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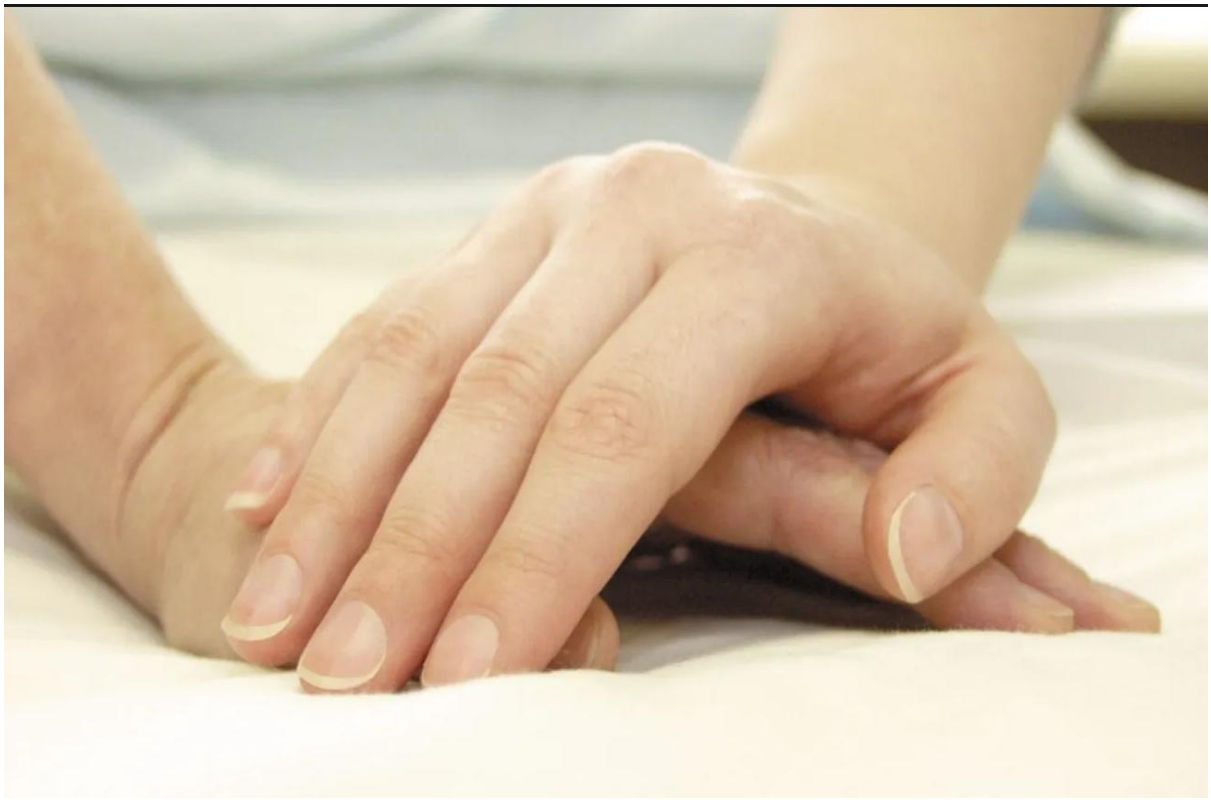
Technological University of the Shannon

Certificate Nursing and Midwifery Medicinal Product Prescribing

Mentor & Health Service Provider Guidance



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1.0 Certificate in Nursing & Midwifery Medicinal Product Prescribing

The aim of this NMBI accredited Certificate in Nursing & Midwifery Medicinal Product Prescribing is to prepare experienced registered nurses and midwifes to develop and integrate requisite knowledge and skills to safely and effectively prescribe medicinal products within their scope of practice to enhance care provided to service users and patients.

1.1 Why Study Nursing & Midwifery Medicinal Product Prescribing at TUS?

The health system faces ongoing challenges such as increased care demand and complexity driven by population increase and aging. It is projected in the next 10 years there will be one million people over 65 years (Slaintecare Implementation Strategy & Action Plan 2021-2023).

Prescriptive authority for nurses and midwives enhances and improves health service infrastructure and capability to provide and support innovative, responsive high-quality service delivery.

