NON-MEDICAL PRESCRIBING

MODULE GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 2021

MODULE CODE: CCH3042-N
MODULE LEADER: Shareen Penny
## CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION
2. THE MODULE STRUCTURE
3. MODULE LEADER/MODULE TEAM CONTACT DETAILS
4. LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGIES
5. MODULES AIMS AND OUTCOMES
6. RESPONSIBILITIES
7. ASSESSMENT STRATEGY
8. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
9. EVALUATION STRATEGY
10. INDICATIVE RESOURCES
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Level 6 Non-Medical Prescribing (V300) module which was developed in response to the Government’s Modernisation Agenda. This has extended the range of professionals who can prescribe, and medicines that can be prescribed, by independent and supplementary non-medical prescribers.

Independent prescribing is becoming a widely integrated feature of health service delivery, with nurses, physiotherapists, podiatrists, radiographers, dieticians and paramedics qualified to prescribe in nearly all Trusts in England. Paramedics must be working in advanced practice roles and for organisations who have the governance arrangements in place to support prescribing practice. Currently this includes NHS trust or GP employers only. This supports the achievement of ambitions set out in Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS (Department of Health (DH) 2010A). Two to three per cent of the nursing workforce are qualified independent prescribers and are prescribing predominantly in primary care, with substantial numbers also in secondary care settings. As mentioned above to further empower AHPs to deliver improved clinical outcomes physiotherapists and podiatrists have from August 2013 had their supplementary prescribing rights extended to independent prescribing. Further to this in April 2016 therapeutic radiographers gained independent prescribing rights and dieticians supplementary prescribing rights; paramedics gained independent prescribing rights in Spring 2018. Nurses, physiotherapists, podiatrists and paramedics will also gain supplementary prescribing, diagnostic radiographers will continue to be able to train as supplementary prescribers and prescribe within a Clinical Management Plan (CMP).

Supplementary prescribing legislation in 2005 initially prepared health professionals to expand their roles. Nurses have trained as independent prescribers since 2006 and the expansion of independent prescribing by physiotherapists, podiatrists and therapeutic radiographers supports enhanced patient-centred care. This now includes paramedics who can also prescribe on a supplementary basis. New roles and new ways of working to improve quality of services, deliver safe, effective services focused on the patient experience have been developed across inter-professional working within health care. Non-medical prescribing has facilitated partnership working across professional and organisational boundaries and within the commissioning and provider arena. The benefits of non-medical prescribing to patients with a wide range of conditions have ensured that choice and faster access to medicines are a realistic service improvement.

It is vital that you use this document in conjunction with your own professional standards for prescribing; these can be found on the module Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) bb.tees.ac.uk site. You must develop a working knowledge of your specific prescribing standards alongside your own professional codes of professional practice.
2 THE MODULE STRUCTURE

The length of the module is 18 weeks. During this time, you will undertake 24 days’ theory time this will include direct and online teaching, seminars, tutorials and self-study. You will spend 12 days’ supernumerary supervised practice shadowing and working alongside a prescribing a NMP Practice Assessor(PA) or Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP). You have a week-long induction in Week 1; this will introduce you to the University and the School of Health & Life Sciences (SHLS). You will also be introduced to the principles of non-medical prescribing and be prepared for your supervised practice experience. This will be followed by 16 weekly study days; you will attend the University (this may be online) one day per week from 9.30am – 4.00pm.

Throughout the module you will be on a journey looking at the development of prescribing knowledge and skills including the consultation and prescribing governance (Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 2019). Continuing professional development and service improvement will be critically explored and you will be encouraged to take a reflective approach to inform your learning. The development of prescribing practical skills and the application of underpinning theory will take place in the practice setting in conjunction with the Practice Assessment Portfolio Document.

