

# Programme Specification

<b>Programme Title and Name of Award</b>	Independent/ Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses and Midwives (V300)		
<b>Academic Level</b>	Level 7	<b>Total Credits</b>	40 credits
<b>Professional Body Accreditation / Qualification</b>	The programme prepares students to be eligible to apply for annotation to the register of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as a Nurse or Midwife Independent/Supplementary Prescriber (V300).		
<b>Date of Professional Body Accreditation</b>	06.07.2020	<b>Accreditation Period</b>	Indefinite*
<b>UCAS Code</b>	Not applicable		
<b>HECoS Code</b>	100246		
<b>Criteria for Admission to the Programme</b>	<p>The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the <a href="#">Applicant Information</a> pages of the University website for more information. It is anticipated that all applicants, will bring prior learning, knowledge and skills to support their achievement on programme that are then contextualised during the programme. In addition, all assessments must be undertaken and successfully completed. For this reason, accreditation of prior learning (APL) is not permitted for entry to the programme.</p> <p>Detailed criteria for admission to this programme can be found on the programme webpage:  <a href="https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/independent-prescribing-for-nurses-midwives-and-specialist-community-public-health-nurses-v300-level-7/">https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/independent-prescribing-for-nurses-midwives-and-specialist-community-public-health-nurses-v300-level-7/</a></p> <p>The following additional requirements apply for entry to this programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All applicants must fully complete the Non-Medical Prescribing application form, and satisfactorily meet the criteria identified therein. Applications will be reviewed on an individual basis.</li> <li>• Applicants must be a registered nurse (level 1), midwife or Specialist Community Public Health Nurse - this will be checked on receipt of the application form. Applicants with current 'fitness to practice' issues (as defined by the NMC) or health issues which may be impairing 'fitness to practise' will be managed in accordance with the conditions and sanctions of the regulatory body.</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants must have been registered with the NMC for a minimum of one year prior to application for entry to the programme.</li> <li>• Applicants are required to provide evidence of an enhanced disclosure clearance (DBS) obtained within three years of the programme start date and satisfactory for the purposes of their employment. Responsibility for application to the DBS rests with the programme applicant and is normally applied for by their employer.</li> <li>• Applicants must be capable of safe and effective practice at a level of proficiency appropriate to the programme and their intended area of prescribing practice in the following areas: clinical/health assessment, diagnostics/care management, planning and evaluation of care.</li> <li>• Applicants must have the academic ability to study at the level required for the programme for which they are applying.</li> <li>• Applicants must demonstrate that they meet the requirements of their employing organisation/Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in respect of pre-programme numeracy assessment.</li> <li>• Applicants must have an identified Practice Assessor (PA) and Practice Supervisor (PS) who meets the criteria for eligibility to undertake these roles. (For further information, please see the course webpages and application form).</li> <li>• The learning environment in practice is subject to an educational audit undertaken by the PA. Where an applicant proposes to undertake learning in a practice environment outside a contract of employment with the placement provider, there is an expectation that adequate arrangements for indemnity insurance will be in place.</li> </ul> <p>Where it is unclear whether an applicant meets the entry requirements satisfactorily, applicants will be contacted for interview. Advice and guidance may be given to the applicant during the interview, to ensure that they understand what is required of them for entry to the programme and successful progression whilst on the programme.</p> <p>Applicants without recent study, or previous study at Level 6, may be required to undertake preparatory academic skills work prior to commencement of the programme.</p> <p>Applicants wishing to undertake the University Award Independent/ Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses and Midwives (V300) programme for APL into another programme (for example MSc Advanced Clinical Practice) must also submit a completed application form and demonstrate that they meet all the criteria within.</p>
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	University of Cumbria
<b>Owning Institute</b>	Institute of Health

<b>Programme delivered in conjunction with</b>	Not applicable	
<b>Principal Mode of Delivery</b>	Blended Learning with Work-Based Learning	
<b>Pattern of Delivery</b>	Part Time	
	Total weeks of study:	16-24 weeks
	Delivery pattern:	Blended learning with concurrent work-based learning
	Standard semester dates:	No
<b>Delivery Site(s)</b>	University of Cumbria campuses of Carlisle-Fusehill Street, Lancaster	
<b>Programme Length</b>	The programme is normally scheduled for a period approximately 16-24 weeks. Completion of the programme is anticipated within one year.	
	In exceptional circumstances, completion of the programme is permitted over a longer period but all assessments must be completed within two years of the programme start date to ensure competence and currency of learning.	
<b>Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR)</b>	Upon successful completion of this programme, you may receive a Diploma Supplement/Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).	
<b>Exit Awards</b>	None	
<b>Period of Approval</b>	From 01.08.2020 to 31.07.2026	
<p>This programme has been approved (validated) by the University of Cumbria as suitable for a range of delivery patterns, and delivery sites. This level of potential flexibility does not reflect a commitment on behalf of the University to offer the programme by all modes/patterns and at all locations in every academic cycle.</p> <p>* Indefinite NMC approval may cease if the NMC change the Standards <b>or</b> withdraw approval as a direct result of significant concerns raised which risk patient and public safety.</p> <p>The details of the programme offered for a particular intake year will be as detailed on the programme webpage: <a href="https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/independent-prescribing-for-nurses-midwives-and-specialist-community-public-health-nurses-v300-level-7/">https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/independent-prescribing-for-nurses-midwives-and-specialist-community-public-health-nurses-v300-level-7/</a></p>		

### Cumbria Graduate Attributes

Throughout your studies, you will be provided with the skills and knowledge relevant to the global workplace. All successful graduates of the University of Cumbria will be:

- Enquiring and open to change
- Self-reliant, adaptable and flexible
- Confident in your discipline as it develops and changes over time
- Capable of working across disciplines and working well with others
- Confident in your digital capabilities
- Able to manage your own professional and personal development
- A global citizen, socially responsible and aware of the potential contribution of your work to the cultural and economic wellbeing of the community and its impact on the environment
- A leader of people and of places
- Ambitious and proud.

