

Independent prescribing (short course) nomination pack

Overview

Please note that this course is only accredited for nurses/midwives and pharmacists.

Degree awarded: PG Credit (30 credits at FHEQ level 7)

Duration: 4 months

Entry requirements: We require a relevant Lower Second honours degree or above. See the Professional entry qualification section for further professional requirements.

Number of places: 40

Intakes: the course runs over four months and usually has two intakes each year

- the deadline for the October intake is at the end of July
- the deadline for the March intake is the beginning of December.

Course options

Part-time, blended study.

Course overview

- Supports pharmacists and NMC registrants to take on the role of an independent prescriber in their area of practice.
- Learn from doctors, pharmacists and nurses from a range of backgrounds.
- Discover how to apply core prescribing skills including history taking, physical examination and clinical reasoning.
- With our blended learning model, most of your studies fit around you.
- Study at a university ranked 2nd in the UK for Nursing and 5th in the UK for Pharmacy and Pharmacology ([QS World University Rankings 2021](#)).

Open days

Attending an open day is a great way to find out what studying at Manchester is like. Find out about our upcoming [open days](#).

Fees

Please see the [course webpage](#) for details of the current course fee and funded training places.

Policy on additional costs

All students should normally be able to complete their programme of study without incurring additional study costs over and above the tuition fee for that programme. Any unavoidable additional compulsory costs totalling more than 1% of the annual home undergraduate fee per annum, regardless of whether the programme in question is undergraduate or postgraduate taught, will be made clear to you at the point of application. Further information can be found in the University's [Policy on additional costs incurred by students on undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes](#).

Entry requirements

Academic entry qualification overview

We require a relevant Lower Second honours degree or above. See the Professional entry qualification section for further professional requirements.

English language

International students must demonstrate English proficiency through a secure and approved testing system. We ask for English language proof from applicants from countries that are not majority English-speaking countries (a list of majority English-speaking countries, as defined by the UK Home Office, can be found [here](#)).

- IELTS 7.0 overall with 7.0 in reading and writing specifically
- TOEFL minimum of 100 (Internet-based test)

See further information about [requirements for your country](#).

English language test validity

Some English Language test results are only valid for two years. Your English Language test report must be valid on the start date of the course.

Professional entry qualification

Pharmacists must have the following in addition to meeting our academic entry requirements:

- Registration with the General Pharmaceutical Council or Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.
- At least two years' post-registration patient-focused experience in a UK hospital, community or a primary care setting.
- An identified area of clinical practice in which to develop your prescribing skills and one year's post-registration clinical experience in this area.
- Up-to-date clinical, pharmacological and pharmaceutical knowledge relevant to your intended area of prescribing.
- An agreement with an experienced independent prescriber to act as your Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) during the 90 hours of learning in practice.

NMC registrants must have the following in addition to meeting our academic entry requirements:

- First level registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (for nurses, midwives and health visitors).
- At least one years' post-registration patient-focused experience.
- An identified area of clinical practice in which to develop your prescribing skills and one year's post-registration clinical experience in this area.
- An agreement with experienced independent prescribers to act as your Practice Assessor (PA) and Practice Supervisor (PS) during the 90 hours of learning in practice; these two roles should not be undertaken by the same person.
- You must be capable of safe and effective practice in clinical/health assessment, diagnostics/care management, planning and evaluation of care in your identified area of prescribing practice.

This course is accredited by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC), so we accept applications from pharmacists, nurses, midwives and health visitors. We cannot accept applications from practitioners registered with other regulatory bodies.

Other entry requirements

You must have access to a computer with a fast and reliable internet connection. There is a minimum level of computer skills required, including the ability to:

- navigate the Blackboard® virtual learning environment to locate teaching and learning materials and to access and submit assessments (with initial basic training)
- communicate by email

- work efficiently with Microsoft Word or similar word processing software
- use the internet to search websites
- scan documents for uploading to the e-portfolio
- navigate e-learning programs
- participate in online conferencing (webinars).