If for any reason you are unable to complete the module in the allocated time it is important that you discuss this with a member of the module team. There are University support mechanisms in place which can support an extension of your studies should you need to use these. It is important that you discuss with the team any difficulties you may encounter to ensure we support you appropriately to complete your studies. The School Student Guide provides further detailed information. The link to this can be found on the module blackboard.

Your organisation has agreed that you will undertake 12 days’ supernumerary supervised practice. It is necessary to ensure that you and your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP can work together for sufficient time for them to be able to confidently assess that you have met the practice outcomes for the module. It is expected that a programme of experience will allow you to work with other prescribing and non-medical prescribing supervisor team members for you to experience a variety of learning opportunities. Your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP must agree your learning plan, you must negotiate how your practice learning is organised with your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP and they must be the person responsible for verifying that you have competently met the practice outcomes. Final verification will include a Summative Assessment with your Academic Assessor and PA/DPP.

You must attend all theory sessions as agreed at application. Attendance will be closely monitored.
3 MODULE LEADER/MODULE TEAM CONTACT DETAILS

The Programme Leader is Debbie Osborne and you should initially direct any queries or issues to Debbie. She is based in room H1.31 in the Centuria Building. Telephone number 01642 738257, email d.osborne@tees.ac.uk

Shareen Penny is the module lead and can be emailed at s.penny@tees.ac.uk. She is based in room H1.31 in the Centuria Building. Telephone 01642 384115.

Rosie Dawson is the Lead Midwife for Education (LME) and supports midwives who undertake the module. She can be contacted by email R.Dawson@tees.ac.uk

The module is supported by an established and experienced team of pharmacists, and non-medical prescribers from both primary and secondary care. You will be offered the opportunity for professional/discipline-specific tutorials by specialist academic mentors to enable you to identify individual learning needs and to develop a Learning Contract to guide and facilitate academic learning. You will be directed to the most appropriate academic in Week 1 of the module. All midwives must meet the LME. This will be arranged within week one of the module.

4 LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

Prescribing requires that you have the knowledge, skills, and professional competence necessary to embrace this new role. It also requires you to demonstrate a comprehensive and detailed understanding of the concepts of accountability and lifelong learning in a significant way. To this end the module aims to incorporate knowledge and reflection in line with Teesside University’s Future Facing Learning Framework which focuses on development of graduates who are confident, critical, creative, adaptable, articulate and aspiring. This includes development of application of theory, perspectives and methods from a variety of prescribing disciplines that will enhance your learning. Use of national and international research along with good practice will develop your self-awareness, building upon previous learning as well as acquiring new competencies for safe and effective prescribing.

The module will help you to build upon your already extensive previous knowledge and experience. This will ensure that you are knowledgeable, flexible and adaptable, and able to incorporate both the theory and practice of non-medical prescribing in a comprehensive and critical reflective manner across the variety of ethical and social contexts of your practice area. You will be supported to achieve the module aims through the development of a robust knowledge that is based upon the best available evidence, combined with a flexible and adaptable approach to both the theory and practice of non-medical prescribing.
The taught component of the module will consist of theoretical preparation to ensure that you develop the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure safe and effective prescribing. The module focuses upon the principles and practice of prescribing and professional accountability, responsibility and ethics required by independent and supplementary non-medical prescribers. Related pathophysiology and pharmacology will be explored alongside the development of the skills required to consider the need to improve service within a prescribing context.

Random case analysis will be used so that you will have the opportunity to analyse treatment situations and examine and comprehensively critically reflect upon the decision-making process in relation to prescribing. The generic nature of the module content will facilitate you to apply your knowledge and understanding to safely prescribe within your own area of practice speciality. This will be further developed with the support and guidance of your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP and any suitable non-medical prescriber supervisor.

You will be guided in preparing and developing your Practice Assessment Portfolio that will provide evidence of your ability to synthesise and critically evaluate a reflection on and in practice. This will include the use of a learning contract/s and evidence of your successful completion of the practice element of the module. Also included will be a reflective analysis of your knowledge underpinning safe prescribing practice, and evidence of understanding the pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, legal aspects, and application to practice of drugs you will prescribe in practice through the development of three P-Formularies. You will develop an understanding of the differences between supplementary and independent prescribing and you will undertake learning related to supplementary prescribing within a CMP.