## Programme Features

The overall aim of this programme is to prepare registered nurses and midwives for roles as Independent/Supplementary (V300) prescribers, ensuring that they can demonstrate achievement of the Learning Outcomes identified by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and are therefore eligible to apply for annotation as Independent/Supplementary prescribers to their registration with the NMC.

In the context of continuing financial challenges, transforming services to deliver better and more efficient services remains a priority in the NHS. The potential of nurse and midwife prescribers to deliver faster access to medicines, achieve higher levels of medicines adherence and patient satisfaction, and contribute to significant economic savings including through the prevention of referrals for GP intervention and hospital admission and across all care settings is now well-established (Latter *et al.* 2011; i5 Health, 2015; Weeks *et al.* 2016). Hence, non-medical prescribing, and nurse and midwife prescribing specifically, has become an integral element of many health services in the UK and is continuing to develop rapidly.

The programme consists of 40 credits of learning at Level 7 supporting the development of knowledge, understanding and skills for safe, appropriate and cost-effective prescribing. As a nurse or midwife Independent/Supplementary (V300) prescriber in training, you will complete 26 days of scheduled learning and teaching which combine attendance for face-to-face, in-class work with more flexible directed and self-directed study supported by e-learning approaches and you will complete 90 hours of learning in the environment of your clinical practice. Therefore you will be supported to apply and integrate your existing and developing professional knowledge and understanding within your field of clinical practice thus providing an educational experience which seeks to facilitate your current clinical practice as well as supporting your future development. Supervised learning in practice time is an integral part of this programme and scheduled to run concurrently with theoretical learning throughout the programme.

You are responsible for identifying a Practice Assessor (PA) who is a registered healthcare professional and an experienced prescriber with suitable equivalent qualifications for the programme you will be undertaking. PAs must be able to demonstrate the competencies identified by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS, 2019) for Designated Prescribing Practitioners (DPPs) and will complete a self-assessed audit of the learning environment in which your clinical practice will take place. PAs also agree to facilitate the period of learning, supervision and assessment in clinical practice, and to assess your suitability for award based on your completion of the period of learning in practice and demonstration of the competencies of a Nurse or Midwife Independent/Supplementary (V300) prescriber. The PA will assume primary responsibility for your

supervision, and responsibility for signing off your competence as a Nurse or Midwife Independent/Supplementary (V300) prescriber in training. Therefore, the PA will be required to support your learning and assessment on this course for a minimum of 30 hours. It is part of the application process that the University agrees that the PA nominated by you, has the core competencies and opportunities to carry out the role effectively. The programme lead will work in conjunction with the Lead Midwife for Education and the PA to ensure adequate support for midwives undertaking the programme.

You must also nominate a Practice Supervisor (PS) who will have current knowledge and experience of the learning environment in which they are providing support, supervision and feedback on your progress towards, and your achievement of the proficiencies and skills required to complete the programme successfully.

Further information to support the roles and responsibilities that you, your PA and PS will be undertaking is provided via a webfolio available [here](#). You are encouraged to access this for information and preparation prior to commencing the programme. The webfolio will be updated with programme-specific information and dates before the start of each course.

As a student on this programme, you will be allocated an Academic Assessor who will be proactively involved in the delivery of your programme and will have contact with you throughout your time at the University to support your learning and development.

The programme and its award are subject to the requirements and standards of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) where these are applicable. Successful completion of this programme is not a guarantee of annotation with the NMC or of future employment as a nurse or midwife Independent/Supplementary (V300) prescriber. Students successfully completing the award will be required to complete the process identified by the NMC for annotation as a Nurse or Midwife Independent/Supplementary (V300) prescriber and may only prescribe once their prescribing qualification has been annotated on the NMC register.

At all times, as a nurse or midwife Independent/Supplementary prescriber in training who is a registrant of the Nursing and Midwifery Council, you will be expected to adhere to the standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives (NMC, 2018).

The programme for nurses and midwives to prepare to prescribe is offered at Level 6 or Level 7. Prior completion of the award of Nurse or Midwife Independent/Supplementary prescribing at Level 6 does not permit progression to Level 7 study of this award. Typically however, students undertaking the programme at Level 7 seek to gain Level 7 academic credit and may be able to APL the prescribing programme into Advanced Practice or Practice Development Level 7 programmes. You should seek further information regarding APCL from the relevant programme lead.

### **Additional Expenses**

Though there are no specific additional costs required to undertake this programme, some further costs may be associated with (for example) travel for attendance or (also for example) your choices regarding the use of resources (e.g. printing).

## **Aims of the Programme**

The overall aims of the programme are to provide a challenging and flexible learning environment for registered nurses and midwives to develop as competent prescribers who are eligible to seek to apply for annotation on the register of the NMC as nurse or midwife Independent/Supplementary prescribers.

Learning outcomes for the programme are designed to support the achievement of all competencies set out in the RPS (2016) *A competency framework for all prescribers*, as necessary for safe and effective prescribing practice. The learning outcomes and competencies of the programme can be

applied to the four identified fields of nursing practice (adult, mental health, learning disabilities and children's nursing) as well as to midwifery and specialist community public health nursing.