Please see section 3 of the Independent Prescribing additional application form for details of the eligibility criteria for you:

- Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) - pharmacist applicants
- Practice Assessor (PA) and Practice Supervisor (PS) – NMC registrant applicants

Please note that DPPs/PAs/PSs must not receive any payment for supervising your practice.

Further information regarding your mentorship arrangement can be found in:

- Guidance on securing a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) – pharmacists ([Appendix A](#))
- Guidance on securing a Practice Assessor (PA) and Practice Supervisor (PS) – NMC registrants ([Appendix B](#))

Application and selection

How to apply

Please apply via our [online application form](#) AND the *Independent Prescribing additional application form*, which you can download from the [course webpage](#).

The application form also details the additional documents we require. See the course webpage for details of the application deadline. For your application to be considered, you must submit all of the required supporting documents and have an enhanced DBS disclosure that was issued within three years of the course start date. If you have registered with the update service, you must be able to produce the original disclosure as well.

The course has now been accredited under the new GPhC and NMC standards, which means that there will be a number of changes to the application process and supervision arrangements. This means that **we are unable to accept application forms earlier than the February 2021 version.**

The application process has several elements and it is important to complete them all before the application deadline in order not to miss your preferred cohort.

Advice to applicants

To apply for a course, you must complete and/or submit:

- the University [online application form](#) AND
- the *Independent Prescribing additional application form*, which you can download from the course webpage and must be completed in full by:
 1. you
 2. your line manager
 3. your Designated Prescribing Practitioner **or** your Practice Assessor and Practice Supervisor
 4. your Non-Medical Prescribing Lead (or equivalent prescribing governance lead).

Please see our *Guidance for completing the independent prescribing application form* ([Appendix C](#)), which is particularly important if you are self-funding the course or applying as an independent practitioner.

Your choice of referee is important because they must confirm your ability to study at master's level and your aptitude to practise as a prescriber. You should have worked/studied with your referees within the last two years and they must be healthcare professionals with an understanding of the prescribing process or academic staff on programmes at higher level.

Interview requirements

All applicants who have submitted complete applications and who meet all of the eligibility criteria will be offered an interview, which is usually conducted via Zoom. Places are allocated on the basis of a successful interview.

Re-applications

If you applied in the previous year and your application was not successful you may apply again. Your application will be considered against the standard course entry criteria for that year of entry. In your new application you should demonstrate how your application has improved. We may draw upon all information from your previous applications or any previous registrations at the University as a student when assessing your suitability for your chosen course.

Course details

Course description

Our Independent Prescribing short course will enable healthcare professionals to take on the role of an independent prescriber in their area of practice.

Pharmacists, nurses and midwives are taught together to facilitate multidisciplinary learning and working. This 30-credit course is available for study at level 7 (master's level). The course runs over four months and usually has two intakes each year (October and March). A large proportion of the learning will be delivered online, providing a flexible approach to learning by allowing students the benefit of studying this in their own time.

The course includes a series of mandatory workshops and you must undertake 90 hours of learning in practice with your Designated Prescribing Practitioner or Practice Assessor/Practice Supervisor. See [Appendix A](#) or [Appendix B](#) (respectively) for details of roles and responsibilities.

Please note that successful completion of an accredited course is not a guarantee of annotation or of future employment as an independent prescriber.

You can view accreditation reports on the [General Pharmaceutical Council](#) website and the [Nursing and Midwifery Council](#) website.

Please check online for course dates, which are usually published four months before the start of a course, ie, June for the October cohort and October for the March cohort. If there are no dates for your preferred cohort after this time, please email pgtaugh.pharmacy@manchester.ac.uk. Attendance at all workshops and assessments is mandatory, so you must confirm that you are able to attend them all before you apply.

Please check online for details of fees, which may be subject to change and apply only to the dates given.

Aims

The course aims to use your current experiences of practice and encourage the development and application of new knowledge and skills to practice.

