School of Health and Social Work

Title of Programme: Non-Medical Prescribing (Nurses)

Programme Code: HHPRSC

Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering: 27 September 2021

Assistant Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance): Jenny Lorimer

Signature

A programme specification is a collection of key information about a programme of study (or course). It identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, lists the modules that make up each stage (or year) of the programme, and the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff. It also describes the structure of the programme, its progression requirements and any programme-specific regulations. This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right programme of study, to current students on the programme, and to staff teaching and administering the programme.

Summary of amendments to the programme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28/06/21</td>
<td>Entry Requirements</td>
<td>Entry requirements terminology changed in accordance to updated regulatory guidance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/06/21</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
<td>Inclusion of the term ‘Midwives’ alongside Nurses etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28/06/21</td>
<td>Section D.</td>
<td>Move of third entry point from May to March. Shift of module semesters to accommodate this new entry point (additional semester BC instance)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have any queries regarding the changes please email AQQ@herts.ac.uk
Programme Specification Non-Medical Prescribing (Nurses)

This programme specification (PS) is designed for prospective students, enrolled students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content for each module can be found in Definitive Module Documents (DMDs) and Module Guides.

Section 1

A. Programme Rationale

Prescribing by health professionals other than medical doctors is a particular focus within current health policies, aimed at enhancing patient access to required medications, effective review of medications and reducing unnecessary admission to hospital. Health Visitors and District Nurses were the first group of health professionals empowered to prescribe from a limited formulary. Since that time there have been significant developments in the field with nurses now able to prescribe independently from within the British National Formulary. Independent prescribers may prescribe for any medical condition within their competence.

Nurses without a specialist community practice qualification are now allowed to prescribe from the limited Nurse Prescribers’ Formulary for Community Practitioners. This includes a range of products regularly used by nurses such as wound dressings, skin emollients and catheter products.

This programme is designed to enable appropriately qualified practitioners to develop the skills, knowledge and attributes required for safe, appropriate and cost-effective prescribing practice within the context of their specialist professional roles and the legislative and professional frameworks that govern their specific role. It involves blended learning strategies to facilitate effective inter-professional learning and the sharing of differing professional perspectives and expertise. Reflective discussions and prescribing analyses are held to enable students to integrate their learning within the context of their professional practice and to ensure that the specific requirements of the professional and statutory regulatory body are fully addressed.

B. Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme has been devised in accordance with the University’s graduate attributes of programmes of study as set out in UPR TL03.

Additionally, this programme aims to:

1. Develop the skills, knowledge and attributes required for safe, appropriate and cost-effective prescribing practice within the context of their prescribing roles.
2. Demonstrate a critical awareness of the professional responsibilities associated with safe and effective prescribing practice.
The programme aims are achieved through a systematic and comprehensive exploration of the knowledge and skills required for safe practice within the student's intended field of prescribing. This includes, for all students, an analysis of the associated professional responsibilities. Students will also explore the associated relevant assessment and diagnostic skills, pharmacology and prescribing practice. For those undertaking the independent prescribing route, these issues will be explored in greater breadth and depth to support the complexity of their intended prescribing roles.

Student achievement of the programme aims is underpinned by the following principles:

1. The primacy of practice in all areas. Teaching, learning and assessment methods are practice-centred and directed towards the student's achievement of professional proficiency within their intended area of practice.
2. The comprehensive integration of theoretical knowledge with professional practice.
3. The development of evidence-based practice and learning involving the ability to synthesise new knowledge and to ensure its appropriate application in practice.
4. The acquisition of the skills and attributes required for lifelong learning.

C. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced to the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014) and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education (2016) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and Understanding</th>
<th>Teaching and learning methods</th>
<th>Assessment strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1 - The systematic and holistic assessment of patient need and the differential diagnostic process.</td>
<td>Acquisition of A1 – A7 is through a combination of lectures, workshops, skills sessions, case analyses, learning logs/workbooks and reflective group discussions. Learning in professional practice is an integral part of the programme and the Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP)/practice supervisor will provide additional support for the integration of required learning in practice. Learning support will also be available through personal tutorials and guided study involving the use of the Managed Learning Environment/Blended Learning.</td>
<td>Knowledge and understanding are assessed through a combination of examination (A2, A3), prescribing consultation (A1-A7) and portfolio of practice evidence (A1-A7).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2 - Drug actions and sources of information, advice and decision support in prescribing practice relevant to the prescribing role.</td>
<td>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3 - Legislation relevant to the practice of non-medical prescribing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4 – Legal, professional and governance issues in prescribing practice.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5 - The concept of shared decision-making applied to medicines' optimisation practice with patients and their carers.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A6 - The roles and relationships of others involved in prescribing, supplying and administering medicines.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual skills</td>
<td>Teaching and learning methods</td>
<td>Assessment strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A7 - The framework of professional accountability and responsibility and its synthesis in their prescribing role</td>
<td>Intellectual skills are developed through the methods and strategies outlined in A above. Analysis and evaluation skills will be particularly developed through small group work and prescribing analysis in practice settings. Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop intellectual skills further by independent study.</td>
<td>Intellectual skills are assessed through the examination paper (B2, B3) and the summative prescribing consultation (B1-B5). Further evidence of these skills is also presented within the portfolio of practice evidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B1</strong> - Evaluate approaches to the systematic and holistic assessment of patient need and the interpretation of diagnostic indicators to achieve a differential diagnosis in their prescribing role.</td>
<td><strong>B2</strong> - Critically understand drug actions and sources of information, advice and decision support in their prescribing role.</td>
<td><strong>B3</strong> - Demonstrate a critical understanding of legislation relevant to the practice of non-medical prescribing. <strong>B4</strong> - Demonstrate evaluation of legal, professional and governance issues in their prescribing role. <strong>B5</strong> - Evaluate the roles and relationships of others involved in prescribing, supplying and administering medicines and strategies for successful team working.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C1</strong> - Demonstrate a systematic and holistic assessment of patient need and the interpretation of diagnostic indicators. <strong>C2</strong> - Demonstrate the appropriate application of knowledge of drug actions in prescribing practice and the effective use of appropriate decision support tools. <strong>C3</strong> - Demonstrate successful negotiation and shared decision-making with patients and carers. <strong>C4</strong> - Demonstrate a critical awareness of legislation relevant to the practice of non-medical prescribing. <strong>C5</strong> - Demonstrate professional judgment of legal and governance issues in prescribing practice.</td>
<td>Practical skills are developed through a period of supervised practice, supported and assessed by an appropriately qualified practice supervisor and practice assessor. For students following the V300 Independent prescribing module, the assessor may be an appropriately qualified medical practitioner. Relevant learning experiences are negotiated in practice and recorded in the portfolio of practice evidence. A major focus of the learning experiences includes observation and practice of diagnostic skills and case analyses of the decision-making process regarding the appropriate management of patient problems. The student’s learning experience will also include exploration of the roles and responsibilities of all</td>
<td>Practical skills are assessed through case analyses and development of a portfolio of practice evidence. For students following the independent-supplementary route, assessment &amp; diagnostic skills are also assessed via an OSCE conducted in the University setting. Assessment of the student’s ability in practice will be undertaken by the Practice assessor who will include a signed statement of competence to prescribe within the portfolio of practice evidence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Programme Structures, Features, Levels, Modules, and Credits

This is a part-time programme over a 6-month period leading to 30 credits at level 6 (15 credits for the V150 course). Students successfully completing the 30-credit route will also be awarded the University award of Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing.

The programme is in accordance with the QAA Framework for Higher education qualifications in England, Wales and N. Ireland. Intake is normally in Semesters A (September) and B (January and March).

