The Preparation of Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors, Allied Healthcare Professionals and Pharmacists for Non-Medical Independent and Supplementary Prescribing

Module Codes: NM3280 (Level 3) / NMM110 (Level M)

Introduction

The modules are designed to prepare nurses, midwives, health visitors, specialist community public health nurses, allied healthcare professionals and pharmacists for appropriate and cost effective prescribing of medicinal products. The right to prescribe therapeutic products is granted to registered and appropriately qualified healthcare practitioners by their employers in accordance with statutory requirements stated under the Medicinal Products: Prescription for Nurses and Health Visitors Act (1992), Department of Health (2006), the Healthcare Professions Council (2005, 2009), the Nursing and Midwifery Council (2006, 2009, 2010) and the General Pharmaceutical Council (2010). Prescribing medicinal products enhances the practitioners scope of professional practice and facilitates the person's/patient's swifter access to healthcare at the point of need.

These modules are designed to build on the practitioners' existing knowledge and professional expertise. The taught components of these modules emphasise patient assessment, diagnostics, pharmacology and appropriate prescribing of therapeutically desirable medicinal products in varied healthcare contexts including adult, child and mental health.

Who are these modules suitable for?

The applicant must be registered first level nurses, midwives and/or specialist community public health nurses, registered allied healthcare professionals and pharmacists. Applicants must have at least three years (two years for pharmacists) of experience in practice, hold current registration and be deemed competent by their employer to undertake the respective BSc/MSc level module.

Module structure

These modules consist of 26 study days and 12 days (12 x 7.5 hours) days of supervised practice. Students must attend 90% of the taught programme and 100% of the 12 days (12 x 7.5 hours) of supervised practice. The applicants' qualifications, experience, professional expertise and personal preferences will determine which of the two modules may be accessed. Appropriately qualified and experienced pharmacists should access the NMM110 (Level M) module.

The following module examinations and assessments must be successfully completed in order to be awarded the recordable qualification by the appropriate professional body.

- Pharmacology examination
- Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE): history taking, documentation, formulating diagnosis, prescribing and numeracy
- Practice-based portfolio
- Supporting reflective essay.

Career development

The School of Community and Health Sciences maintains links with many of the major hospitals and community trusts in London. It is an acknowledged centre of excellence that endeavours to provide stimulating and enjoyable learning experiences.

Upon successful completion of the NM3280 module you will receive 30 credits at Level 3 or on successful completion of the NMM110 module you will receive 30 credits at Level M. The awarded credits may be used in future in the acquisition of a BSc (Hons) Nursing/Midwifery Studies, MSc Nursing/Midwifery or MSc Interprofessional Practice.

Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (CATS)

The School of Community and Health Sciences supports the CAT Scheme which involves the award of credits at Certificate, Diploma and Degree Level (Level 1, 2, 3, 4) for modules successfully completed. Credits achieved can be accumulated towards a BSc (Hons) Nursing Studies or Midwifery Degree or MSc/PG Dip in Nursing/Midwifery or Interprofessional Practice.
Accreditation for Prior Learning (APL)/Accreditation for Prior Experiential Learning (APEL)

This is the process of recognising prior academic achievement or experience as contributory ‘qualifications’ toward future studies, i.e. CATS credits and avoids repetitious learning.

Start dates

Both modules (Level 3 and Level M) starting in September and January as follows:

- September modules consist of 4 full study weeks followed by 2 study days per week for 3 weeks; in addition, the students must make arrangements for their 12 days (12 x 7.5 hours = 90 hours) days of supervised practice.
- January modules consist of 4 full study weeks followed by 1 study day per week for 6 weeks; in addition, the students must make arrangements for their 12 days (12 x 7.5 hours = 90 hours) days of supervised practice.

The module specific commencement dates and relevant venue details can be located by accessing the respective module timetables on www.city.ac.uk/lifelong

All applicants must:

- Obtain support from their line manager and the Trust’s Non-medical Prescribing Lead
- Demonstrate that there is a need to prescribe within the current role and this is stated in your Personal Development Plan
- Have documented approval from a Designated Medical Practitioner/Assessor prior to submitting their application for either of these modules.

Further information:

To find out if a programme is suitable for you or for further information on module content please contact the module leader:

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Application process

Application forms are available from line managers (contracted places) or from the City University London website www.city.ac.uk/cpdapply

Please post your completed application to:

CPD Administration Team
School of Community and Health Sciences
City University London
Health Building
Northampton Square
London E1V 0HB

Alternatively you can fax your completed application to CPD Programme Administration: Fax: +44 (0)20 7040 5811

If faxed – please ensure you subsequently post the hardcopy of the application form to the address above.

