Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences
School of Health Sciences

Nurse Independent / Supplementary Prescribing (V300)
Module Code NURM129

Credits / Level of Study 30 credits / Level 7

Module Aims
The module aims to prepare nurses, midwives and specialist community public health nurses to independently prescribe safely, appropriately and cost effectively, licensed drugs from the British National Formulary and to act as supplementary prescribers. Professionally develop students in the higher education context of lifelong learning.

Module Content
The content is presented within eight themes related to prescribing:

- Consultation, decision making and therapy, including referral
- Models of consultation
- Accurate assessment, history taking, communication and consultation with patients/clients and their parents/carers
- Concepts of working diagnosis or best formulation
- Development of a management plan and/or clinical management plan
- Confirmation of diagnosis/differential diagnosis–further examination, investigation, referral for diagnosis
- Ensure remote prescribing practice complies with relevant UK legislation and professional guidelines (NMC 2008:16)
- Demonstrate competence to prescribe for children and refer to another prescriber when working outside their area of expertise or level of competence
- Prescribe, not to prescribe, non-drug treatment or referral for treatment
- Numeracy and drug calculations
- Stopping medication prescribed by others
- Medicines review.

- Influences on, and psychology of, prescribing
- Patient/client demand, and preference vs. patient/client need – knowing when to say “no”
- External influences, e.g. companies or colleagues
- Patient/client partnership in medicine taking, including awareness of cultural and ethnic needs
- Concordance as opposed to compliance. Achieving shared understanding and negotiating a plan of action.
- Prescribing in a team context
- Rationale, adherence to and deviation from, national and local guidelines, local formularies, protocols, policies, decision support systems and formulae
- Understanding the role and functions of other team members
- Documentation, with particular reference to communication between members, including electronic prescribing
- Auditing, monitoring and evaluating prescribing practice
- Interface between multiple prescribers and management of potential conflict
- Budgets and cost effectiveness
- Dispensing practice issues.

- Clinical Pharmacology, including the effects of co-morbidity
- Pharmacology, including pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, pharmaco-therapeutics
- Anatomy and physiology as applied to prescribing practice and community practitioner formulary
- Basic principles of drugs to be prescribed, e.g. absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion, including adverse drug reactions (ADR)
- Interactions and reactions
- Patient/client compliance, concordance and drug response
- Impact of physiological state on drug responses and safety, for example, in elderly people, neonates, children and young people, pregnant or breast feeding women and those with impaired metabolism/organ function.

- Pharmaco-therapeutics related to controlled drugs
- All drugs from the BNF, using a systems approach will be included with particular emphasis on the cardiovascular, respiratory, neurological and endocrine systems.
- Evidence-based practice and clinical governance in relation to nurse prescribing
- Rationale, adherence to and deviation from national and local guidelines, protocols; policies, decision support systems and formulae;
- Continuing professional development – role of self and role of the organisation
- Management of change
- Risk assessment and management, including safe storage, handling and disposal
- Clinical supervision
- Reflective practice / peer review; critical appraisal skills
- Auditing practice and scrutinising data, systems monitoring; identifying and reporting adverse drug reactions and near misses
- Prescribing controlled drugs; prescribing and administering; prescribing and dispensing.

- Legal, policy and ethical aspects
- Sound understanding of legislation that impacts on prescribing practice
- Legal basis for practice liability and indemnity
- Legal implications of advice to self-medicate, including the use of alternative therapies, complementary therapy and over-the-counter (OTC) medicines
- Safe-keeping of prescription pads, action if lost, writing prescriptions and record keeping
- Awareness and reporting of fraud (recommendations from the Shipman Inquiry, Fourth Report)
- Drug licensing
- Yellow card reporting to the Committee on Human Medicine and reporting patient/client safety incidents to the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA)
- Prescribing in the policy context; manufacturer’s guidance relating to literature, licensing and off-label
- Ethical basis of intervention: informed consent, with particular reference to client groups in learning disability, mental health, critically ill people and emergency situations
- Legal implications and their application to supplementary prescribing.