You will practice examination techniques and will undertake a formative examination which will be peer reviewed to prepare you for the examination element of the assessment. Directed study utilising the VLE, bb.tees.ac.uk, will enable you to further develop numeracy skills which will support preparation for the examination.

You will have access to a wide range of web-based resources through the VLE for example News Feeds via the National Institute for Health & Care Excellence (NICE) Medicines and prescribing support website and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) website. Profession specific information related to prescribing will be available and it is important that you review this at the beginning of the programme. You will be working with scenario-based examples of prescribing practice to prepare you, for example, to take an effective history and make diagnostic decisions which will influence your prescribing decision-making process. This will support your Structured Clinical Examination of Practice (SCEP) assessment.

The integration of theory and practice will be strengthened by your ability to demonstrate the achievement of the practice outcomes. Learning in practice will be related to the achievement of these practice outcomes: you and your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP will document progress in three meetings during your supervised practice. These will be included in your Portfolio and verified by your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP. It is important that you have exposure to the wider influences which
impact upon prescribing, so you should try to spend time with other medical and non-medical prescribers. Your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP will however be the only person responsible for ensuring and confirming your competence in practice.

Registrants who will be prescribing for children must have a NMP Practice Assessor or DPP who is experienced and competent in prescribing for children. The LME will support midwifery NMP Practice Assessor or DPPs; this will include attending the NMP Practice Assessor or DPP mentor preparation workshops or meeting with NMP Practice Assessor or DPPs in practice to check progress.

5  MODULE AIMS AND OUTCOMES

Aims
The aims of the module are to:

- Facilitate the development of knowledge and skills required by professionals to prescribe as independent prescribers and/or supplementary prescribers.
- Enable you to apply knowledge to clinical practice demonstrating the ability to prescribe safely and effectively in order to meet prescribing standards set by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)/Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Outcomes
On completion of this module you will be able to:

Research, Knowledge and Cognitive Skills
1. Synthesise and critically appraise the legal and professional framework for accountability and responsibility in relation to prescribing practice.
2. Demonstrate a comprehensive and detailed knowledge of drug actions in prescribing practice (pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics).
3. Synthesise and critically appraise the factors impacting upon and influencing safe and ethical prescribing practice.

Personal and Transferable Skills
4. Synthesise and evaluate relevant evidence, sources of information and decision support systems to inform prescribing practice.
5. Demonstrate a critical reflective approach to continuing professional development.

Professional Skills
6. Demonstrate achievement of the regulatory bodies’ standards of proficiency as applied for independent and supplementary prescribing.
7. Act autonomously whilst recognising the contributions of the multidisciplinary team involved in prescribing, supplying, and administering medicines.

8. Demonstrate a comprehensive and detailed knowledge of the clinical decision-making strategies which underpin autonomous prescribing practice in effective communication, consultation/assessment, diagnosis, and treatment which can include over the counter, alternative and complementary health therapies.

9. Demonstrate a comprehensive and detailed knowledge of the skills required to prescribe safely, appropriately and cost effectively taking into account individual choice and wishes.

10. Practice within a framework of clinical governance, professional accountability, and responsibility.

11. Develop and document a Clinical Management Plan within legislative requirements and within the context of a prescribing partnership.

12. Demonstrate the ability to monitor response to medicines and modify treatment or refer as appropriate.

13. Demonstrate a comprehensive and detailed knowledge of the importance of record keeping in the context of medicines management including: accurate recording in patient notes, reporting of near misses, adverse reactions, ability to access patient records and clinical management plans.

14. When working with children and young people take an appropriate history, undertake a clinical assessment, and make an appropriate diagnosis, having considered the legal, cognitive, emotional, and physical differences between children and adults.

