

Educational pathway for Registered Nurse Designated Prescriber

A Registered Nurse (RN) Designated Prescriber is an RN who Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa | the Nursing Council of New Zealand has granted prescriptive authority (Medicines Regulation 2016). These nurses are authorised to prescribe treatment for a range of common and long-term conditions (e.g., diabetes, respiratory conditions or cardiovascular health concerns) within a structured multidisciplinary team (MDT).

Academic preparation for RN Designated Prescribing

The nurse will need to complete the following four courses to complete the educational requirements for registration with Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa | the Nursing Council of New Zealand:

- One of the following assessment courses:
 - » NURSING 773 Advanced Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (30 points)
 - » NURSING 770 Clinical Practice Development (30 points) (if completed after 2014)
 - » NURSPRAC 720* Advanced Mental Health Assessment (30 points)
- NURSING 742 Biological Science for Practice (30 points)
- NURSING 785* Clinical Reasoning in Pharmacotherapeutics (30 points)
- NURSPRAC 717* Practicum for RN Designated Prescribers (30 points)

These courses provide educational support for experienced nurses to further develop advanced clinical skills in patient assessment and diagnostic reasoning in relation to the clinical management and prescribing for patients with common acute and long-term conditions. Advanced knowledge in pathophysiology and pharmacotherapeutics supports the nurse's clinical decision-making skills.

These four courses can be completed within a PGDipHSc or other qualification. Please note that NURSING 773 (or 770 or NURSPRAC 720) and NURSING 742 are prerequisite courses for NURSING 785, and all three must be completed before enrolling in the prescribing practicum course, NURSPRAC 717.

The prescribing practicum includes a minimum of 150 hours of mentored clinical practice under the supervision of a prescribing mentor (senior Medical Practitioner or senior Nurse Practitioner). The practicum will be conducted in the area of practice and within the workplace and team, that the nurse will be working in as an RN Designated Prescriber. The practicum will include opportunities to consolidate the nurse's patient consultation and assessment, diagnostic reasoning, clinical decision-making and treatment planning skills.

Students wishing to undertake NURSPRAC 717 must approach the School of Nursing before enrolment to discuss the nurse's and employer's readiness for the practicum.

Entry requirements for the prescribing practicum

The Registered Nurse must:

- Hold a current practising certificate with Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa | the Nursing Council of New Zealand, and have three years of full-time practice in the area they intend to prescribe on completion of the programme (with at least one year of the total practice in Aotearoa – New Zealand).
- Have identified and have access to an area of clinical practice in which to develop their prescribing skills and have up-to-date clinical knowledge relevant to their intended area of prescribing practice.
- Have the support of their employer and work with a multidisciplinary team prepared to support the nurse's development as an RN Designated Prescriber through policy, audit, peer review and accessibility of continuing education.
- Have identified an authorised prescribing mentor (a senior Medical Practitioner or senior Nurse Practitioner) who will supervise the practicum hours (minimum 150 hours) and support the nurse's development in clinical practice.
- Have completed and successfully passed one of the required assessment courses, along with NURSING 742 and NURSING 785.

Contact

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Ask to connect with the RN Designated Prescribing Pathway Academic Advisor.