

Register Nurse Prescribing in Community Health (RNPCH) Programme Information Pack

(Acknowledgement to Counties Manukau, Midlands Collaborative and Nursing Council of
New Zealand)

Outline

Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) is the professional regulator responsible for ensuring nurses practice to a safe and competent standard under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act. In 2013 the Nursing Council of New Zealand consulted on registered nurse prescribing, with a high level of support for the proposal as a way of enhancing registered nurse delivery of care to patients in the community.

Designated prescribing for Registered Nurses in Community Health (designated RNPCH) is a model of prescribing with a limited list of medications used for treating the needs of normally healthy people who have a specific minor illness or common condition in the community. The preparation, role, and responsibility are not equivalent to other prescribing roles.

There are three prescribing scopes for registered nurse prescribing which are outlined by the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) (Appendix1). These provide a scope of practice that supports different patient needs with the main aim of nurse prescribing to:

- Improve patient access to healthcare
- Convenient for the patient, allowing utilisation of all resource that exist (nurse practitioner and general practitioner time)
- Promote close collaboration between team members and build on the existing skills and knowledge of registered nurses encouraging registered nurses to work to full scope of Practise
- Enable nurses to take accountability for prescribing decisions based on their assessments rather than working under standing orders

Rationale for designated RNPCH:

- Improve patient care and outcomes
- Make it easier and more accessible for patients to obtain the medicines they need by the appropriate clinician
- Increase patient choice in accessing medicine
- Utilising the skills and education of health professionals. All clinicians working within their scope of Practise.

Principles to guide culturally responsive care

Based on principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and considering the Wai 2575 Health Services and Outcomes Kaupapa enquiry recommendations and the NZ Health and Disability System Review recommendations and expected Ministry of Health (MOH) action plan.

- A MOH workforce priority that commits to growing and developing a nursing workforce that is culturally responsive to the needs of Māori, including growing a proportionate Māori nurse workforce
- The approach focuses on building and maintaining therapeutic relationships and working in partnership with Māori
- To support nursing workforce response to make a radical difference to health outcomes for Māori
- Address significant health inequities that exist between Māori and non-Māori health outcomes
- Emphasis on person and whanau centred care in line with Māori models of health care

Entry Criteria:

Nursing Experience:

- A minimum of 3 years clinical experience with at least 1 year in the area of prescribing practice
- Current Annual Practising Certificate
- Current employee appraisal using NZNC competencies or a current PDRP portfolio
- Practise approval and sign off
- Compliance with Standing Order requirements/current use of Standing Orders/ demonstration of assessment using best practice guidelines
- Nurse is not subject to current performance review and management

South Island Alliance Registered Nurse Prescribing in community health programme

The programme will be delivered via healthLearn as an online learning package, together with Nurse Practitioner- led virtual group study sessions. This enables equity of access for the rural and remote RN workforce located across the region, creates flexibility for the adult learner and reduces potential barriers related to access and costs associated with travel and accommodation for participants and their employers, and an efficient use of expertise and resources.

The healthLearn online course consists of six modules:

- Module One: Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning
- Module Two: Dermatology and Skin
- Module Three: Ear Infections
- Module Four: Primary and Secondary Prevention of Rheumatic Fever
- Module Five: Legal Aspects of RN Designated Prescriber in Community Health
- Module Six: Principles of Pharmacotherapeutics in Relation to Prescribing

The Nurse Practitioner led virtual study sessions consist of seven Teams Webinars:

- Webinar One: Introduction to Nurse Prescribing in New Zealand
- Webinar Two: Health Assessment and Nursing Models
- Webinar Three: Participant History Taking Presentations, ENT Assessment
- Webinar Four: Dermatology, Constipation, Eye Assessment
- Webinar Five: Contraception and Sexual Health Basics
- Webinar Six: Prescribing Essentials and Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Webinar Seven: Portfolio Requirements and Reflection of Practice