15. Recognise and respond to potential risks associated with prescribing of unlicensed medicines.

16. Select, evaluate, and apply appropriate numeracy skills commensurate with the demands of ensuring safe prescribing practice.

6 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Nominated Person:
The Nominated Person is a named individual for each ward/department area. The Nominated Person will be nominated by the ward/department manager as appropriate for the role. The role of the Nominated Person is to provide a link between the ward/department, the University and the Practice Placement Facilitator. They will complete the education audit with the university representative and will oversee development of the placement information/education resources. The Nominated Person has a knowledge of the Practice Assessors and Practice Supervisors current in their practice area. They understand the course and support infrastructure within the practice environment and University setting. The nominated person is the first point of contact for students and offer support and advice for students who have concerns.
The Nominated Person will ensure that students have had an induction to the area, have been allocated off duty prior to the start of the placement and have access to the learning resources available and have been allocated to a Practice Assessor and their Practice Learning Team/Practice Supervisors as appropriate. The Nominated Person, in liaison with the Practice Learning Team will make students aware of the support and opportunities available to them within the learning environments, thereby ensuring that students are empowered to be proactive and to take responsibility for their learning.

**Practice Supervisor**

- Is a Registrant with the relevant qualification in prescribing
- Establishing a Learning Contract identifying objectives for the period of supervision.
- Documenting progress of supervision on the Practice Supervisor Feedback form.
- Facilitating learning by encouraging critical thinking and reflection.
- Supervising students as they carry out consultations and suggest clinical management and prescribing options, which are then discussed with the Practice Assessor.
- Taking opportunities to allow in-depth discussion and analysis of clinical management using a random case analysis approach, when patient/client care and prescribing behaviour can be examined further.
- Facilitating, observing, and reporting performance over the period of supervised practice.
- Facilitating the opportunity to gain service user/carer feedback using the practice-based 360° interpersonal skills assessment tool (one fully completed assessed tool).
- Identify and document any ‘cause for concern’, e.g. concerns regarding competence acquisition, or conduct, or unsafe practice, and discuss at the earliest possible stage with the Practice Assessor and programme team.
- Ensuring regular feedback to the Practice Assessor through the provision of Practice Supervisor Feedback forms.

**The NMP Practice Assessor or Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP)**

Your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP has a fundamental role in educating and assessing your practice. They will be invited to a mentor preparation workshop which will support their preparation for the role. The generic nature of the module content will facilitate you to apply your knowledge and understanding to safely prescribe within your own area of practice speciality and competence.

They can access the PA/DPP handbook and further support through Teesside University Practice Support Site:

https://extra.tees.ac.uk/SHLS/practicesupport
Your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP is responsible for:

- Establishing a Learning Contract in partnership with you.
- Documenting progress on three occasions during supervised practice and providing any additional opportunities if required to achieve outcomes in a timely manner.
- Facilitate the opportunity to complete three episode of care and prescription writing.
- Facilitating the opportunity to gain service user/carer feedback using the practice-based, 360° interpersonal skills assessment tool (one fully completed assessed tool with three episodes of service user or carer feedback). This should be completed alongside the episodes of care.
- Facilitate the opportunity to complete the SCEP’s in practice at a formative and summative level.

**The Lead Midwife for Education (LME)**
As detailed above, Rosie Dawson (LME) will ensure that if you are a midwife you will be able to access additional support if you need this. You will meet Rosie in Week 1 of the module (if not on application) and will be expected to meet with her on a regular basis. The LME works closely with the module team and contributes to your assessment. The LME may work with your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP if required and will contribute to the NMP Practice Assessor or DPP preparation workshops.