- Professional accountability and responsibility
- The NMC Code of Professional Conduct; standards for conduct, performance and ethics
- NMC standards for prescribing practice
- Ethical recommendations from the Shipman Inquiry, Fourth Report; accountability and responsibility for assessment, diagnosis and prescribing
- Maintaining professional knowledge and competence in relation to prescribing
- Accountability and responsibility to the employer.

- Prescribing in the public health context
- Duty to patient/clients and society
- Policies regarding the use of antibiotics and vaccines
- Inappropriate use of medication, including misuse, under-use and over-use
- Inappropriate prescribing including over-prescribing and under-prescribing
- Access to health care provisions and medicines
- Prescribing in its broadest sense, e.g. exercise.

Continued:-
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**Pre-requisites of Study**

Students must provide evidence that they have met the NMC’s criteria for eligibility to undertake a nurse independent / supplementary prescribing programme. The criteria are:

- They must be a registered first-level nurse, midwife and/or specialist community public health nurse.
- They must have a least three years’ experience as a practising nurse midwife or specialist community public health nurse and be deemed competent by their employer to undertake the programme. Of these three years, the year immediately preceding application to the programme must have been in the clinical field in which they intend to prescribe, e.g. neonates, mental health. Part-time workers must have practised for a sufficient period to be deemed competent by their employer.
- The applicant has successfully completed a module/relevant study of health assessment that includes diagnostic examination and consultation skills or equivalent. For example, Health Assessment (level 6 NUR3204 or level 7 NURM109) or other credited or certificated learning (please contact the module leader for further advice).

In addition there must be written confirmation from:

- The employer, to support the student to undertake the module of study and for CPD once qualified – Must provide evidence of their ability to study at level 7 (Masters) by providing evidence of recent study at level 6 or above in the last five years. An appraisal of the student's suitability to prescribe before they apply for a training place must be undertaken by their employer (NMC 2006:10).
- A designated medical practitioner who meets eligibility criteria for the supervision of nurse prescribers (NPC 2005) and who has agreed to provide the required term of supervised practice
- The employer is responsible for ensuring the applicant meets specific NMC criteria (NMC 2006:10) including competence in diagnosis and physical assessment and appropriate numeracy skills.

*We reserve the right to refuse registration to this module if you are:
  a) the subject of any current professional investigation
  b) if you have unsuccessfully attempted this module at another HEI*

**Delivery of Module**

A variety of learning and teaching strategies will be used in the delivery of the module, encompassing the following:

- Enquiry-based learning, to develop critical thinking in e.g. legal, ethical and professional issues
- Lectures by specialist professionals
- Case studies/scenarios, to show the application of knowledge of drugs to clinical practice
- Student-led seminars, to show the application of knowledge of drugs to clinical practice
- Formative Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCES), to develop confidence in assessment and decision-making.
- Supervised learning in practice, supported by the designated medical practitioner (DMP)

**Assessment**

- **a)** Written final examination (MCQ) (80% pass mark)
- **b)** A numerical assessment including drug calculations within the context of prescribing practice (100% pass mark)
- **c)** Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
- **d)** Satisfactory completion of practice experience assessed by designated medical practitioner
- **e)** Portfolio of Practice Evidence demonstrating application of theory to practice and rationale for prescribing decisions and reflective practice

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**Key Information**

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<th>Study Dates</th>
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*Please check our [website](#) to ensure that there have been no revisions to the course dates listed

**Location**  
Duke of Kent Building, University of Surrey

**Cost**  
£2,070.00

**Module Leader**  
Susan Brooks  
Tel: 01483 684530  
Email: s.brooks@surrey.ac.uk

**Post Registration Administration Team**  
Tel: 01483 684505  
Email: postreg_admin@surrey.ac.uk

**How to Apply / Funding / Secondment**

Students are required to complete an S.H.A non-medical prescribing application form which is available from the nurse prescribing lead for their area. The form must be completed in line with the agreed selection criteria and S.H.A funding confirmed. **Students must have managerial agreement for protected study time - total of 27 University study days plus 12 days in practice.**

The above S.H.A form must be submitted with a Faculty of Health & Medical Sciences Application Form and a copy of the DBS certificate no older than three years; both forms can be printed from our [website](#).