Reported benefits of nurse prescribing include appropriate clinical decision making, increased patient satisfaction, improved access to care and cost effectiveness. Evidence indicates timely and appropriate nurse prescribing contributes to prevention and population health initiatives supporting people to live independently in their own community for as long as possible.

Additionally, nurse and midwifery prescribing contribute to enhanced professional visibility and capability to utilise evidence-based knowledge and skills to achieve a holistic approach to patient/client care.

1.2 Entry Requirements

For entry on to the Level 8 Certificate in Nursing Midwifery Product Prescribing all applicants must:

- Be registered as either RGN, or RPN, or RCN, or RNID, or RM or RPHN on the live register maintained by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI).
- Currently employed as a nurse or midwife in a clinical area where a robust clinical governance structure is in place to support nurse/midwife prescribers.
- Have a minimum of 3 years post-registration clinical experience (within the past 5 years) with at least one year in the area in which prescribing is proposed.
- Provide evidence of Continuing Professional Development and ability to study at Level 8
- Signed Site Declaration Form.
- Nomination and confirmation of a designated medical practitioner mentor.

2.0 Programme Overview & Delivery

The aim of this NMBI accredited Certificate in Nursing & Midwifery Medicinal Product Prescribing is to prepare experienced registered nurses and midwifes to develop and integrate requisite knowledge and skills to safely and effectively prescribe medicinal products within their scope of practice to enhance care provided to service users and patients.

Nurse and Midwife Product Prescribing programmes of education facilitate pathways to professional role and skill expansion, it is compulsory to be registered as a prescriber of medicinal products for entry into the Registered Advanced Nurse or Midwifery Practitioner Divisions of the NMBI register.

The Certificate in Nursing & Midwifery Medicinal Product is a 26-week programme which commences in January each year which incorporates face-to-face and online learning via a virtual learning environment platform in which there will be a requirement to attend Campus in person for 4 Days for the duration of the programme with a further 10 days (online part days) for theoretical instruction.

On successful completion of the Certificate in Nurse/Midwife Prescribing the nurse or midwife will be eligible to apply to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland for registration as a Registered Nurse/Midwife Prescriber.

The Certificate in Nursing/Midwifery Medicinal Product Prescribing will only be offered to nurses working in clinical practice who meet the entry criteria, have employer support and a designated medical mentor.

This award comprises of two Level 8 prescribing modules and one Level 9 Advanced Comprehensive Health Assessment module. On completion of this minor award the nurse or midwife will be eligible to apply to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland for registration as a Registered Nurse Prescriber.

2.1 Modules: Certificate in Nursing & Midwifery Medicinal Product Prescribing

Module Title	Level	ECT Credit
Advanced Comprehensive Health Assessment	09	10 ECT
Regulatory & Legislative Requirements Nurse & Midwife Prescribing	08	10 ECT
Pharmacology and Clinical Practice for Nurse & Midwife Prescribing	08	10 ECT

2.2 Learning Outcomes
On completion of this module the learner will/ should be able to:

1.Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the regulatory framework associated with prescribing, including the legislation and professional guidelines supporting safe prescribing.
2.Critically utilise evidence-based knowledge and skill of patient/client assessment and consultation to achieve a holistic approach to patient/client care in the prescribing of medicinal products.
3.Apply expert skills in clinical decision-making in relation to prescribing medicinal products.
4.Demonstrate a critical understanding of pharmacovigilance, pharmacotherapeutics, pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics.

5.Demonstrate knowledge of the role of the multidisciplinary team and effective communication processes involved in safe medication management.

3.0 Health Service Provider Requirements & Responsibilities

The health service provider must clearly outline the functions of clinical governance and line management for nurse and midwife medicinal product prescribing. Where the RN/MP's direct line manager is not their professional nursing or midwifery support person, the health service provider must clearly identify a senior nurse or midwife, either within or outside the organisation, to whom the RN/MP can refer for professional nursing/midwifery support and guidance.

Each health service provider where nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing is or has been introduced must have in place a local health service provider's medicinal product prescribing policy, procedure, protocol or guideline (PPPG) incorporating relevant legislation and regulatory requirements.