**Academic Assessor**
The Academic Assessor is a member of the teaching staff at the University, is a Registered Nurse and has a relevant registration as a prescriber. The role of the Academic Assessor is to offer objective, evidence-based decisions on conduct, proficiency and achievement and make recommendations for progression providing assurance of student achievements and competence. The Academic Assessor has an understanding of the student’s learning and achievement in practice through working in partnership with the Practice Assessor to gather feedback regarding achievement and progression. The Academic Assessor in partnership with the Practice Assessor /DPP confirm the achievement of the student and eligibility for registration as a prescriber with the NMC or HCPC and completion of Summative Assessment Form.

**The Student**
Your role is to take responsibility for your own learning and demonstrate a willingness to develop both academically and in practice. You will be expected to discuss your own learning needs with your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP and you should undertake honest self-assessment, articulate your learning needs, seek and accept formative feedback from your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP and module team. You are expected to recognise and appraise your own abilities and limitations. You must take full responsibility for all aspects of the learning and assessment on the module. You must ensure that your documentation is detailed, and you must apply sound attention to detail across your portfolio of evidence. Prescribing practice demands attention to detail, you must demonstrate that you have this skill within this module.
Very Important Information

If for any reason you do not complete the module in the specified time for example in the case of an interruption, reassessment or delayed submission your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP MUST reconfirm and verify that you have maintained your competency in the practice area. They will need to confirm this by signing your practice outcomes at the point at which you submit your final assessed work.

On successful completion of this programme you are not legally able to prescribe and therefore must not do so. You can only prescribe within your clinical boundaries once you have received notification from your professional body (HCPC/NMC) that your prescribing qualification has been recorded on the professional register. For NMC registrants you must record your prescribing qualification within 5 years of successfully completing your programme.

Module Team and Academic Assessors.
It is recognised that the demands of this module are challenging, and that the intensity of the assessment is demanding. Your Academic Assessor will provide substantial support to you and your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP both in an academic and pastoral capacity. If you require additional support, you should discuss this with us at an early stage who will signpost you to the most appropriate support. You will be assigned a member of the team who will be your first point of call; we are all though here to support you. You should also refer to the School Student Guide, which provides information relating to student support including submission of assignments, feedback return, mitigating circumstances process, extension and late submission process, plagiarism and referencing.

7 ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

Formative
You will undertake formative assessment through peer debate in the classroom, relevant and relating to prescribing practice, a workshop-based peer review assessment of supplementary prescribing in Week 3 and a peer-reviewed formative examination in Week 10. You will have the opportunity to update, develop, and enhance your numeracy skills by undertaking online calculation testing. This will be reviewed by the module team who will identify and support any additional support you require. Formative assessment of an episode of care and SCEP must be completed prior to your midpoint meeting with your NMP Practice Assessor or DPP.
Summative Portfolio

You will complete a detailed portfolio of essential evidence that comprises of:

- Formulation and completion of a Learning Contract which identifies strategies to meet individual learning needs in relation to the module outcomes.
- Agreed and verified dates of supervised practice.
- A practice logs that records practice experiences.
- Three episodes of care with inclusion of a prescription.
- A fully completed 360-degree service user or carer feedback tool – three sets of service user or carer feedback must be submitted alongside your episodes of care.
- Evidence of completing a formative and summative SCEP assessment.
- A critical reflection and evaluation of an episode of care demonstrating systematic and critical appraisal skills and informed decision-making (3,000 words).
- Completion of three P-Formulary work sheets which include evidence of a comprehensive and critical understanding of the pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, legal aspects, and application to practice of drugs which you may prescribe in practice.
- Three Clinical Management Plans drawn up whilst in supervised practice.
- Clinical Management Plans completed within the workshop with peers and peer review feedback sheet.
- Evidence of achievement in a two-hour written examination. To gain pass grade, you must achieve a minimum of 80% in the 20-question pharmacological element and 100% in the five-question numerical element. Undertaken in Week 13.
- Evidence of satisfactory completion of a period of supervised practice experience. Must be a minimum of 78 hours for NMC registrants and 90 hours for HCPC registrants.
- Evidence of gaining consent and maintaining confidentiality.