Portfolio/Assessment requirements

- Discussion of clinical cases this will be evidenced by a learning contract/Learning Log, signed by the clinical supervisor (authorised prescriber)
- Two case studies
- Self-assessment and clinical supervision of the 11 Competencies. Including evidence of competency met using an example and or action

Clinical Training in Practice

- Clinical training by an authorised prescriber, including observing prescribing and partaking in supervised prescribing. Fortnightly clinical supervision meetings are recommended in a formal or informal way to provide feedback and reflection.
- A formal learning contract clearly outlining responsibilities will be agreed between the Clinical Supervisor and registered nurse participant to support the nurse to meet the competencies for registered prescribing in community health
- Clinical supervision time is essential to give feedback and support to the Registered Nurse who is completing the Nurse Prescribing module/ Portfolio

- Authorised prescribers will provide clinical supervision of prescribing in practice, including supporting, teaching, observing of the Patient Consult. Providing feedback to the registered nurse of the assessment, diagnosis and patient consultation.
- Registered nurse to competently prescribe within six months of completing the education program
- Clinical Practice form signed by supervisor (12 hours minimum)
- Allocation of non-clinical time for auditing and reflective practice to meet current and ongoing professional development
- If at any stage in the process a “cause for concern” is highlighted by either the registered nurse or Supervisor (e.g.: personal circumstances, health, competency) the “cause for concern process is to be followed” template (Appendix 6)
- Should additional support be identified the supervisor and RN will follow the support plan process (Appendix 4)
- Should the registered nurse participant not agree with their formative or summative assessment the registered nurse will follow the request for a second review/appeal by applicant process (Appendix 11)

Assessment Criteria and Processes

The participant will have a comprehensive understanding this will be demonstrated through meeting the required competencies for the RNPCH

- Understanding of the relevant regulatory frameworks, local policies, and guidelines.
- Understanding of how medicines are monitored and licensed
- Documentation is appropriate and legible, with accurate prescriptions and clinical documentation
- Can explain the principles behind prescribing and application to practice, including cost and effects of prescribing practice and antimicrobial stewardship
- Meets confidentiality requirements related to clients, whanau, and employees in all interactions and documentation
- Submits a designated RNPCH electronic portfolio demonstrating competencies for the programmes have been met
- Demonstrates application of cultural competency in practice (within designated RNPCH e-portfolio evidence)
- Demonstrates effective communication with patients, caregivers and other team members. Advises patients on any risks, expected effects and potential side effects of medications
- Demonstrates an understanding of the appeals process

Completion of the programme requirements

This is to determine that the registered nurse meets all the standards for safe prescribing as a Registered Nurse prescriber in community health (RNPCH)

- The nominated nurse lead will provide written recommendation to the individual for Nursing Council New Zealand, that the nurse has met all requirements to be endorsed as a Registered Nurse Prescriber.
- The nominated nurse lead will provide written notification to the individual registered nurse that they have met all RNPCH programme requirements.
- The registered nurse will be responsible for submitting their electronic application and required evidence to Nursing Council New Zealand, be endorsed as an RNPCH
- The registered nurse will be responsible for informing the nominated nurse lead for each locality to confirm that they have been recertified by Nursing Council New Zealand,
- The nominated nurse lead will share locality data with the Well south governance group to ensure this group has current information on all RNPCH nurses in each organisation

- The nurse lead will provide written notification to the individual registered nurse that they have not met all RNPCH programme requirements; and will inform them of the process for resubmission of their portfolio or to appeal the decision
- An appeal can be initiated by following the appeals process

Appeal process

An appeal can be initiated by an applicant at any time in the credentialing process by contacting the nurse lead in the locality (by email / in writing) who will review and discuss the appeal with a moderator and RNPCH programme nurse lead colleagues as appropriate. Each appeal will be managed on a case-by-case basis to resolve any issues.

- The nurse may submit an RNPCH electronic portfolio a total of three times (an initial submission, followed by a maximum of two resubmissions)

Opportunities to feedback on the programme will be provided to the registered nurse, clinical supervisor, and the RN participant organisation to inform further development of the programme.