The domains of the RPS (2016) framework and corresponding learning outcomes are stated below:

### **The Consultation domain**

Programme Learning Outcomes:

1. effective consultation with the patient/client
2. shared decision making
3. prescribing of medicines
4. the evidence base for medicines use

### **Prescribing Governance domain**

Programme Learning Outcomes:

5. legal, professional and ethical frameworks
6. clinical governance and personal development.

The learning outcomes are expressed in more detail below, and on the relevant Module Descriptor as follows:

1. **In relation to effective consultation with the patient/client:** use current research to critically discuss effective consultation with patients and carers to undertake an appropriate medical, social and medication history, conduct an appropriate clinical assessment, interpret relevant investigations, demonstrate understanding of the pathophysiology, signs and symptoms of the presenting complaint, and form a differential diagnosis in order to assess the patient/client's need for medicines, make a safe and effective prescribing decision, and to close the consultation;
2. **In relation to shared decision making with the patient/client:** critically evaluate factors, including communication skills, which impact on prescribing in partnership with the patient/client, which take account of the patient's wishes and values about their health and treatment with medicines, support informed choices in the context of public health issues and without the expectation that a prescription will be supplied, the value of non-pharmacological approaches to modifying disease and promoting health, to ensure appropriate prescribing and satisfactory outcomes for patient/client and prescriber;
3. **In relation to prescribing of medicines:** demonstrate clarity of reasoning in relation to the relevance of pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics, and application to your own prescribing practice, including numeracy and the calculation of medicines to underpin accurate prescribing and prescription writing, and to support appropriate monitoring and review of the effectiveness of treatment and potential for unwanted side-effects;
4. **In relation to the evidence base for medicines use:** show a systematic and critical understanding of influences on prescribing practice at individual, local and national levels, critique sources of information, advice and decision support, taking into account evidence based practice, national and local guidelines demonstrating how you will use them to prescribe safely, appropriately and cost effectively;
5. **In relation to legal, professional and ethical frameworks:** interrogate the benefits and demonstrate a critical awareness of legal, professional and ethical frameworks including the responsibility that your role as an independent prescriber entails, demonstrate initiative and personal responsibility for working within the scope of your professional competence and the ability to refer/consult with other appropriate health care professionals in a timely manner, justify the application of legal and professional frameworks for accountability and responsibility in relation to independent and supplementary prescribing, demonstrate effective communication with other prescribers/health care professionals and record keeping in the context of medicines management;
6. **In relation to clinical governance and personal development:** demonstrate a critical awareness of the clinical governance frameworks used to support safe prescribing and manage risk,

including audit, feedback and reflection of your prescribing practice and development, provide evidence of your Continuing Professional Development plan post qualification as a prescriber.

## Level Descriptors

Level Descriptors describe in general terms the expected outcomes you will achieve at each level of study as you progress through your programmes. They describe the relative demand, complexity, depth of learning and learner autonomy associated with a particular level of learning and achievement. The University's Level Descriptors are aligned to the national Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) and are a key mechanism for ensuring the academic standards of the University's provision.

At Level 7 (Usually Master's level), you will be able to demonstrate that you have the ability:

- To display a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice.
- Employ advanced subject-specific and cognitive skills to enable decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations.
- Generate new ideas and support the achievement of desired outcomes
- Accept accountability for decision making including the use of supervision
- Analyse complex concepts and professional situations by means of synthesis of personal and work place reflection and data drawn from scholarship and research in the field.

## Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the knowledge and understanding of the RPS (2016) competencies identified by the NMC (2018) for Nurse and Midwife Independent/Supplementary (V300) prescribers at the point of annotation:

### **K1. The Consultation, Competency 1 - Assess the patient:**

K1.1 Systematic understanding of an appropriate medical, social and medication history, including allergies and intolerances;

K1.2 Appropriate clinical assessment;

K1.3 Clear reasoning in relation to the importance of accessing and interpreting all available and relevant patient records to ensure knowledge of the patient's management to date;

K1.4 Relevant investigations necessary to inform treatment options;

K1.5 A critical understanding of the development of a working or final diagnosis by systematically considering the various possibilities;

K1.6 A systematic understanding of the condition(s) being treated, their natural progression and how to assess their severity, deterioration and anticipated response to treatment;

K1.7 A critical understanding of the significance of a review of adherence to and the effectiveness of current medicines;

K1.8 The indications to seek guidance from another member of the team, a specialist or a prescribing information source when necessary.

## **K2. The Consultation, Competency 2 - Consider the options:**

- K2.1 A critical appreciation of non-pharmacological (including no treatment) and pharmacological approaches to modifying disease and promoting health;
- K2.2 A systematic understanding of pharmacological treatment options including optimising doses as well as stopping treatment (appropriate polypharmacy, de-prescribing);
- K2.3 Clear reasoning in relation to the Assessment of risks and benefits to the patient of taking or not taking a medicine or treatment;
- K2.4 The mode of action and pharmacokinetics of medicines and how these may be altered (e.g. by genetics, age, renal impairment, pregnancy);
- K2.5 How co-morbidities, existing medication, allergies, contraindications and quality of life impact on management options;
- K2.6 A critical appreciation of patient factors (e.g. ability to swallow, religion) and the potential impact on route of administration and formulation of medicines;
- K2.7 Systematic and critical understanding of the use of reliable and validated sources of information to critically evaluate other information;
- K2.8 A critical appreciation of the significance of being up-to-date in own area of practice and the application of the principles of evidence-based practice, including clinical and cost-effectiveness;
- K2.9 A critical awareness of wider perspectives including the public health issues related to medicines and their use and promoting health;
- K2.10 Understanding of antimicrobial resistance and the role of infection prevention, control and antimicrobial stewardship measures as these are applied to the clinical practice environment.