We aim to:

- enable you to successfully meet the standards set out by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), allowing you to request annotation as an independent prescriber;
- produce competent non-medical prescribers who can provide safe, effective and evidence-based prescribing to address the needs of patients in practice;
- enable pharmacists, nurses and midwives to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for safe and effective prescribing practice;
- help you to develop a systematic, evidence-based and reflective approach to independent prescribing practice;
- support you to identify your own learning needs, develop as a critically reflective practitioner and advance your own learning to sustain continuing professional development, and work at the forefront of your profession.

Special features

Pharmacists can undertake the Independent Prescribing course as part of the [PGDip/MSc Clinical Pharmacy](#).

NMC registrants may be able to use Independent Prescribing credits towards a larger award such as the [MSc Advanced Clinical Practice](#).

Additional course information

See *Frequently asked questions* ([Appendix D](#)).

Teaching and learning

A range of teaching methods are used to develop the knowledge and understanding, practical skills, intellectual skills and personal qualities required to become a competent prescriber.

Online material can be studied in your own time, and will involve directed reading, online discussion and directed activities during supervised practice. As such, you must be self-motivated to learn in your own, and time have a good level of IT skills to navigate Blackboard and the electronic portfolio.

A minimum of 90 hours' learning in practice under the supervision of a Designated Prescribing Practitioner or Practice Assessor/Practice Supervisor must be carried out during the four-month course. During this time, you will complete a reflective practice portfolio to document and reflect on your learning, and to evidence your development of the prescribing competencies.

Please note that this is an accelerated course that covers a large amount of learning in a short space of time. You must be prepared to engage fully with the course to complete 26 days of learning and 12 days of supervised practice in this timescale. On average, that's 14 hours of study and one full day of learning in practice each week of the course.

Please refer to the course webpage for details of mandatory workshops.

Coursework and assessment

We use the following assessment methods:

- online observed structured clinical examination (OSCE)
- case presentation
- short answer questions
- reflective practice portfolio.

Course unit details

The course will cover the competencies detailed in [A competency framework for all prescribers](#) and the GPhC [Standards for the education and training for pharmacist independent prescribers](#).

Disability support

Practical support and advice for current students and applicants is available from the Disability Advisory and Support Service.

Career opportunities

After completing this course, you are eligible to request annotation as an independent prescriber with either the GPhC (if you are a pharmacist) or NMC (if you are a nurse, midwife or health visitor). This course is the same as a V300 course.

Contact details

[Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health](#)

Address: Postgraduate Admissions
Division of Pharmacy and Optometry
G.129, Stopford Building
The University of Manchester
Manchester M13 9PL

Telephone: +44 (0)161 275 1798

Email: pgtaught.pharmacy@manchester.ac.uk

Website: www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/cpd/subjects/pharmacy

Appendix A: Guidance for pharmacists on choosing a Designated Prescribing Practitioner

A Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) is an experienced independent prescriber who supports and supervises a trainee pharmacist prescriber's period of learning in practice. They are also responsible for assessing whether the learning outcomes have been met and whether the trainee has acquired the prescribing competencies.

Eligibility criteria: DPP

The DPP must be a registered independent prescriber who has at least three years' recent prescribing experience within the field that the pharmacist is intending to prescribe. This means that, rather than having to be a doctor of dentist, the DPP could be a pharmacist, nurse or any other independent prescriber with at least three years' active prescribing experience.

There are a number of other requirements as well, including that they must be familiar with and able to demonstrate all of the competencies in [A competency framework for all prescribers](#), which is the syllabus for your training, and [A competency framework for designated prescribing practitioners](#).

You can find the detailed eligibility criteria in section 3a of the application form (which you can download from the [course webpage](#)), which should be self-explanatory. The important thing to remember is that the university doesn't have a lot of discretion because these eligibility criteria are set by the regulators.

The role of the DPP

One of the criteria in section 3a is:

“Agrees to retain the primary responsibility for the overall supervision and assessment of the applicant as a prescriber in training while working in collaboration with academic and workplace partners during the applicant's period of learning in practice.”