The programme involves 26 taught days (10 taught days for V150) involving University attendance and guided study. Curriculum content is addressed through the following teaching themes:

- Systematic approaches to assessment and diagnosis.
- Pharmacology and prescribing practice.
- Medicines’ optimisation and governance frameworks in prescribing practice
- Supervised Practice

Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies
The programme is accredited by the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC). The following professional Awards are available on completion of the indicated module:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Professional Group</th>
<th>Required Module</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing</td>
<td>Nurses &amp; Midwives</td>
<td>Nurse Independent Prescribing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V150 Nurse Prescribing (No University Award)</td>
<td>Nurses</td>
<td>V150 Nurse Prescribing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Work-Based Learning, including Sandwich Programmes
Each award is dependent on a required period of work-based learning. This involves 90 hours’ work- based learning for the award of Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing and 65 hours for the V150 award. All students must achieve specific competencies during their period of work- based learning, assessed by their Practice assessor, working collaboratively with their Academic Assessor. Evidence of their required development will be presented in a Portfolio of Practice Evidence. Summative assessment of the students’
proficiency takes place in relation to the competencies outlined in the Prescribing Competency Framework for all Prescribers (Royal Pharmaceutical Society 2016).

Erasmus Exchange programme
N/A

Programme Structure
The programme structure and progression information below (Table 1a) is provided for the Honours award. The Programme Learning Outcomes detailed above are developed and assessed through the constituent modules. Table 2 identifies where each learning outcome is assessed.

Table 1a Outline Programme Structure
The programme involves one module of study for each specialist group and delivery involves shared learning.

Entry point: Semester A (September) or Semester B (January or March)
Level 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compulsory Modules</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit Points</th>
<th>% Examination</th>
<th>% Coursework</th>
<th>Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Independent Prescribing</td>
<td>6HSK1059</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%*</td>
<td>AB, BC, BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V150 Nurse Prescribing</td>
<td>6HSK1058</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%**</td>
<td>AB, BC, BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For the independent prescribing module: Pass grades must also be obtained in an in-course assessment completed under examination conditions (minimum pass mark 80%), numeracy assessment (minimum pass mark 100%) and Objective Structured Clinical Examination together with satisfactory completion of all elements of the Portfolio of Practice Evidence, including the required period of supervised practice (equivalent to 90 hours)

** For the V150 prescribing modules: Pass grades must also be obtained in an in-course assessment completed under examination conditions (minimum pass mark 80%), numeracy assessment (minimum pass mark 100%) together with satisfactory completion of all elements of the Portfolio of Practice Evidence, including the required period of supervised practice (65 hours)

Table 1b Final and interim awards available
Students successfully completing 6HSK1059 will receive the university award of Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing.

There are no interim awards available.

Programme-specific assessment regulations
The programme complies with the University's academic regulations (in particular, UPR AS11, UPR AS12 and UPR AS14) with the exception of those listed below, which have been approved by the University:

- Final compensatory credit (exemption from UPR AS14 section D4.4) and or intramodular compensation is not permissible within the programme.
- A successfully completed period of professional practice, involving 90 hours for nurses studying independent prescribing, 65 hours for nurses studying V150 prescribing, is mandatory for receipt of the award. Practice hours must be detailed within the Portfolio of Practice Evidence. Failure to achieve the required number of hours will normally result in withdrawal from the programme.

Further points of clarification and interpretation relevant to this specific programme are given below:
- To uphold public safety a failure to identify a serious problem or an answer which would cause the patient harm will result in referral
- The numeracy assessment is an independently assessed element and must be passed in order to meet programme and NMC requirements. Students will be given two attempts to pass the test at the
first sitting and a further referral attempt. For all other assessments, students are allowed only two attempts at the assessment.
- The length of registration on this programme is normally one year. In exceptional circumstances this will be extended to a maximum of two years.

E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning.