## **K3. The Consultation, Competency 3 – Reach as shared decision:**

- K3.1 A critical appreciation of the importance of partnership with the patient/carer to make informed choices, agreeing a plan that respects patient preferences including their right to refuse or limit treatment;
- K3.2 Responsibilities in relation to diversity, values, beliefs and expectations about their health and treatment with medicines;
- K3.3 A critical understanding of the relevance of patient/carer understanding of the rationale behind and the potential risks and benefits of management options;
- K3.4 A critical appreciation of the importance of assessment of adherence in a non-judgemental way and the different reasons non-adherence can occur (intentional or non-intentional) and how best to support patients/carers;
- K3.5 Understanding of the significance of a relationship which encourages appropriate prescribing and not the expectation that a prescription will be supplied;
- K3.6 A critical understanding of the importance of exploring patient/carers understanding of a consultation to aim for a satisfactory outcome for the patient/carer and prescriber.

## **K4. The Consultation, Competency 4 - Prescribe:**

- K4.1 Clear reasoning to support prescribing of medicines only with adequate, up-to-date awareness of its actions, indications, dose, contraindications, interactions, cautions, and side effects;
- K4.2 A critical appreciation of the potential for adverse effects and takes steps to avoid/minimise, recognise and manage them;
- K4.3 Systematic and critical understanding of frameworks for medicines use as appropriate (e.g. local formularies, care pathways, protocols and guidelines);

K4.4 Clear reasoning to justify the use of generic medicines where practical and safe for the patient and knows when medicines should be prescribed by branded product;

K4.5 Systematic and critical understanding of national frameworks for medicines use (e.g. NICE, SMC, AWMSG and medicines management /optimisation) to own prescribing practice;

K4.6 Accurate calculations relevant to prescribing and practical dosing;

K4.7 A critical appreciation of the potential for misuse of medicines;

K4.8 Up-to-date information about prescribed medicines (e.g. availability, pack sizes, storage conditions, excipients, costs);

K4.9 Electronic generation and legibly written, unambiguous and complete prescriptions which meet legal requirements;

K4.10 A critical appreciation of the use of systems necessary to prescribe medicines (e.g. medicine charts, electronic prescribing, decision support);

K4.11 Clear reasoning to justify the prescription of medicines that are unlicensed, 'off-label', or outside standard practice only if satisfied that an alternative licensed medicine would not meet the patient's clinical needs;

K4.12 A systematic understanding of the importance of accurate legible and contemporaneous records and clinical notes of prescribing decisions;

K4.13 A critical appreciation of the importance of communicating information about medicines and what they are being used for when sharing or transferring prescribing responsibilities/ information.

#### **K5. The Consultation, Competency 5 – Provide information:**

K5.1 A critical understanding of the significance of checking the patient/carer's understanding of and commitment to the patient's management, monitoring and follow-up;

K5.2 The provision of clear, understandable and accessible information about patients' medicines (e.g. what it is for, how to use it, possible unwanted effects and how to report them, expected duration of treatment);

K5.3 A critical appreciation of the importance of guidance to patients/carers to identify reliable sources of information about their medicines and treatments;

K5.4 A critical appreciation of the importance of patient/carer knowledge for what to do if there are any concerns about the management of their condition, if the condition deteriorates or if there is no improvement in a specific time frame;

K5.5 Clear reasoning in relation to the relevance of encouragement and support for patients/carers to take responsibility for their medicines and self-manage their conditions.

#### **K6. The Consultation, Competency 6 – Monitor and review:**

K6.1 A critical understanding of the significance of planning for review of the patient's treatment;

K6.2 A systematic understanding of to support monitoring for the effectiveness of treatment and potential unwanted effects;

K6.3 Understanding to support the detection and reporting of suspected adverse drug reactions using appropriate reporting systems;

K6.4 Adaptation of management plans in response to on-going monitoring and review of the patient's condition and preferences.

#### **K7. Prescribing governance, Competency 7 – Prescribe safely:**

K7.1 A critical appreciation to recognise own scope of practice and limits of knowledge and skill;

K7.2 Common types and causes of medication errors and how to prevent, avoid and detect them;

K7.3 Clear reasoning in relation to the potential risks associated with prescribing via remote media (telephone, email or through a third party) and takes steps to minimise them;

K7.4 Risks to patients by using or developing processes that support safe prescribing particularly in areas of high risk (e.g. transfer of information about medicines, prescribing of repeat medicines);

K7.5 A critical appreciation of the significance of keeping up to date with emerging safety concerns related to prescribing;

K7.6 Understanding of the reporting of prescribing errors, near misses and critical incidents, and reviews practice to prevent recurrence.