This means that the DPP doesn't need to provide all 90 hours of supervised practice but universities often stipulate a minimum number of hours. At Manchester, we require that the named DPP supervises at least 45 hours. You should spend the rest of the time with a range of prescribers, ideally from different professions, so that you see different approaches to similar tasks.

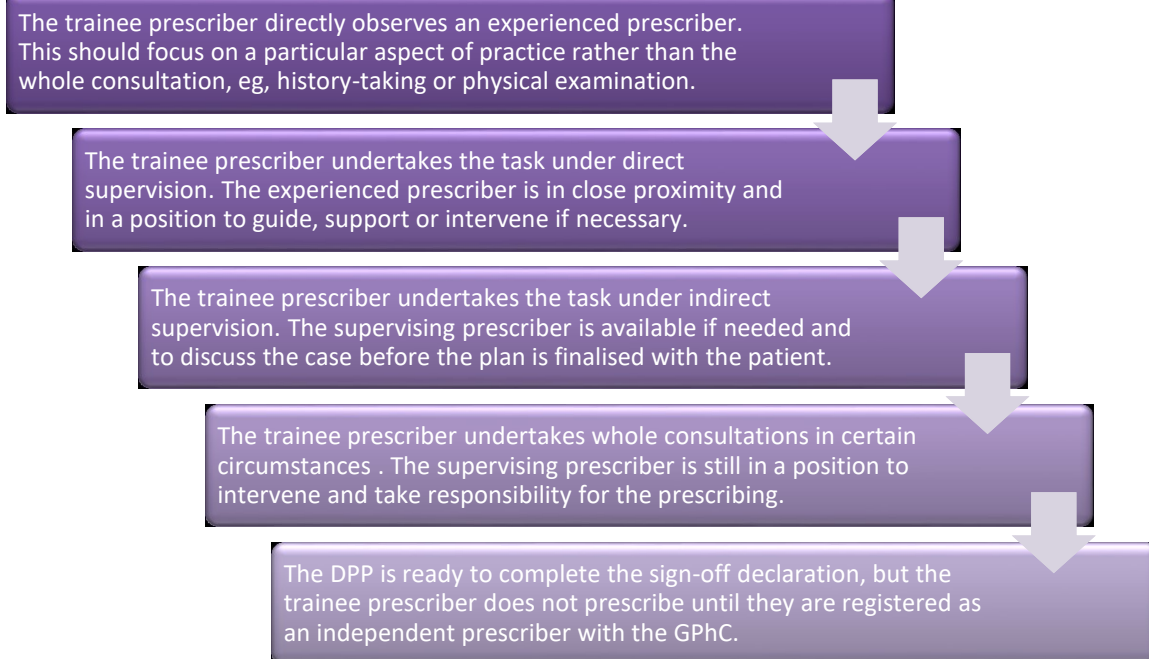
The DPP has a crucial role in supporting trainee pharmacist prescribers, which involves:

- agreeing a learning contract with the trainee prescriber
- planning a programme of learning in practice that will provide the opportunity for the trainee prescriber to meet their development needs and gain competency in prescribing
- facilitating learning by encouraging critical thinking and reflection
- providing dedicated time and opportunities for the trainee prescriber to observe how they conduct consultations patients and their carers and the development of management plans
- allowing the trainee prescriber to carry out consultations, suggest management and prescribing options and plan follow-up
- helping the trainee prescriber to integrate theory with practice
- encouraging in-depth analysis of diagnostic and management approaches through case-based discussion
- providing timely feedback on highlights in performance and areas for improvement
- assessing progress and verifying that, by the end of the course, the trainee prescriber is competent to assume the prescribing role
- taking responsibility for signing off competencies
- working in collaboration with peers and the Academic Supervisor to support the trainee prescriber.

During the application process, the DPP must also complete and sign section 3b of the application form to confirm that the practice learning environments are suitable.

What counts as supervised practice?