You will submit your portfolio in Week 18.

Please note registered nurses and midwives must undertake a minimum of 78 hours’ supervised practice. Allied health professionals must undertake a minimum of 90 hours’ supervised practice.
8 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Portfolio
You will demonstrate the ability to submit a Portfolio of Evidence as stated which includes all essential evidence demonstrating your ability to prescribe safely in practice including:

- Achievement of the NMC/HCPC requirements for independent and supplementary prescribing/supplementary prescribing.
- Record of achievement of non-medical prescribing practice outcomes.
- Evidence of achievement in the written examination.

Critical Reflection
A 3,000-word written critical reflection of episodes of significant learning highlighted from your episodes of care and learning logs

- Synthesise and critically evaluate the need to prescribe safely considering issues such as ethical and legal practice, team-working, record-keeping, writing a prescription and numeracy associated with safe prescribing and how these apply to prescribing practice.
- Synthesise and critically evaluate the need for personal development within current practice to deliver service improvement in contemporary non-medical prescribing.
- Critically evaluate contemporary literature and evidence which informs your appropriate decision-making in prescribing practice.
- Adhere to the School of Health & Life Sciences policy for confidentiality and consent.
- Adhere to the School of Health & Life Sciences guidelines for presentation and referencing.

Examination
This is a pass/fail component of the portfolio. To gain a pass grade, you must achieve a minimum of 80% in the 20-question pharmacological element and 100% in the five-question numerical element

To achieve a pass grade, you must achieve a minimum of 40%.

Assessment Dates
You will have the opportunity to have formative feedback as follows:

Clinical Management Workshop Formative examination
Week 6 - 10 Tuesday 9th November 2021

Summative Assessments Examination
Tuesday 30th November 2021
You will submit your 3,000-word critical reflection electronically via the VLE by Friday 28th January 2022.

You can only prescribe once you have received notification from the NMC/HCPC that your V300 prescribing qualification has been recorded on the appropriate register. You must record your prescribing qualification within five years of completing your programme. Failure to do so will result in you having to retake and successfully complete the module in order to qualify and register as a prescriber.

The Role of the External Examiner
Students often ask questions about how we know that their award is broadly of the same standard as degrees awarded for similar courses by other universities. In the UK we have a system called External Examining which is one of several ways that we confirm that standards are met. An External Examiner is generally an experienced lecturer from another University/Higher Education Institution, who offers an independent view as to whether the work of students on the course is of the correct standard. The External Examiner does this by looking at a sample of work (e.g. assignments, exam answers, and dissertations), discussing the work with your lecturers and normally attending the Assessment Boards to endorse results. They then produce an annual report, which highlights any good practice they have seen and allows them to report any concerns they may have. They also confirm in their Report that academic standards and achievement are comparable with the UK Higher Education sector. The External Examiners’ Reports are made available to students via the ‘courses’ tab in e-vision and are also considered annually at relevant Course Boards.

The external examiner for your module is Hillary Field; Hillary is the prescribing programme lead at De Montfort University.

**Please note** that students are not permitted to contact External Examiners directly and External Examiners will not respond to any communication from individual students. If you have any concerns about your module then please speak to us.
9 EVALUATION STRATEGY

Informal feedback from you is welcomed throughout the module. You will be asked to evaluate the module regularly and will receive links via your student email account to undertake evaluation. It is very important that you engage in these evaluations, which provide you with the opportunity to have your say. The module team will ask you to undertake a final evaluation at the end of the module. Comments that you may have and suggestions for improvement that you may wish to make will be valued and appreciated.

The team want to support you to successfully complete your module, if in doubt about anything please ask.

We hope you enjoy your time studying with us.

10 INDICATIVE RESOURCES

These can be found in the Reading List section of bb.tees.ac.uk. You should also link into the web links and Twitter Feeds sections on e-learning@tees.