#### **K8. Prescribing governance, Competency 8 – Prescribe professionally:**

K8.1 Clear reasoning in relation to the significance of maintaining confidence and competence to prescribe;

K8.2 Critical understanding of personal responsibility for prescribing and the legal and ethical implications;

K8.3 Critical understanding of legal and regulatory frameworks affecting prescribing practice (e.g. controlled drugs, prescribing of unlicensed/off label medicines, regulators guidance, supplementary prescribing);

K8.4 Critical awareness of the factors that ensure prescribing decisions based on the needs of patients and not the prescriber's personal considerations;

K8.5 A critical understanding of factors that might unduly influence prescribing (e.g. pharmaceutical industry, media, patient, colleagues);

K8.6 Clear reasoning for working within the NHS/organisational/regulatory and other codes of conduct when interacting with the pharmaceutical industry.

#### **K9. Prescribing governance, Competency 9 – Improve prescribing practice:**

K9.1 A critical appreciation of the role of reflection on own and others' prescribing practice and acting upon feedback and discussion;

K9.2 Critical awareness of the appropriate mechanisms to act upon colleagues' inappropriate or unsafe prescribing practice;

K9.3 A systematic understanding of the tools available to improve prescribing (e.g. patient and peer review feedback, prescribing data analysis and audit).

#### **K10. Prescribing governance, Competency 10 – Prescribe as part of a team:**

K10.1 Critical understanding of personal the responsibility to act as part of a multidisciplinary team to ensure that continuity of care across care settings is developed and not compromised;

K10.2 A critical appreciation of the relevance of relationships with other professionals based on understanding, trust and respect for each other's roles in relation to prescribing;

K10.3 Clear reasoning of the responsibility for negotiating appropriate levels of support and supervision for role as a prescriber;

K10.4 A critical appreciation of the role to provide support and advice to other prescribers or those involved in administration of medicines where appropriate.

### **Programme Outcomes – Skills and other Attributes (including Employability Skills)**

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the skills and competencies (RPS, 2016) identified by the NMC (2018) for Nurse and Midwife Independent/Supplementary (V300) prescribers at the point of annotation:

**S1. The Consultation, Competency 1 - Assess the patient:**

S1.1 Takes an appropriate medical, social and medication history (including current and previously prescribed and non-prescribed medicines, online medicines, supplements, complementary remedies, illicit drugs and vaccines) and including allergies and intolerances;

S1.2 Undertakes an appropriate clinical assessment;

S1.3 Accesses and interprets all available and relevant patient records to ensure knowledge of the patient's management to date;

S1.4 Requests and interprets relevant investigations necessary to inform treatment options;

S1.5 Makes, confirms or understands, the working or final diagnosis by systematically considering the various possibilities (differential diagnosis);

S1.6 Understands the condition(s) being treated, their natural progression and how to assess their severity, deterioration and anticipated response to treatment;

S1.7 Reviews adherence to and effectiveness of current medicines;

S1.8 Refers to or seeks guidance from another member of the team, a specialist or a prescribing information source when necessary.

**S2. The Consultation, Competency 2 - Consider the options:**

S2.1 Considers both non-pharmacological (including no treatment) and pharmacological approaches to modifying disease and promoting health;

S2.2 Considers all pharmacological treatment options including optimising doses as well as stopping treatment (appropriate polypharmacy, de-prescribing);

S2.3 Assesses the risks and benefits to the patient of taking or not taking a medicine or treatment;

S2.4 Applies understanding of the mode of action and pharmacokinetics of medicines and how these may be altered (e.g. by genetics, age, renal impairment, pregnancy);

S2.5 Assesses how co-morbidities, existing medication, allergies, contraindications and quality of life impact on management options;

S2.6 Takes into account any relevant patient factors (e.g. ability to swallow, religion) and the potential impact on route of administration and formulation of medicines;

S2.7 Identifies, accesses, and uses reliable and validated sources of information and critically evaluates other information;

S2.8 Stays up-to-date in own area of practice and applies the principles of evidence-based practice, including clinical and cost-effectiveness;

S2.9 Takes into account the wider perspective including the public health issues related to medicines and their use and promoting health;

S2.10 Understands antimicrobial resistance and the roles of infection prevention, control and antimicrobial stewardship measures.

**S3. The Consultation, Competency 3 - Reach a shared decision:**

S3.1 Works with the patient/carer in partnership to make informed choices, agreeing a plan that respects patient preferences including their right to refuse or limit treatment;

S3.2 Identifies and respects the patient in relation to diversity, values, beliefs and expectations about their health and treatment with medicine;

S3.3 Explains the rationale behind and the potential risks and benefits of management options in a way the patient/carer understands;

S3.4 Routinely assesses adherence in a non-judgemental way and understands the different reasons non-adherence can occur (intentional or non-intentional) and how best to support patients/carers;

S3.5 Builds a relationship which encourages appropriate prescribing and not the expectation that a prescription will be supplied;

S3.6 Explores the patient/carers understanding of a consultation and aims for a satisfactory outcome for the patient/carer and prescriber.

#### **S4. The Consultation, Competency 4 - Prescribe:**

S4.1 Prescribes a medicine only with adequate, up-to-date awareness of its actions, indications, dose, contraindications, interactions, cautions, and side effects;

S4.2 Understands the potential for adverse effects and takes steps to avoid/minimise, recognise and manage them;

S4.3 Prescribes within relevant frameworks for medicines use as appropriate (e.g. local formularies, care pathways, protocols and guidelines);

S4.4 Prescribes generic medicines where practical and safe for the patient and knows when medicines should be prescribed by branded product;

S4.5 Understands and applies relevant national frameworks for medicines use (e.g. NICE, SMC, AWMSG and medicines management/optimisation) to own prescribing practice;

S4.6 Accurately completes and routinely checks calculations relevant to prescribing and practical dosing;

S4.7 Considers the potential for misuse of medicines;

S4.8 Uses up-to-date information about prescribed medicines (e.g. availability, pack sizes, storage conditions, excipients, costs);

S4.9 Electronically generates or writes legible unambiguous and complete prescriptions which meet legal requirements;

S4.10 Effectively uses the systems necessary to prescribe medicines (e.g. medicine charts, electronic prescribing, decision support);

S4.11 Only prescribes medicines that are unlicensed, 'off-label', or outside standard practice if satisfied that an alternative licensed medicine would not meet the patient's clinical needs;

S4.12 Makes accurate legible and contemporaneous records and clinical notes of prescribing decisions;

S4.13 Communicates information about medicines and what they are being used for when sharing or transferring prescribing responsibilities/ information.