What happens next?

We aim to acknowledge all applications within 14 working days. If you have not heard from us during this time please contact the CPD Administration Team via healthprofessionals@city.ac.uk or via telephone on 020 7040 5828. We will send confirmation on receipt of your application, in writing, to your correspondence address. Please note: you are advised to keep a copy of your completed application form for your records.
Criteria for Accessing the Independent/Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing Modules

The current criteria detailed in the Standards of Proficiency for Nurses and Midwife Prescribers (NMC, 2006, pp.8-9), Standards of Education and Training Guidance (HPC, 2009) and Accreditation of Pharmacists Independent Prescribing (GPhC, 2010) require applicants to provide evidence of eligibility to undertake the Non-medical Independent and Supplementary Prescribing module.

The criteria are:

- The applicant must be a first level nurse, midwife and/or specialist community public health nurse, registered allied healthcare professional or pharmacist.
- The applicant must have at least three years experience as a practicing nurse, midwife, specialist community health nurse or allied healthcare professional and deemed competent by the employer to undertake this course. The year immediately preceding the application for the modules must be in the clinical field in which the applicant intends to prescribe.
- The applicant must provide evidence of ability to study at a minimum of first degree level; the applicant must have successfully completed a minimum of one level 3 (BSc) module. Applicants seeking to undertake this module at MSc level must provide evidence of ability to study at MSc level.
- The applicant must provide evidence of knowledge of anatomy, physiology, pathology/pathophysiology, pharmacology and numeracy related to the clinical field or specialist area of practice in which the applicant intends to prescribe. This knowledge will be formatively assessed 6 weeks prior to the commencement of the prescribing module enabling the applicant to identify and address her/his learning needs.
- The applicant must provide evidence of having undertaken and successfully completed a module in history taking, physical assessment and diagnostics in the relevant area of practice or evidence showing that s/he will undertake a module in history taking, physical assessment and diagnostics alongside the Independent/Supplementary Prescribing Module.
- Where the applicant has not undertaken or will not be undertaking a module in physical assessment and diagnostics alongside the Independent/Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing module, then the employer's Non-medical Prescribing Lead is responsible for confirming that:
  - The applicant has been assessed as competent to take a history, undertake clinical assessments, and diagnose the patients' problems
  - There is a clinical need within the applicant's role to justify prescribing
  - The applicant has sufficient knowledge to apply prescribing principles taught on the programme of preparation to their own area and field of practice.

For Pharmacists the criteria are:

- Pharmacists wishing to apply for the NMM110 module must have at least two years of appropriate patient oriented experience in a hospital, community or primary care setting following their pre-registration year and registration with the GPhC.
- Pharmacists must hold current registration with GPhC &/or PSNI as practicing pharmacists.
- Pharmacists must identify an area of practice and need in which to develop their prescribing skills.
- Pharmacists must have up-to-date clinical, pharmacological and pharmaceutical knowledge relevant to their intended area of prescribing practice.
- Demonstrate how they will develop their own performance and take responsibility for their own CPD.
- Demonstrate how they will develop their own networks for support, reflection and learning, including prescribers from other professions.

In addition the applicant needs to provide written confirmation from:

- The employer supporting the applicant's need to undertake the chosen prescribing module.
- A designated medical practitioner who meets eligibility criteria for medical supervision of healthcare practitioners and who has agreed to provide the required term of supervised practice.

The programme lead will confirm the applicant's successful selection onto the respective Independent and Supplementary modules. A copy of the correspondence will also be sent to the applicant's employer.
Modules available to experienced practitioners wishing to prepare for Non-Medical Independent and Supplementary Prescribing - Level 3 and Level M Modules

Practitioners may choose to attend any of these modules depending on their learning and professional development needs prior to accessing the preferred Independent/Supplementary Non-medical Prescribing Module.

**Level 3 Module:**
First Contact Course
Anatomy and Physiology
Patient Assessment and Diagnostics
Module codes: CH3021, NM3204 and NMS032

**Level 3 Module:**
Biological Foundations in Clinical Practice and Related Pharmacology Extended
Module code: NM3313

**Level M Module:**
Physical Assessment
Module code: NMM078

**Level M Module:**
Science in Healthcare Practice
Module code: NMM013

**Level 3 Independent and Supplementary Non-Medical Prescribing**
Or
**Level M Independent and Supplementary Non-medical Prescribing**
for Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors and Pharmacists, and Supplementary Prescribing for the Allied Healthcare Professionals