

Decision-Making and Support Flowchart for Registered Nurse Prescribing in Primary Health and Speciality Teams

Timeframe before postgraduate (PG) career conversation and when PG applications close

The registered nurse (RN) designated prescribing for RN Prescribing in primary health and speciality teams (PHST) is a further expansion and optimisation in the RN scope. Note: This includes three years practice experience in the area the RN is planning to prescribe in. The practice level that is a good fit for this advancement is Expert or Senior Expert on the Professional Development Recognition Programme (PDRP). This is a guide for primary health where Expert RNs may not be in a senior role. Within the Hospital Speciality Services (HSS) this role expansion often fits well the senior designated roles – Clinical Nurse Specialist and Speciality Clinical Nurse.

Preparation for PG application

The (RN) intending to apply for a RN prescribing course with a university must be working in a clinical role and practice area that will benefit from RN prescribing. The RN must initially discuss this with their manager and contact the Nurse Consultant Advanced Practice (helen.costello@ccdhb.org.nz). All role development with prescribing must be approved by the Service and the Workforce and Practice Development Unit (WPDU).

When the Service is new to supporting the RN Prescriber role development an initial meeting including the Manager, Operation Manager, supervising authorised prescriber (Medical or Nurse Practitioner), Nurse Director with the Nurse Consultant is often required. Note: Role titles differ in primary health or aged residential care settings. This meeting ensures the RN prescribing role development is a good fit for the patient population, RN role and Service.

Decision to proceed with RN prescribing practicum enrolment - initial discussions support practice development commencing before the practicum course begins.

PG application process

RN contacts University prescribing practicum Coordinator for course requirements. Nurse Consultant can assist RN to prepare for practicum application, Prescribing Practicum Support Plan for Postgraduate (PG) funding and practice preparation. This may include:

- Considering timing and university for best fit for RN Prescribing Practicum course focus in relation to RN current role, prerequisite PG courses and projected clinical career pathway
- Advise on meeting practicum requirements e.g. optimal clinical supervisor/mentoring for prescribing
- Negotiating clinical experience including placements - where and how this may occur
- PG Career Conversation to support PG funding application

Practicum Support Plan is completed and submitted with application for PG funding

Prepare for RN Practicum application to university using required course templates as applicable:

- Employer support letter
- Clinical Supervisor details and collaborative team support
- Clinical information regarding potential patient population and conditions managed with related prescribing supported by clinical area. Refer to latest Nursing Council of NZ Guidance for this designated prescribing level.

February or mid-year start depending on practicum semester

WPDU notifies RN and Service regarding funding for prescribing practicum course and contribution towards clinical mentoring/supervision

Progress through practicum is monitored by the WPDU

RN Prescribing Practicum and District Support

- Ensures workplace support for advancing clinical practice and role optimisation e.g. clinics, policy etc.
- Access to professional development opportunities and peer review support
- Expectation is that RN communicates with Service and Nurse Consultant if time delay is required between completing prescribing practicum course and submitting evidence to NCNZ for authorisation

RN authorisation as designated prescriber

- RN provides NCNZ authorisation letter as confirmation to line manager for confirmation.
- Transition to RN Prescribing Position Description for current role
- RN notifies Nurse Consultant and RN added to RN Prescribers distribution list for the District and Nurse Prescribing Register.

Notification required when NCNZ authorisation as designated prescriber is achieved

WPDU on behalf of the Chief Nursing Officer maintain the District database for all nurse prescribers. RN Prescribers are asked to advise when work address details change.