students accessing the module must have a medical supervisor (or designated medical practitioner DMP) who has agreed to take on the role. Students should carefully choose who to ask to be their supervisor. Important factors to bear in mind when you choose are:

- Does the supervisor meet the Department of Health criteria for a DMP? (see below).
- Is the supervisor working in / have sufficient experience in the area of practice you will be prescribing in. This is a requirement.
- Supervisor time, is the supervisor able to allocate you the time you will need?
- Access to supervisor (where do they work) can you get there?
- Knowledge and experience, does this supervisor offer you the maximum opportunity to learn about prescribing in your area of practice.
- Primary / secondary care, does the medical supervisor work in the area of practice you will mostly be prescribing in.
- Working relationships, you should feel comfortable learning from and being assessed by your supervisor.

The Department of Health criteria for medical supervisors

- Has normally at least 3 years recent clinical experience for a group of patients/clients in the relevant field of practice.
- (a) 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

- (b) is a specialist registrar, clinical assistant or a consultant within an NHS Trust of other NHS employer.
- Has the support of the employing organisation or GP practice to act as the designated medical practitioner 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.

The Department of Health suggest how it will work in practice.

- Supervised learning in practice will comprise a total of 12 days (78 hours) of the students time. The doctor should be willing and able to devote a sufficient part of his or her time during this period of supervision to provide appropriate guidance for the student.
- Learning in practice will be related to the medical conditions and circumstances in which non medical prescriber is likely to use.
- The supervising medical practitioner may be a doctor with whom the nurse or midwife normally works. However, arrangements can be agreed where another doctor acts as supervisor, provided the criteria above are met

We recommend one DMP to One prescribing supervisor however where this is not possible one DMP may supervise up to 3 students but no more.

At the University of Nottingham we strongly suggest that supervised practice days should be spaced across the programme to support and inform the taught content of the course and the development of prescribing knowledge.
The assessment of prescribing practice at the University of Nottingham requires the medical supervisor to assess prescribing competency against a statement of prescribing competence developed by the National Prescribing Centre for all prescribers. Students will be provided with the relevant documents on the first day of the course. Medical Supervisors are invited to an evening briefing session and are provided with information about their role and responsibilities. Medical Supervision can take a variety of forms and should relate to the knowledge required to prescribe in the area of practice appropriate to the student.

**The Department of Health offers examples of supervision.**
- Dedicated time and opportunities for the student to observe how the medical practitioner conducts a “consultation/interview” with patients and/or their carers, and in the case of supplementary prescribing the development of a clinical management plan.
- Opportunities to allow in-depth discussion and analysis of clinical management using a random case analysis approach, when patient care and prescribing behaviour can be examined further.
- Facilitate student learning by encouraging critical thinking and reflection with the use of the student learning log.
- Allow opportunities for the student to carry out consultations and suggest clinical management and prescribing options, which are then discussed with the supervisor.

**The Assessment of Numeracy.**

The Nursing and Midwifery Council require all prescribing students to be assessed on numeracy. The pass mark for this assessment is determined by the NMC and set at 100%. On the course this is a computer based numerical calculation of 10 questions to answer in 30 minutes. You have access to a computer calculator for the assessment.

The summative numeracy examination paper on the course is similar to the pre test paper completed at application. If you do not achieve the required mark of 70% within 40 minutes to meet the entry criteria we recommend that you undertake some additional study and try again at the next round of applications. There are a wide range of numeracy textbooks available., have a look and see what works for you.

Below are some examples of question types;

**Supply amount / Dose**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John is prescribed drug A to be taken at a dose of 10mgs one tablet a day for 1 week and twice a day for the second week. The drug comes in 10mg tablets. How many tablets does he need to complete the two week course?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conversions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How many mls are there in 1.5 litres?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane is to be given a dose of 1.5g of drug B. The drug has been dispensed in 500mg tablets. How many tablets should Jane be given?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dose by weight or surface area

Thomas is to be given a dose of 2mgs per KG. He weighs 10kgs. How many mgs should be given?

