

# Independent and Supplementary Prescribing

## frequently asked questions

To help you decide if the prescribing course is suitable for you, below are a few frequently asked questions and answers.

Pharmacists successfully completing this course will be eligible to practice as independent and supplementary prescribers.

### Who can apply to become an independent & supplementary prescriber?

All entrants to this education programme must meet the following requirements:

1. Current registration with PSNI.
2. At least two years post registration experience as a pharmacist.
3. Support from the sponsoring organisation (e.g. employer or a primary care organisation or NHS Trust, including confirmation that the pharmacist will have appropriate supervised practice in the clinical area in which they are expected to prescribe and that there is an identified service need for this extension of role).
4. Have a named medical practitioner, recognised by the employing/Health Service commissioning organisation a) as having experience in a relevant field of practice, b) training and experience in the supervision, support and assessment of trainees, c) who has agreed to;
  - provide the student with opportunities to develop competencies in prescribing;
  - supervise, support and assess the student during their clinical placement.
5. Basic clinical competence in the area they wish to prescribe.
6. An outlet for their training i.e. you must have an agreement with a doctor or dentist confirming your intention to prescribe after successful completion of training.

### What is the difference between independent and supplementary prescribing?

- **Independent prescribers** are responsible for the assessment of patients with undiagnosed or diagnosed conditions, and for decisions about the clinical management required and drawing up a treatment plan. The independent prescriber also has the authority to prescribe the medicines required as part of the plan.
- **Supplementary prescribers** are authorised to prescribe for patients whose condition had been diagnosed or assessed by an independent prescriber, within the parameters of an agreed treatment plan.

### What conditions can be treated by pharmacist prescribers?

There are no legal restrictions on the clinical conditions that a pharmacist prescriber may treat. While pharmacist supplementary prescribers may prescribe controlled drugs, legislation is not yet in place to allow pharmacist independent prescribers to prescribe controlled drugs. The pharmacist prescriber should not prescribe any medicine that they do not feel competent to prescribe.

### What does the prescribing training course consist of?

Training consists (a) a six modular course and (b) 12 days in-practice training.

### (a) Modular course

The course lasts 6 months (excluding July and August), the initial details of which are listed below:

Module Name	Month	No. of hours
1 <b>Development and implementation of a Treatment / Clinical Management Plan as part of a multi-disciplinary approach to patient care</b>	Mon 4/04/11 Tues 5/04/11 Mon 11/04/11	55
2 <b>Influences on and psychology of prescribing</b>	None	15
3 <b>Disease management</b>	None	35
4 <b>Clinical examination skills and patient monitoring</b>	Tues 30/08/11  Thurs 1/09/11 Fri 2/09/11 Mon 5/09/11  Assessment – half a day Fri 30/09/11	41
5 <b>Evidence-based practice and clinical governance in relation to Independent and Supplementary Prescribing</b>	Tues 4/10/11	30
6 <b>Legal, Policy, Professional and Ethical Aspects</b>	Wed 2/11/11	20

The total time commitment for this course (excluding in-practice training) is 196 hours. The number of live workshops is indicated for each module. Please note that the live workshops are **compulsory** and no alternative courses can be provided.

### (b) In-practice training

You will also need to complete 12 x 7.5 hour days in-practice training during this period. The 12-day period does not have to be completed as one block. However, it is *your responsibility* to identify a suitable mentor and secure their agreement to supervise you during this period. PSNI has specified that a mentor should be a named medical practitioner with the following criteria:

- a) having experience in a relevant field of practice.
- b) training and experience in the supervision, support and assessment of trainees.
- c) who has agreed to;
  - provide the student with opportunities to develop competencies in prescribing;
  - supervise, support and assess the student during their clinical placement.

The designated medical practitioner who acts as your mentor could be a general practitioner or medical consultant with whom you currently work closely in daily practice.

### How would in-practice training work?

Listed below are a few examples of how your designated medical practitioner could provide learning opportunities:

- Dedicated time and opportunities to observe how the medical practitioner conducts a consultation/interview and the development of a subsequent management plan.
- Opportunities to allow in-depth discussion and analysis of clinical management when patient care and prescribing behaviour can be examined further.
- Facilitate learning by encouraging critical thinking and reflection using the practice portfolio.
- Allow opportunities for the pharmacist to carry out consultations and suggest clinical management and prescribing options, which are then discussed with the supervising medical practitioner.

### **How will my performance on the course be assessed?**

There is no final examination for this course. However, each module has an assessment exercise that you must pass.

### **What qualification will I receive?**

Upon successful completion of the course and 12 days in-practice training you will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Independent Prescribing from Queen's University, Belfast.

### **Course costs**

The course will run as a university certificate course. Course fees are £250 and will be paid by NICPLD. However, if you withdraw from, or do not complete the course, you will be asked to refund the £250 to NICPLD.

NICPLD will cover all course costs, which will include actual locum expenses for community pharmacists (up to £140 per day) for the nine days of live workshops. However locum costs will not be paid for the 12 days in-practice training. In keeping with nurse prescribing training there is no funding to pay designated medical practitioners for in-practice supervision.

### **Further information**

If you would like to discuss your possible application please contact Fran Lloyd or Laura O'Loan at NICPLD.