Health service providers can adopt the National Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing Guideline ONMSD (2020) and develop addenda in relation to local governance arrangements or develop their own local PPPG. (Available Here).

Local governance arrangements to oversee the introduction and implementation of nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing must be in place and include the following:

1. Named Prescribing Site Coordinator (PSC) delegated by the Director of Nursing/Midwifery/Service Manager/Designate to have responsibility for the initiative locally.
2. A named medical practitioner/mentor who has agreed to support the candidate nurse/midwife prescriber through the education programme.
3. Risk management systems, there must be a process for:
    - Adverse event reporting
    - Incident reporting
    - Reporting of near misses
    - Reporting of medication errors
4. Confirmation that the name of the registered nurse/registered midwife applying for the education programme, is on the active register maintained by the NMBI.
5. A firm commitment by the health service provider's senior management to support the introduction and ongoing implementation of nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing.
6. Confirmation of a signed sponsorship agreement with each applicant undertaking the education programme setting out the arrangements for study leave and financial support. A copy of the agreement will be kept on file by the local health service provider.

7. An agreed schedule for routine audit of registered nurse/registered midwife prescriber (RNP/RMP) prescribing practice.
8. The health service provider must confirm that the RNP/RMP will have access to a computer, email and internet.

The following sections outline essential criteria required to be in place by the health service provider to support nurse and midwife medicinal product prescribing. The combined resources of a number of health service providers may be utilised to achieve the required criteria.

3.1. Chief Executive Officer/Chief Officer/General Manager/ Senior Manager

The Chief Executive Officer/Chief Officer/General Manager or other senior manager within the health service provider is responsible for:

• Identifying, in partnership with the Clinical Director or relevant Clinical Lead, Director of Nursing/Midwifery/Service Manager/Designate, the strategic direction of nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing in their health service provider and provide the structures required for safe and appropriate prescribing.

• Ensuring the prescriptive authority for nurses and midwives is included within the overall clinical governance structure of the health service providers.

3.2 Director of Nursing/Midwifery/Nurse/Midwife Manager/Designate (Referred to hereafter as the Director)

The Director is responsible for:

• Ensuring governance arrangements are in place to oversee nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing.
• Planning the strategic direction for nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing in line with national and local PPPGs.
• Overall authority to ensure and support timely registration of the nurse/midwife candidate and to authorise them to commence medicinal product prescribing.
• Informing medical practitioners/mentors of their role relating to the nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing education programme.
• Delegating responsibilities as deemed appropriate.
• Signing the Site Declaration Forms on behalf of the respective health service provider and in so doing commits to ensuring that the following structures are in place:

Safe Management:

- The HSE Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing Guideline (2020) available Here or local PPPG is in place to support nurse/midwife prescribing.
- Risk management systems and processes are in place for reporting of adverse event, incidents, near misses and medication errors.

Practice and Education Development

- Robust and agreed multidisciplinary practice arrangements are in place.
- Appropriate mentoring arrangements with a named medical practitioner/mentor are in place.
- The name of the nurse/midwife applying for the education programme is on the active register of nurses and midwives maintained by the NMBI.

Health Service Provider

- A named individual is identified with responsibility for the initiative locally and for liaising with the education provider and NMBI. This person is known as the Prescribing Site Coordinator (PSC)
- The PSC must have access to a computer, email and internet.
- Sponsorship arrangements at local level, setting out study leave and financial agreement for the candidate nurse/midwife prescriber are in place.

Audit and Evaluation

- A mechanism to audit nurse and midwife medicinal product prescribing practices is in place.

The Director will also:

- Be proactive in securing necessary resources for safe and effective nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing.
- Ensure nurses and midwives applying to undertake the medicinal product prescribing education programme are selected according to identified service need.
- Support the submission of relevant documentation by the candidate to the NMBI to register as a nurse or midwife prescriber, within one month of confirmation of successfully completing the education programme.
- On receipt of confirmation of registration, approve and authorise the nurse or midwife prescriber to commence medicinal product prescribing.
- Notify the RN/MP of a commencement date for prescriptive authority within their service area.
- Ensure that arrangements are in place to provide access to continuing professional development for all RN/MPs.
- Address identified issues or breaches of the RN/MP prescribing practices.
- In cases where it is necessary to suspend the RN/MP's prescriptive authority, the Director will inform the relevant stakeholders.
- Provide reports pertaining to nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing as required.