It's a dynamic process that generally follows a series of stages:



Case-based discussion, training courses outside the university and multi-disciplinary team meetings can all count towards the period of learning in practice. However, whatever is done during this time must address a development need identified in the learning contract.

What's in it for the DPP?

You can see that there is quite a lot of time and responsibility in being a DPP and it's essential that a potential DPP understands what's required before they agree. There's also a great deal to be gained from being a DPP because it helps you to validate and develop your own practice when you're supporting someone else's development. And the DPP would usually benefit from you being a prescriber in the end so it's time invested.

What do you need?

Your DPP should be someone that you can work with, someone you trust to be encouraging and challenge you, and someone who will make time for you. There is an eligibility criterion about normally working with the applicant and that's because you need to know that you can work with them. This is one of the few courses where you are dependent on someone else putting effort in for your development.

You're asking someone to do a whole lot of work for no immediate gain. Make sure there's a clear return for their investment and that you're honest about what you expect. Try to be flexible and make the most of every opportunity and, if you can present them with a fully formed plan, it's much more likely to work than simply saying, "Will you be my DPP?"

Appendix B: Guidance for NMC registrants on choosing a Practice Assessor and Practice Supervisor

The Nursing and Midwifery Council has taken a significant step in the way it has re-designed the mentorship arrangement for NMC registrants training to be prescribers. Not only can non-medics undertake the role but there are two named people involved.

The Practice Assessor (PA) is an experienced independent prescriber who undertakes the assessment aspect of the period of learning in practice. That's the initial assessment of development needs, the final sign-off of competence and at least one other progress review part-way through the course. The Practice Assessor must spend about one third of the period of learning in practice supporting the trainee prescribers development.

The Practice Supervisor (PS) is an experienced nurse independent prescriber who is responsible for supporting the development of prescribing competencies through practice-based learning activities.

These two practitioners must work together and with the Academic Supervisor to ensure that the trainee prescriber is supported to develop and meet the prescribing competencies.

Eligibility criteria: Practice Assessor

The PA must be a registered independent prescriber who has at least three years' recent prescribing experience within the field that the NMC registrant is intending to prescribe. This means that, rather than having to be a doctor or dentist, the PA could be a nurse, midwife, pharmacist or any other independent prescriber with at least three years' active prescribing experience.

There are a number of other requirements as well, including that they must be familiar with and able to demonstrate all of the competencies in [A competency framework for all prescribers](#), which is the syllabus for your training, and [A competency framework for designated prescribing practitioners](#).

You can find the detailed eligibility criteria in section 3a of the application form (which you can download from the [course webpage](#)), which should be self-explanatory. The important thing to remember is that the university doesn't have a lot of discretion because these eligibility criteria are set by the regulators.

The role of the Practice Assessor

Two of the criteria in section 3a are:

“Agrees to retain the primary responsibility for the overall supervision and assessment of the applicant as a prescriber in training while working in collaboration with academic and workplace partners during the applicant's period of learning in practice.”

“Agrees to work in partnership with the nominated Academic Assessor to evaluate and recommend the student for progression in line with programme standards.”

This means that the PA doesn't provide all 90 hours of supervised practice, but universities often stipulate a minimum number of hours. At Manchester, we require that the PA supervises 15-30 hours and the Practice Supervisor supervises at least 30 hours. You should spend the rest of the time with a range of prescribers, ideally from different professions, so that you see different approaches to similar tasks.

The PA has a crucial role in the assessment of trainee prescribers, which involves:

- agreeing a learning contract with the trainee prescriber and Practice Supervisor
- planning a programme of learning in practice that will provide the opportunity for the trainee prescriber to meet their development needs and gain competency in prescribing
- facilitating learning by encouraging critical thinking and reflection
- providing dedicated time to observe and provide feedback to the trainee prescriber on highlights in performance and areas for improvement
- encouraging in-depth analysis of diagnostic and management approaches through case-based discussion

- assessing progress and verifying that, by the end of the course, the trainee prescriber is competent to assume the prescribing role
- taking responsibility for signing off competencies
- working in collaboration with the Practice Supervisor and the Academic Supervisor to support the trainee prescriber.