#### **S5. The Consultation, Competency 5 – Provide information:**

S5.1 Checks the patient/carer's understanding of and commitment to the patient's management, monitoring and follow-up;

S5.2 Gives the patient/carer clear, understandable and accessible information about their medicines (e.g. what it is for, how to use it, possible unwanted effects and how to report them, expected duration of treatment);

S5.3 Guides patients/carers on how to identify reliable sources of information about their medicines and treatments;

S5.4 Ensures that the patient/carer knows what to do if there are any concerns about the management of their condition, if the condition deteriorates or if there is no improvement in a specific time frame;

S5.5 When possible, encourages and supports patients/carers to take responsibility for their medicines and self-manage their conditions.

**S6. The Consultation, Competency 6 – Monitor and review:**

S6.1 Establishes and maintains a plan for reviewing the patient's treatment;

S6.2 Ensures that the effectiveness of treatment and potential unwanted effects are monitored;

S6.3 Detects and reports suspected adverse drug reactions using appropriate reporting systems;

S6.4 Adapts the management plan in response to on-going monitoring and review of the patient's condition and preferences.

**S7. Prescribing governance, Competency 7 – Prescribe safely:**

S7.1 Prescribes within own scope of practice and recognises the limits of own knowledge and skill;

S7.2 Knows about common types and causes of medication errors and how to prevent, avoid and detect them;

S7.3 Identifies the potential risks associated with prescribing via remote media (telephone, email or through a third party) and takes steps to minimise them;

S7.4 Minimises risks to patients by using or developing processes that support safe prescribing particularly in areas of high risk (e.g. transfer of information about medicines, prescribing of repeat medicines);

S7.5 Keeps up to date with emerging safety concerns related to prescribing;

S7.6 Reports prescribing errors, near misses and critical incidents, and reviews practice to prevent recurrence.

**S8. Prescribing governance, Competency 8 – Prescribe professionally:**

S8.1 Ensures confidence and competence to prescribe are maintained;

S8.2 Accepts personal responsibility for prescribing and understands the legal and ethical implications;

S8.3 Knows and works within legal and regulatory frameworks affecting prescribing practice (e.g. controlled drugs, prescribing of unlicensed/off label medicines, regulators guidance, supplementary prescribing);

S8.4 Makes prescribing decisions based on the needs of patients and not the prescriber's personal considerations;

S8.5 Recognises and deals with factors that might unduly influence prescribing (e.g. pharmaceutical industry, media, patient, colleagues);

S8.6 Works within the NHS/organisational/regulatory and other codes of conduct when interacting with the pharmaceutical industry.

**S9. Prescribing governance, Competency 9 – Improve prescribing practice:**

S9.1 Reflects on own and others prescribing practice, and acts upon feedback and discussion;

S9.2 Acts upon colleagues' inappropriate or unsafe prescribing practice using appropriate mechanisms;

S9.3 Understands and uses available tools to improve prescribing (e.g. patient and peer review feedback, prescribing data analysis and audit).

**S10. Prescribing governance, Competency 10 – Prescribe as part of a team:**

S10.1 Acts as part of a multidisciplinary team to ensure that continuity of care across care settings is developed and not compromised;

S10.2 Establishes relationships with other professionals based on understanding, trust and respect for each other's roles in relation to prescribing;

S10.3 Negotiates the appropriate level of support and supervision for role as a prescriber;

S10.4 Provides support and advice to other prescribers or those involved in administration of medicines where appropriate.

**External and Internal Reference Points**

The following Subject Benchmark Statements and other external and internal reference points have been used to inform the Programme Outcomes:

The NMC approves prescribing programmes leading to eligibility to apply for annotation as a nurse or midwife Independent/Supplementary (V300) prescriber. Therefore, the programme must enable nurse and midwife Independent/Supplementary prescribers in training to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and competence identified by the NMC for nurse or midwife Independent/Supplementary prescribers at the point of annotation:

Nursing and Midwifery Council (2018) Standards for education and training. Part 3: standards for prescribing programmes.

Nursing and Midwifery Council (2018) Standards for education and training. Part 2: standards for student supervision and assessment.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society (2016) A competency framework for all prescribers.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society (2019) A competency framework for designated prescribing practitioners.

Other external and internal reference points may include:

Nursing and Midwifery Council (2018) The Code: professional standards and behaviour for nurses and midwives.

UoC Strategic Plan

UoC Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

UoC Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes

QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

**Graduate Prospects**

As a result of successful completion of the programme leading to the University Award Independent/ Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses and Midwives (V300) at Level 7, you will be a holistically focused practitioner who is able to critically evaluate and challenge prescribing practice with reference to evidence-based practice, equality and diversity and clinical governance. You would be able to use the academic credit to contribute to further awards at Level 7 as APCL or

APL. For example, successful completion of the University Award Independent/Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses and Midwives (V300) could contribute to a Postgraduate Certificate Practice Development, Postgraduate Diploma or MSc Practice Development or towards the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice. Alternatively, successful completion may be used to pursue an interest in academic writing and improve your higher-level writing skills with a view to publication or academic teaching.