3.3 Line Manager Candidate or Registered Nurse /Midwife Prescriber

The Line Manager is responsible for:

- Consulting with the multidisciplinary team and the director, identifying the service need for nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing.
- Consulting with the director and PSC, identifying nurses/midwives to undertake the education programme and supporting the application process.
- Supporting the continuing professional development of the candidate and RN/MP.
- Informing the director of any issues associated with the RN/MP's prescribing practices and taking appropriate action.
- Supporting audit and responding appropriately to audit reports of the RN/MP's prescribing practices.

3.4 Prescribing Site Coordinator (PSC)

The PSC is responsible for supporting nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing as delegated by the Director. This may involve:

- Co-ordinating and supporting nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing at local health service provider level.
- Ensuring compliance with the legislative and NMBI regulatory requirements, the HSE National Guideline for Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing (2020) available Here or local PPPGs
- Acting as a central point of contact for the candidate and key stakeholders, in relation to nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing where necessary.
- Supporting audit and responding appropriately to audit reports on the RN/MP's prescribing practices.

3.5 Medical Practitioner/Mentor Requirements

The clinical component of the education programme is provided in the clinical practice setting of each candidate nurse/midwife prescriber with instruction and supervision from a dedicated Medical Practitioner who acts as a mentor for the duration of the programme.

The Medical Practitioner/mentor is identified by the candidate nurse/midwife prescriber, in consultation with the health service provider and is a senior Medical Practitioner within the clinical specialist field.

The commitment of a Medical Practitioner/mentor is confirmed through the inclusion of their signature on the Site Declaration Form, which is part of the registered nurse/ registered midwife's application to the HEI for the education programme.

Each HEI provides support to the Medical Practitioner/Mentor through:

- The provision of an introductory session if required
- Mentor information
- Site visits to the clinical area if required
- On-going support as required

The key responsibilities for a medical practitioner/mentor include:

- On commencement of the education programme, the candidate nurse/midwife prescriber and the Medical Practitioner/Mentor explore learning needs and agree a programme/contract for learning. This is specific for each candidate nurse/midwife prescriber reflecting the differing clinical skills and experience.
- The Medical Practitioner/Mentor and/or members of the medical team provide the candidate nurse/midwife prescriber with supervision, support, teaching and learning opportunities equivalent to 12 days (96 hours) over the duration of the education programme.
- Providing learning opportunities and information updates necessary for evidencebased medicinal product prescribing practices.
- The Medical Practitioner/Mentor and candidate nurse/midwife prescriber meet formally at three and six months to review progress.
- The Medical Practitioner/Mentor assesses achievement of competence in practice (using the NMBI competency framework).
- The Medical Practitioner/Mentor formally assesses the candidate nurse/midwife prescriber's progress in the clinical setting using the assessment tool provided by the HEI e.g. Objective Structured Long Examination Record (OSLER).
- At the end of the education programme, the Medical Practitioner/Mentor "signs off" the candidate nurse/midwife prescriber's competence booklet. The candidate nurse/midwife prescriber must pass the learning in practice assessment in order to successfully complete the education programme.

3.6 Candidate Nurse or Midwife Prescriber

The candidate nurse/midwife prescriber must:

• Comply with sponsorship arrangements at local level, setting out study leave and financial agreement.
• Liaise with the PSC on their progress as required.
• Successfully complete an approved education programme.
• Submit the following to the NMBI to have their name entered in the NMBI's Division of the Register for Nurse/Midwife Prescriber within one month of successful completion of the education programme: 1. Completed signed and stamped Application Form for Registration in the Registered Nurse or Midwife Prescribers Division of the Register 2. Relevant registration fee.

4.0 Eligibility to Prescribe

The RN/MP must:

• Inform their director when they have received a confirmation letter of registration from the NMBI confirming their name is on the NMBI's Division of the Register for Nurse/Midwife Prescriber maintained by the NMBI.