During the application process, the PA must also complete and sign section 3b of the application form to confirm that the practice learning environments are suitable.

Eligibility criteria: Practice Supervisor

The PS must be a registered independent prescriber who is an active prescriber with current clinical and prescribing experience in the area in that the trainee prescriber requires support, supervision and feedback. This means that the PS could be a nurse, midwife, pharmacist or any other independent prescriber working in the same field of practice.

There are a number of other requirements as well, including that they must be familiar with and able to demonstrate all of the competencies in [A competency framework for all prescribers](#), which is the syllabus for your training, and that they must be familiar with and working towards achieving competencies in [A competency framework for designated prescribing practitioners](#).

You can find the detailed eligibility criteria in section 3c of the application form.

The role of the Practice Supervisor

The PS has a crucial role in supporting and supervising trainee prescribers that includes:

- agreeing a learning contract with the trainee prescriber and Practice Assessor
- planning a programme of learning in practice that will provide the opportunity for the trainee prescriber to meet their development needs and gain competency in prescribing
- facilitating learning by encouraging critical thinking and reflection
- providing dedicated time and opportunities for the trainee prescriber to observe how they conduct consultations patients and their carers and the development of management plans
- allowing the trainee prescriber to carry out consultations, suggest management and prescribing options and plan follow-up
- helping the trainee prescriber to integrate theory with practice
- encouraging in-depth analysis of diagnostic and management approaches through case-based discussion
- providing timely feedback on highlights in performance and areas for improvement
- working in collaboration with peers and the Practice Assessor and Academic Supervisor to support the trainee prescriber.

What counts as supervised practice?

It's a dynamic process that generally follows a series of stages (see below). The Practice Assessor and Practice Supervisor must work together with the trainee prescriber to agree on development goals on which the PS and student will concentrate in advance of formative and summative assessment by the Practice Assessor.

The trainee prescriber directly observes an experienced prescriber. This should focus on a particular aspect of practice rather than the whole consultation, eg, history-taking or physical examination.

The trainee prescriber undertakes the task under direct supervision. The experienced prescriber is in close proximity and in a position to guide, support or intervene if necessary.

The trainee prescriber undertakes the task under indirect supervision. The supervising prescriber is available if needed and to discuss the case before the plan is finalised with the patient.

The trainee prescriber undertakes whole consultations in certain circumstances. The supervising prescriber is still in a position to intervene and take responsibility for the prescribing.

The DPP is ready to complete the sign-off declaration, but the trainee prescriber does not prescribe until they are registered as an independent prescriber with the GPhC.

Case-based discussion, training courses outside the university and multi-disciplinary team meetings can all count towards the period of learning in practice. However, whatever is done during this time must address a development need identified in the learning contract.

What's in it for the PA/PS?

You can see that there is quite a lot of time and responsibility in being a PA/PS and it's essential that they understand what's required before they agree. There's also a great deal to be gained from being a PA/PS because it helps you to validate and develop your own practice when you're supporting someone else's development. And the PA/PS would usually benefit from you being a prescriber in the end so it is time invested. Being a PS might also be a steppingstone to be a PA, allowing some experience and learning from PA as well as making use of prescribing skills and experience.

What do you need?

Your PA and PS should be people that you can work with, that you trust to be encouraging and to challenge you, and who will make time for you. There are eligibility criteria about normally working with the applicant and that's because you need to know that you can work with them. This is one of the few courses where you are dependent on someone else putting effort in for your development.

You're asking someone to do a whole lot of work for no immediate gain. Make sure there's a clear return for their investment and that you're honest about what you expect. Try to be flexible and make the most of every opportunity and, if you can present them with a fully formed plan, it's much more likely to work than simply saying, "Will you be my PA/PS?"