This programme enables nurse and midwife Independent/Supplementary prescribers in training to gain a recordable qualification which provides excellent opportunities for professional development and new employment opportunities across the range of healthcare settings. Above all, nurse and midwife Independent/Supplementary prescribers can deliver safe and effective care and enhance the patient experience and are therefore seen as key to the delivery of the NHS 10-year plan in hospitals and primary care.

Health Education North West, i5 Health (2015) Non-medical prescribing: an economic evaluation

Latter *et al.* (2011) Evaluation of nurse and pharmacist independent prescribing

Weeks, G. *et al.* (2016) Non-medical prescribing versus medical prescribing for acute and chronic disease management in primary and secondary care. Cochrane Systematic Review.

## **Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies employed to enable the Programme Outcomes to be Achieved and Demonstrated**

### **Learning and teaching**

As a student at the University of Cumbria, you are part of an inclusive learning community that recognises diversity. You will have opportunities to learn by interacting with others in a collegiate, facilitative and dynamic learning environment. Teaching, assessment and student support will allow equal and equitable opportunities for you to optimise your potential and develop autonomy.

We seek to create a stimulating and innovative community of learning, whether encountered on campus or at a distance, on in the learning environment of your clinical practice. Facilitated by the expertise of the University's staff as well as those who will be supporting your learning and assessment in clinical practice, you will experience a learning environment that is well equipped, flexible, and stimulating.

As a nurse or midwife Independent/Supplementary prescriber in training you are actively facilitated to apply and integrate your existing and developing professional knowledge and understanding within your clinical practice thus providing an educational experience which seeks to support the development of your clinical practice in your current environment as well as supporting future development.

The programme requires the development of a sound underpinning of theoretical knowledge to inform your prescribing practice which, in turn, is informed by that practice. The programme approach is based on contextual learning. Contextual learning relates not just to theoretical knowledge, but also to the underpinning values, beliefs, ethics and skills, as applied to people of all ages and abilities, recognising differences and diversity within the population. The opportunity to contextualise learning (and also assessment) ensures that the programme outcomes can be applied to all parts of the NMC register including the four fields of nursing practice (adult, mental health, learning disabilities and children's nursing), and including midwifery and specialist community public health nursing. The roles of the Practice Assessor (PA) and Practice Supervisor (PS) are central to the contextualisation of professional knowledge within your clinical practice. Where necessary your Academic Assessor can call on a wide range of professional colleagues within and outwith the University for additional specialist area support for your learning. In addition, the programme leader

works in conjunction with the Lead Midwife for Education (LME) and the PA to ensure adequate support for any midwives undertaking prescribing programmes.

Two other concepts that underpin contextual learning within the curriculum are evidence-based practice and reflective practice. As a nurse or midwife Independent/Supplementary prescriber in training, you will be required to analyse and evaluate your learning and your practice, and to make sense of it in terms of informing future practice. Evidence-based practice can be seen as an integral part of reflective practice, in that it takes a problem-solving approach to practice that integrates a systematic search for and critical appraisal of the most relevant evidence to support practice, also taking into account knowledge gained from your own and others' expertise and from patient preferences and values (Melnyk and Fineout-Overholt, 2011).

Intellectual, subject specific and key transferable skills are central to learning opportunities and assessment. As a Nurse or Midwife Independent/Supplementary prescriber in training you will be encouraged to develop an enquiring critical approach to your study and professional practice, to critically reflect on your skills development in your learning and practice contexts in order to develop your ability to make sound professional judgments.

Teaching and learning strategies will therefore engage you in activities that help you to connect theory to the context of real-life situations, which leads to meaningful learning. A variety of methods and strategies will be used to ensure development and acquisition of key knowledge and understanding. You will be given opportunities to experience flexible and creative approaches to teaching and learning, which foster independent enquiry-based learning.

The programme will be delivered through flexible distributed learning, using a range of learning contexts for enactment of the curriculum. Campus sites are used to deliver face-to-face learning and teaching sessions, which are supported and enhanced by the use of University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and a range of eLearning technologies such as Blackboard and Turnitin where suitable. As a Nurse or Midwife Independent/Supplementary prescriber in training therefore, you will be expected to engage in supported and interactive online learning.

The delivery of study, academic and digital skills are embedded and extend and adapt definitive resources available centrally through Library and Study Skills Support Services, thus enhancing accessibility and inclusivity through flexible delivery, and the appropriate use of technology to support a high quality learning experience.

Learning is based on a minimum of 26 days of scheduled learning and teaching which combine attendance for the face-to-face, in-class work with the more flexible directed and self-directed study supported by eLearning approaches. In-classroom and facilitated online sessions provide opportunities for learning and the development of understanding by relating the underpinning principles of safe and effective prescribing to your own clinical practice and by drawing on the shared experiences of your peers as a range of healthcare professionals practising in diverse clinical care environments. These structured learning activities are combined with 90 hours (approximately 12 days' equivalent) of learning in professional practice.