The Director must:

- Inform the RN/MP, in writing, regarding commencement date on which they are authorised to commence prescribing (Appendix I Sample Commencement Notice).
- A copy of this notice to commence prescribing and copy of the NMBI registration should be maintained in the nurse/midwife prescriber's personnel file.

4.1 Registered Nurse / Midwife Prescriber

The RN/MP must:

Be accountable and professionally responsible for all aspects of their prescriptive authority

• Prescribe within their scope of practice and competencies
• Practice within a framework of professional accountability and legal boundaries
• Commit to, and undertake, continuing professional development to maintain their competence for prescriptive authority
• Inform their director, their line manager and the PSC of any concerns pertaining to their competence regarding their prescriptive authority
• Participate in audit and other quality assurance processes as per the local health service provider
• Maintain on-going communication and collaboration with members of the multidisciplinary team in order to enhance therapeutic outcomes for patients/service users
• Act as an informed advisor for other candidates undertaking the nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing education programme
• Register with the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) in order to receive medication alerts and bulletins relating to medicinal products
• Discuss with their director and the PSC any situations where these responsibilities cannot, or are not being fulfilled.

The Practice Standards and Guidelines for Nurses and Midwives with Prescriptive Authority, (NMBI, 2019) requires the RN/MP to effectively and efficiently communicate with the patient/service user and to complete an accurate and comprehensive medication history.

The RN/MP must consider pre-existing medical conditions which may affect the choice of prescribed medication as per the World Health Organisation Global Campaign (WHO, 2019). The RN/MP should only prescribe if they have appropriately assessed the patient/service user and has a valid clinical relationship with the patient/service user.

5.0 National Nurse & Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing Guideline (Office Nursing Midwifery Services Director ONMSD 2020)

Health service providers can adopt the national guideline and develop addenda in relation to local governance requirements or develop their own local policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines (PPPG's) incorporating the regulatory requirements and the relevant legislation.

This national guideline provides clear lines of responsibility and accountability to support nurse and midwife medicinal product prescribing which is underpinned by legislation and regulation.

Additionally, this guideline provides guidance regarding prescription writing, prescribing for off label use and exempt medicinal products, security and handling of prescription pads, adverse reactions and near misses/errors, community drug prescribing.

Guideline available Here

6.0 Appendix 1: Sample Prescribing Commencement Notification

Date [insert details]
Name Registered Nurse/Midwife Prescribers [insert details]
Clinical Grade [insert details]
Ward/Unit/Organisation [insert details]
Address

Re: Commencement Date for Registered Nurse or Midwife Medicinal Product Prescriber at [insert name of Health Service Provider]

Dear [insert details]

Congratulations on registering with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland as a Registered Nurse/Midwife Prescriber. This marks a milestone in the development of your professional practice. You are now authorised to commence prescribing at [insert name of Health Service Provider] from [insert date].

Please note that this authorisation gives you prescriptive authority within your scope of practice and in compliance with the relevant legislation, professional guidance and regulations in particular the following:

• HSE National Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing Guideline, (2020).
• Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2019) Practice Standards and Guidelines for Nurse and Midwives with Prescriptive Authority, 4th edn.
• An Bord Altranais (2007) Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on Medication Management.
• Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2017 Irish Medicines Board (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006.
• Nurses and Midwives Rules 2018 (S.I. No. 219/2018-Register of Nurses and Midwives, S.I. No 218/2018-Education and Training).

As a registered nurse/midwife prescriber you are responsible for maintaining continued professional competence and auditing your prescribing practice in accordance with [insert name of Health Service Provider] and the NMBI requirements.

It is important for you to keep up to date with prescribing information of the medicinal products including up-to-date safety information. The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) publications including articles, drug safety newsletters, and the outcomes of EU safety reviews, new product warnings, details of recalls/suspensions are provided via e-mail or text message to prescribers registered with the HPRA.

To register for electronic alerts http://www.hpra.ie and follow the links to ‘Register’.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success in using your new prescribing competencies within your clinical area of practice.

Yours sincerely, _____

Director of Nursing/Midwifery/ Relevant Nurse/Midwife Manager