Management
The programme is managed and administered through:
- Dean of School
- Head of Department
- Associate Dean (Academic Quality Assurance) who has delegated responsibility for programmes in the School of Health & Social Work
- Programme Leader who is responsible for the day to day management of the programme
- A designated Admissions Tutor
- A team of Administrators to deal with day to day administration associated with the programme
- Membership of programme committees including student representatives from each of the professional groups together with a representative from commissioning Trusts.

Support
Students are supported by:
- A Programme Leader to provide support with the programme structure and regulations
- Personal Tutors to provide academic and pastoral support
- Student representatives at the Programme Committee
- A team of programme administrators
- Induction sessions at the beginning of each programme
- Confidentiality Policy
- Fitness to practise policy
- An extensive Learning Resources Centre, incorporating a library and computer centre
- A substantial Student Centre that provides advice on issues such as finance, University regulations, legal matters etc.
- Office of Dean of Students incorporating Chaplaincy, Counselling and Nursery
- University Disability Advisors
- An Equal Opportunities Officer
- The Students’ Union
- Student Counselling Centre
- Guided, student-centred learning through the use of StudyNet, a versatile on-line interactive learning environment
- Placement support and supervision by appropriately qualified prescribers, working collaboratively with the Personal Tutor/Academic Assessor from the University

F. Other sources of information
In addition to this Programme Specification, the University publishes guidance to registered students on the programme and its constituent modules:
- A Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module;
- Professional or Statutory Regulatory Body information: www.nmc-uk.org

The Ask Herts website provides information on a wide range of resources and services available at the University of Hertfordshire including academic support, accommodation, fees, funding, visas, wellbeing services and student societies.

As a condition of registration, all students of the University of Hertfordshire are required to comply with the University’s rules, regulations and procedures. These are published in a series of documents called ‘University Policies and Regulations’ (UPRs). The University requires that all students consult these documents which are available on-line, on the UPR web site, at: http://www.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/. In particular, UPR SA07 ‘Regulations and Advice for Students’ Particular Attention - Index’ provides information
on the UPRs that contain the academic regulations of particular relevance for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students.

In accordance with section 4(5) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA), the UK Office for Students (OfS) has registered the University of Hertfordshire in the register of English higher education providers. The Register can be viewed at: https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/. Furthermore, the OfS has judged that the University of Hertfordshire delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK. Consequently, the University received a Gold award in the 2018 Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes (TEF) exercise. This award was made in June 2018 and is valid for up to 3 years. The TEF panel’s report and conclusions can be accessed at: https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/tef-outcomes/#/provider/10007147

G. Entry requirements

The normal entry requirements for the programme are:

**For nurses undertaking the Independent Prescribing Course:**

1. Current registration as a first level nurse, midwife and/or specialist community public health nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. The applicant’s registration status must not be subject to any cautions or interim suspension orders
2. A minimum of one years’ experience (or equivalent in part time employment) as a practising nurse/midwife/specialist community public health nurse
3. Evidence of the ability to study at the academic level of the module to be studied i.e. level 6, (undergraduate level)
4. Evidence of current DBS clearance (enhanced disclosure) i.e. obtained within the last three years
5. Applicants must also provide:
   - Written confirmation of support to undertake the prescribing programme from their employer, including NHS and non-NHS employers. The support available must include time to attend scheduled study days at the University, access to appropriate learning opportunities in practice and protected time to engage in practice development activities with an identified practice supervisor and practice assessor.
   - Written confirmation from their employer that the applicant can demonstrate safe and effective practice within their intended field of prescribing practice in relation to:
     - Clinical/health assessment
     - Diagnostics/care management
     - Planning and evaluation of care,
   - If the applicant is self-employed a comprehensive professional reference must be provided which details the applicant’s level of proficiency in practice. A separate statement must be provided by the applicant confirming the arrangements made for practice supervision and assessment.
   - Written confirmation from the Practice Supervisor and Practice Assessor, providing evidence that they meet the required eligibility criteria and that they agree to collaborate to provide the required term of supervised practice and its assessment.

