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Health Education and
Improvement Wales (HEIW)

Non-Medical Prescribing Education Funding Guidance



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Funding Guidance for Non Medical prescribing Education

Introduction

Medicines legislation permits supplementary and non-medical prescribing (NMP) in the UK. The extension of prescribing rights to non-medical professionals was introduced in Wales to support the implementation of “Designed for Life – Creating World Class Health and Social Care for Wales in the 21st Century in May 2005.

Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) provides funding for NMP education on an annual basis to Welsh Health Boards and Trusts which supports the expansion of their prescribing workforce. Prescribing by Non-Medical Healthcare Professionals enables:

- improve patient care without compromising patient safety
- Greater patient choice in accessing medication
- make it easier and quicker for patients to get the medicines they need
- make better use of the skills of health professionals
- contribute to the introduction of more flexible team working across the health service
- Improved patient experience

The development of non-medical prescribing within the health service enables suitably trained healthcare professionals to enhance their roles and effectively use their skills and competencies to improve patient care in a range of settings involving:

- management of long-term conditions
- medicines management / medication review
- emergency/urgent care/unscheduled care
- mental health services
- services for non-registered patients e.g. homeless
- palliative care

Currently nurses, Midwives, pharmacists, paramedics, optometrists, physiotherapists, chiropodists or podiatrists, radiographers and community practitioners may undertake further professional training to qualify as non-medical prescribers.

There are five universities in Wales that HEIW commission NMP programmes from:

- USW: <https://www.southwales.ac.uk/study/subjects/nursing-health-sciences/short-courses/prescribing/>
- Cardiff: <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/taught/courses/course/advanced-practice-non-medical-prescribing-pgcert-part-time>
- Swansea: <http://www.swansea.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/humanandhealthsciences/pgcertnon-medicalprescribing/>

- Bangor: <https://www.bangor.ac.uk/courses/postgrad/modules/NHS-4355>
- Glyndŵr: <https://www.glyndwr.ac.uk/en/Postgraduatecourses/MScAdvancedClinicalPractice/>

Funding Process

Each year HEIW allocates a set number of funded places to each health board and trust. Each university is informed of the number of funded places HEIW will fund on behalf of the organisations. Places awarded to health boards are for staff working for the health board and their primary care partners. GP employed non-medical health professionals e.g. Practice Nurses are eligible to access the places.

Funding places provided to NHS organisations is to **supplement** local investment to ensure that the appropriate clinicians can access the educational requirements as identified in organisational IMTP's.

Requests for NMP education are submitted on the education commissioning template via the IMTP process. Education funding requests must be service driven and linked to the NHS Organisations workforce plans, and specific priorities that will be identified on an annual basis. HEIW meets with all NHS Organisations to discuss and agree all funding requests. HEIW stringently monitor the use of this budget.

All prospective applicants selected for NMP education funding, must ensure this requirement is identified as part of their PADR process and must be agreed with their line manager, and Education department. Please note it is imperative that all prospective applicants should **obtain the agreement of their employer that:**

- **Training supports the organisation's education priorities identified in the IMTP, and it has been agreed by HEIW that it will be funded out of the Non-Medical prescribing Budget**
- **Employers must consent to their release to undertake training, prior to submitting an application for a place on a course with an Education Provider.**

Non-Medical prescribing Programmes Funded

1. Independent prescribing

Independent prescribers are responsible and accountable for the assessment of patients with undiagnosed and diagnosed conditions and for decisions about the clinical management required, including prescribing.

- nurse and pharmacist independent prescribers are able to prescribe any medicine for any medical condition within their competence, including any controlled drug in Schedule 2,3,4 or 5 of the MDR 2002 Regulations, as amended

- optometrist Independent Prescribers can prescribe any licensed medicine for ocular conditions affecting the eye and surrounding tissue, but cannot prescribe any controlled drugs
- physiotherapists and podiatrists or chiropodists can prescribe any licensed medicine provided it falls within their individual area of competence and respective scope of practice as independent prescribers, but cannot prescribe any controlled drugs

2. Supplementary prescribing

Supplementary prescribers may prescribe any medicine (including controlled drugs), within the framework of a patient-specific clinical management plan, which has been agreed with a doctor.

Nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, chiropodists or podiatrists, radiographers and optometrists may train and register as a supplementary prescriber.

3. Prescribing by Community Practitioners from the Nurse Prescribers' Formulary for Community Practitioners (Limited Prescribing)

Community practitioners, formerly known as District Nurses and Health Visitors, are able to prescribe independently from a **limited formulary** comprising a limited range of medicines, dressings and appliances suitable for use in community settings.

4. PGCert (L7) 60 credits Blood Component Transfusion (NABT) Course Overview

The Postgraduate Certificate in Blood Component Transfusion enables experienced non-medical Healthcare Practitioners (HCPs) to make the clinical decision and provide the written instruction for blood component transfusion to patients within their own clinical specialty, and within their own areas of competence and expertise.

- An All Wales programme and a core component of the preparation of non-medical staff for the role of authorising transfusion of blood components
- The course underpins the All Wales Policy for non-medical authorisation of blood component transfusion

Teaching and Employability:

- Developed in conjunction with the Welsh Blood Service on behalf of the Welsh Government
- Students must be working in a relevant clinical area whilst completing this programme

Description

This innovative course prepares appropriate non-medical practitioners to adopt an extended role in making the decision to transfuse and in providing the written instruction for transfusion of blood components thereby;

- Streamlining the patient pathway
- Providing a holistic approach

- Safeguarding the patient, the Healthcare professional and the employer

The course is accredited by Swansea University and delivered in conjunction with the Welsh Blood Service Better Blood Transfusion Team

Allocation and Monitoring

Each year the allocation of places for NMP education detailed in the organisation's IMTP will follow the process below:

1. HEIW will calculate the number of places each organisation will be allocated. HEIW will notify NHS organisations each year of the number of places they have been awarded in their partnering universities.
2. Health Boards and Trusts will complete an NMP monitoring form with their organisation's education requirements and projected costs, as identified from their IMTP, for the academic years, that fall within the financial year 1st April-31st March. Any education falling within the current academic year which commences after 1st April will need to be included on the following years monitoring form. Monitoring forms must be uploaded to the NMP folder within the HEIW SharePoint site, by the agreed date.
3. If any individual has withdrawn from the programme or left the organisation this should be, made clear to HEIW at the earliest convenience, and recorded on monitoring form.
4. HEIW will meet with each NHS Organisation to discuss and agree the education requests and allocation for that year.
5. HEIW will inform the HEI of the places allocated to each NHS Organisations. Monitoring forms will be uploaded to the university folders within the HEIW SharePoint site.
6. The HEI will work collaboratively with NHS organisations to ensure that individuals are recruited onto the relevant courses.
7. The HEI should ensure that students are selected for the course based on the selection criteria agreed between the HEI and NHS Organisation, and include appropriate representation from NHS organisations on the selection panel.
8. The HEI will provide HEIW with confirmed enrolments on the NMP Monitoring forms within the SharePoint site by the agreed timeframe. Invoices to be received by 1st February annually with appropriate course details as backing confirmation.

Data Protection

All staff awarded a place must be provided with the HEIW funding letter, and enrolment sponsorship letter. All staff in receipt of a funded place agree to HEIW sharing their personal information with the education provider they are studying with. Health boards and Trusts must incorporate privacy notices into their application process to ensure compliance with GDPR.

Registration

Throughout the duration of their course, individual students **MUST** maintain their professional registration. Local arrangements should be in place to ensure this. Students and their employer are jointly responsible for ensuring their professional registration remains up to date throughout the period of their course.

Travel Expenses

Please note, **course fees only are funded** by HEIW. Any associated travel costs will not be reimbursed.

Breaks in study

NHS organisations must inform HEIW if any members of staff in receipt of a funded place has any absence from the workplace that results in either withdrawal or lack of progression in a programme.

Contact details

If you have any queries or need further explanation then please email HEIW.EdCommissioning@wales.nhs.uk or ETfinance.HEIW@wales.nhs.uk