Percentage increase or decrease.

James is currently prescribed 50mgs of Drug E. The drug comes in 50mgs in 10mls. His dose is to be decreased by 10%. Calculate his new dose in mgs and mls.

How do I apply?

First please click on the link here to attempt the numeracy prep test. You need a score of 7 or more over 2 attempts completed within 40 minutes.

1. Check you meet the entry criteria determined by the NMC and detailed on page 6 of this booklet.

2. The majority of healthcare Trusts have their own systems for employees wishing to enrol on University programmes of study. Please contact the LBR (learning beyond registration) development lead for your organisation. Their support is needed for you to access a funded place. Once you have gained agreement from your employer you must apply to the University for a place using the online application system.

Take the following steps and apply online

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/healthsciences/learning-beyond-registration/modules.aspx

3. Apply online at the web address above. Please ensure your NMC details are up to date and the information you submit on the application form is consistent with the details held by your professional or regulatory body. Please complete all information requested on the application

4. As part of the application process you will be asked to provide the name of your medical supervisor. This must be a doctor who meets the criteria set out on page 10 of this booklet. Think carefully about your choice of medical supervisor. Think about who might be best placed to help you meet your learning needs as well as who meets the criteria. You will not be able to commence the course without a medical supervisor.
5. Look at the Department of Health criteria p10 of this booklet and think about what your needs of a supervisor are. Contact the person you have in mind and ask them to be your supervisor.

6. Check your DSB status, (previously CRB) healthcare professionals wishing to enrol on prescribing courses must have had a DSB (CRB check) completed within the last 3 years. If your DSB is out of date or you do not have one please arrange for your employer to apply for you. If you have applied for one but it has not arrived at the point of application please write applied for in the application and provide us the details as soon as it arrives.

How can I prepare for the Course?

There are many ways to prepare for the course but student feedback suggests that as the pharmacology element of the module is generally new to prescribing students and this is the area where preparation time is best spent.

We strongly recommend prescribing students bring their knowledge of normal anatomy and physiology of the major body systems up to date. In particular the pharmacology of a large number of drugs requires knowledge of the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous system. Whilst this is part of the course, previous students have said that they found it useful to revise these systems before starting. Other body systems should also be revised, these include, GI, respiratory, cardiac, nervous system, kidneys and liver. A pre registration nursing A&P book will be sufficient. We understand some students have found GCSE revision guides and websites such as BBC bitesize to be useful.

You may also like to think about yourself and your role as a prescriber. It is useful to start to think about the drugs you will regularly prescribe and begin to develop a personal prescribing formulary. Think about -

- How prescribing may enhance your present role and how it might be used to offer new services.
- What benefits will nurse prescribing offer your patients / clients, yourself and your colleagues?
- During a patient / client consultation or situation when a prescription is given, medication is supplied or a patient / client is given advice to purchase an item from the pharmacy consider the following:-
  - Look up the item in the British National Formulary.
  - Are there any cautions, contraindications, side effects or potential interactions associated with the prescribing of the item?
  - Think carefully about the assessment / consultation that preceded the prescription, if you were to prescribe the item would the assessment / consultation be different?
  - Do you have sufficient knowledge and clinical skills to diagnose the conditions for which you would want to prescribe?
Consider if you might need additional information from the patient / client or about the product before you would feel safe to prescribe in that situation.

**Essential Reading**

The prescribing team at the University of Nottingham have written a prescribing text book which is recommended reading for the course. The book is available from bookshops and online retailers.

The New Prescriber  
Lymn J, Bowskill, D. Bath-Hextall F. Knaggs R. 2010  
Wiley Blackwell

The course is computer based using an online system called Moodle. You will be shown how to use the computer system but if you have limited experience of using computers you may like to take this opportunity to find out more before you start.

If you want to know more about non-medical prescribing go to the Department of Health web site [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk) and search using the terms independent prescribing, supplementary prescribing.

Please contact Dianne if you have any questions.

We hope to see you in the near future.