Appendix C: Guidance on completing the Independent prescribing application form

There are guidance notes on the first and last pages of the application form, which will help you to avoid delays to the progress of your application and missing out on your preferred cohort.

We have only asked for information that is necessary and is often driven by the regulators. You can see our Privacy Notice on the university website: www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/privacy-information/data-protection/privacy-notices

There are also guidance notes at the beginning of each section/subsection. All sections must be completed and the guidance notes will help you to determine who must complete them.

Please also make sure that your name is on every page so that we can match up the pages.

If you are unsure about any section of the application form, please check before submission by emailing pgtaught.pharmacy@manchester.ac.uk

Required experience

We are keen to ensure that you have an appropriate amount and range of experience as a practitioner so that you bring plenty of transferable skills to the course. That means experience of consultations with patients, a sound understanding of the condition/s within your planned scope of practice, familiarity with the medicines and non-pharmacological management options and some experience of recommending changes to medicines for clinical reasons.

You should also have a good working relationship with your DPP or PA/PS. Knowing the practice setting and staff will mean you have good support to help develop your new skills.

Self-employed/self-funding applicants

Please pay particular attention to the following points if you are self-employed or self-funded:

- we require sight of your enhanced DBS disclosure as well as the details you provide on the application form. We cannot facilitate the DBS application for you but you may find the information on the UK Government website: www.gov.uk/government/collections/dbs-checking-service-guidance--2
- please ensure that your personal statement addresses the additional information requested
- if you do not have a line manager, you must complete section 2 or you could ask your DPP/PA to complete it
- we will require two references in addition to the other application documents:
 - one of these referees should be an experienced prescriber with whom you have worked in the last three years and who can confirm that you are of good health and character to enable safe and effective practice as a prescriber
 - the other should be someone who can confirm your ability to study at higher level, eg, an academic tutor from your most recent study, which should be within the last six years.

If you are unable to identify a suitable person for either role, please contact the admissions team to discuss options.

- section 4 must be completed. If the organisation you are planning to prescribe for does not have a Non-Medical Prescribing Lead, you must ask the person responsible for prescribing governance to complete it. If you are planning to prescribe for an organisation in which you hold that role, you should ask the person who holds that position in the organisation that you intend to undertake supervised practice.
- the numeracy assessment is not required if you are self-funding.

Appendix D: Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

What is the content of the Independent Prescribing course?

The course content covers the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) standards for accredited prescribing courses. The content is mapped to A competency framework for all prescribers, which will provide a guide to the topics we include.

Prescribing courses teach the prescribing process and do not usually teach the clinical aspects of prescribing in any one condition. We expect that you will bring a good amount of experience and transferable skills from your existing role as a healthcare professional, combine that with the teaching and self-directed learning and work with your DPP or PA/PS to apply the knowledge and skills in your area of practice.

We adopt a blended approach with eight face to face study days (nine for NMC registrants) and 135 hours' self-directed learning from online resources. The study days include history taking, consultation skills and physical examination as well as a range of opportunities to discuss law, ethics and governance topics.

Can I apply for the Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing if I have not previously completed a Postgraduate Diploma?

You must have a strong clinical background and be able to evidence this through your application and interview. A postgraduate diploma in a relevant subject is very helpful in this respect but it is not a requirement.

How long does it take to qualify?

The course is four months from the first taught day until the last submission. There is a period of about eight weeks after your final submission until the Exam Board ratifies results, which means that students who are successful in the first attempt at all of the assessments may be able to register with their regulator around six months after starting the course.

Anyone who isn't successful in the first attempt of any of the assessments will join the next cohort for their second attempt.

In extenuating circumstances, extensions and interruptions may be required. However, students must complete the course within two years of their registration date.

Do I need to attend all the taught sessions and assessments?

Yes. All workshops are mandatory, and you will not be permitted to attempt any assessments until you have achieved full attendance.

Each assessment must be passed in its own right to gain the qualification. You must complete all learning and assessments within two-years of starting the course.

How do I decide on a scope of practice?