The programme is subject to the University's Principles, Policies and Regulations for the Admission of Students to Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes (in UPR SA03), along with associated procedures. These will take account of University policy and guidelines for assessing accredited prior certificated learning (APCL) and accredited prior experiential learning (APEL).

If you would like this information in an alternative format, please contact: ask@herts.ac.uk

If you wish to receive a copy of the latest Programme Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report (AMER) and/or the External Examiner’s Report for the programme, please email a request to aqo@herts.ac.uk
### Non Medical Prescribing

#### Table 2: Development of Programme Learning Outcomes in the Constituent Modules

This map identifies where the programme learning outcomes are taught and assessed in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the programme aims (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

As the programme consists of one module of study only, the mapping has been conducted against each of the programme themes. The assessment column indicates where outcomes are assessed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum themes</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Knowledge &amp; Understanding</th>
<th>Intellectual Skills</th>
<th>Practical Skills</th>
<th>Transferable Skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Systematic Approaches to assessment and Diagnosis</td>
<td>OSCE Pt Consultation</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exam, Portfolio</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacology and Prescribing Practice</td>
<td>Pt Consultation</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exam, Portfolio</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicines'optimisation and governance</td>
<td>Pt Consultation</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exam Portfolio</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervised Practice</td>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Programme Learning Outcomes (as identified in section 1 and the following page)

- **V150 prescribing**
- **L6 Ind/supp prescribing**
KEY TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

A1 - The systematic and holistic assessment of patient need and the differential diagnostic process.
A2 - Drug actions and sources of information, advice and decision support in prescribing practice relevant to the prescribing role.
A3 - Legislation relevant to the practice of non-medical prescribing.
A4 - Legal, professional and governance issues in prescribing practice.
A5 - The concept of shared decision-making applied to medicines' optimisation practice with patients and their carers.
A6 - The roles and relationships of others involved in prescribing, supplying and administering medicines.
A7 - The framework of professional accountability and responsibility and its synthesis in their prescribing role.

Practical Skills

C1 - Demonstrate a systematic and holistic assessment of patient need and the interpretation of diagnostic indicators.
C2 - Demonstrate the appropriate application of knowledge of drug actions in prescribing practice and the effective use of appropriate decision support tools.
C3 - Demonstrate successful negotiation and shared decision-making with patients and carers.
C4 - Demonstrate a critical awareness of legislation relevant to the practice of non-medical prescribing.
C5 - Demonstrate professional judgment of legal and governance issues in prescribing practice.
C6 - Practise at all times within the framework of professional accountability.

Intellectual Skills

B1 - Evaluate approaches to the systematic and holistic assessment of patient need and the interpretation of diagnostic indicators to achieve a differential diagnosis in their prescribing role.
B2 - Critically understand drug actions and sources of information, advice and decision support in their prescribing role.
B3 - Demonstrate a critical understanding of legislation relevant to the practice of non-medical prescribing.
B4 - Demonstrate evaluation of legal, professional and governance issues in their prescribing role.
B5 - Evaluate the roles and relationships of others involved in prescribing, supplying and administering medicines and strategies for successful team working.

Transferable Skills

D1 - Communicate effectively using verbal, non-verbal, written and electronic means as appropriate.
D2 - Contribute to successful working within the multidisciplinary prescribing team.
D3 - Engage with information systems in order to interpret data to inform prescribing practice.
Section 2

Programme management

Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements: None
Type of programme: Undergraduate
Date of validation/last periodic review: May 19
Date of production/last revision of PS: March 2021
Relevant to level/cohort: Level 6 entering September 2021
Administrative School: School of Health and Social Work

Table 3 Course structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code</th>
<th>Course description</th>
<th>HECOS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HHPRSC</td>
<td>Undergraduate Non-medical prescribing</td>
<td>100250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>