Your scope of practice during the course should be a clinical area where you have extensive clinical experience and the opportunity to start prescribing on completion of the course. It should be narrow enough to make the workload manageable and where you have ready access to patients at a time that your DPP or PA/PS can provide supervision.

<p>Will the course teach me clinical knowledge within my scope of practice?</p> <p>What if I do not have a scope of practice?</p> <p>After gaining my independent prescriber qualification, can I choose to prescribe outside of my scope of practice?</p> <p>Is this course the same as a V300?</p> <p>Is an accelerated programme right for me?</p> <p>Is a blended learning programme right for me?</p> <p>Do I need an NMP lead signature on my application form?</p> <p>If I am self-funding ...</p> <p>What am I eligible to do after completing the course?</p> <p>I am a community pharmacist; how do I find a DPP?</p>	<p>No. Prescribing courses accommodate students from a wide range of backgrounds, so we teach the prescribing process in generic terms and then support you to contextualise the learning within your scope of practice during the supervised practice element of the course. You must bring a good level of clinical experience in your scope of practice.</p> <p>It is essential that you define your scope of practice before applying for the course because we assess your clinical experience in that scope during the application and selection process. You may find it helpful to discuss your plans with your line manager, service lead, DPP or PA/PS to ensure that you have a plan in mind and that you can demonstrate your experience in that area.</p> <p>Prescribing permissions are linked to a self-assessment of competence in managing the conditions for which you plan to prescribe. As part of the course, we teach you how to undertake this self-assessment and create a development plan. You can then use these skills to develop your competence after you have qualified and expand your scope of practice.</p> <p>Yes. V300 is the NMC code for the course.</p> <p>This accelerated course covers a large amount of learning in a very short space of time. You must engage fully with the programme because you must fit 26 days of learning and 12 days of learning in practice within the four months of the course. Only you can decide whether this approach works for you, but you must be prepared to commit fully for the duration of the programme.</p> <p>A blended learning approach offers a high degree of flexibility with a minimum number of contact days. It also means that you need to be self-motivated to learn in your own time. You must have a good level of IT skills because the self-directed learning requires you to navigate Blackboard® and an electronic portfolio. The skills required to navigate the application process are a good example of the skills required to study the course so that might give you a sense of whether this is the right course for you.</p> <p>Yes. All applicants must have section 4 completed by either the NMP Lead or an equivalent person with a lead role in prescribing governance within the organisation in which they plan to prescribe.</p> <p>Please see the guidance in Appendix C for details of extra requirements for self-funding applicants, which should cover most FAQs.</p> <p>You are eligible to register as an Independent Prescriber with your regulator. They will undertake a series of checks so completing the course is not a guarantee of registration, but it is a pre-requisite.</p> <p>If you work in community pharmacy, you should consider how you plan to work as a prescriber, including how you will access a prescribing budget and manage the separation of prescribing and dispensing. If you plan to support a surgery by running clinics for them, one of the GPs in that practice, with whom you have an existing professional relationship, may best see the benefits of investing in your development.</p>
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What does a level 7 course mean and are the credits transferable?	Level 7 study is master's level, which means that you must have an undergraduate degree to undertake this programme. Assessment at level 7 requires a deeper level of criticality and synthesis in the reflection than degree level. The University of Manchester Independent Prescribing course is only assessed at level 7.
	The course offers 30 level-7 credits, which may be transferable into other programmes. You should check with the team who run the programme for which you want to use the credits in the first instance.
Do DPPs or PA/PSs get paid?	No. There is no payment for overseeing the period of learning in practice. It is expected that the DPP or PA/PS will benefit from you being a prescriber, so they are investing time in your development.
What is required of my DPP or PA/PS?	See appendix A (pharmacist applicants) or appendix B (NMC registrant applicants).
Can I pay the course fees in instalments?	No. University regulations require that the course fees are paid in full prior to commencing the course.
What study days will I need to attend?	Attendance at all study days is mandatory and you can find the course dates on the course webpage about four months before the start date of the course.