Learning in practice is supported by a PA and PS, who will facilitate and support the underpinning philosophy of contextual learning, and the embedding of employable knowledge and skills within the curriculum. PAs must have current knowledge and expertise relevant for the programme. Communication and collaboration between the PA and your Academic Assessor is scheduled for relevant points in the programme and to confirm your progression. The Practice Supervisor is also an important role model for the development of your safe and effective practice as a prescriber. The PS must have current knowledge and experience of the clinical area in which they are providing support for learning and must provide supervision and feedback to enable you to progress towards the achievement of the competencies and outcomes for your learning in practice. The PS will contribute to your record of achievement by periodically recording relevant observations on your conduct, competency and achievement to contribute to assessments to inform decisions for your progression.

You will be encouraged to consider the perspectives of service users and carers, and patients as experts, as an integral part of the programme thus also facilitating the implementation of learning in practice in ways that improve clinical outcomes for patients and quality of experience as a consequence of your prescribing role. Although as a nurse or midwife Independent/Supplementary prescriber in training you cannot actually prescribe whilst on the programme, you and your PA and PS have the opportunity to involve service users and carers, and patients as experts, by considering their responses and seeking their opinions during your supervised learning in practice and in the context of clinical practice. In addition, service users and carers, and patients as experts' perspectives are embedded in the programme delivery by drawing on the relevant literature, and experiences of healthcare delivery in the student group.

In summary therefore, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding on the programme is through a combination of the following:

- Use of virtual electronic learning environment
- Lectures
- Facilitated discussion and debate – online and classroom based
- Individual and group presentations
- Tutorials
- Guided and independent study and reading
- Reflection on professional and inter-professional working
- Learning in practice
- Involvement in partnership working with patients/clients and carers.

## **Learning and assessment**

### **Formative assessment**

Learning and assessment are considered as interrelated. Everything that you undertake as a student – and the products of that learning – is couched amongst active participation and formative opportunities for dialogue and feedback throughout. The programme includes formative activity 'specifically intended to generate feedback on performance to improve and accelerate learning' (Nichol and McFarlane-Dick, 2006). Formative assessment provides specific opportunities for tutors to support your successful achievement of the programme Learning Outcomes at the academic level chosen by providing individualised and meaningful feedback to inform your 'next steps' in the development of your academic work, and encourage the existing strengths in your work (University of Cumbria Centre for Academic Practice, 2019).

Formative assessment is an important feature within the programme. Gibbs (1999) advocates the notion of formative assessment being a shared experience, with a "social dimension", arguing that it facilitates students' ability to make judgements about the quality of work and to take responsibility for their own development and learning, responding to constructive feedback.

Formative work comprises work that informs or becomes part of the summative assessment and may include in-class or on-line activities such as presenting draft assignments, work in progress, or writing prescriptions. Peer and self-assessment are also used to give you timely feedback on formative tasks (University of Cumbria Centre for Academic Practice, 2019). The use of structured and facilitated learning opportunities and formative assessment within the programme particularly promotes developmental learning and assessment, and, as such, its development is scheduled throughout the programme so that formative, constructive comment can be provided by peer feedback in addition to that of the programme team and specifically, from your assigned Academic Assessor.

As a student, your active participation in formative opportunities is used to generate dialogue and feedback throughout the programme thus supporting your learning and development, and ultimately your successful achievement of the programme. Following formative feedback, you are encouraged to reappraise and, where appropriate, to redraft your work to reflect your learning from the feedback

provided. You are encouraged to use a variety of resources designed to support learning and development for all students of the University, as well as those specifically designed for use on your programme.

Learning in practice is supported by experienced prescribing practitioners (the PA and PS) who are also engaged in providing formative learning opportunities and feedback.

### **Summative assessment**

The summative assessment strategy for the programme reflects the University's Learning, Teaching & Assessment Strategy 2017-22. Summative assessment is authentic, in that, assessment clearly aligns to programme and module level learning outcomes, encourages and enables progressive development through feedback, and is of relevance to practice needs that also develop skills and capacity for a wider employability context.

Programme and module level Learning Outcomes support learning and assessment that can be fully aligned to the *Competency framework for all prescribers* (RPS, 2016). Summative assessment methods used within the programme therefore enable you to demonstrate achievement of the knowledge, understanding and competence in practice required by the NMC (2018) for safe and effective practice as a nurse or midwife Independent/Supplementary (V300) prescriber.

Summative assessments will require presentation of the following:

- a practical skills assessment which involves the completion of a record of learning and the demonstration of competence in competencies identified for prescribers (RPS, 2016). This assessment is undertaken by your PA whose decisions are informed by feedback sought and received from the PS and takes place in the context of your clinical practice;
- a set exercise which consists of a practical demonstration of prescribing skills and viva voce assessment. This assessment is undertaken in the context of the quality assurance processes of the University;
- a pharmacology exam;
- a numeracy assessment undertaken by exam;
- completion of a written assessment which requires the demonstration of knowledge and understanding applied to the practice area in identified programme Learning Outcomes.

The range of summative assessments supports a rigorous approach to the assessment of the outcomes to be demonstrated in the practice (i.e. the practical skills assessment) combined with assessment in the context of the quality assurance processes of the University (i.e. the set exercise assessment). The approach is required to meet the standards of the NMC (for example, the pharmacology and numeracy exam) and to ensure that an academic mark may be appropriately awarded for the work undertaken (i.e. the written assessment).

Ultimately therefore, as a result of successful programme completion, you will be eligible to apply for annotation as a Nurse or Midwife Independent/Supplementary (V300) prescriber to your record of registration with the NMC.

### **The roles of the Practice Assessor and Practice Supervisor in the learning environment in Practice**

At the point of application, you will be required to identify a PA and PS with appropriate qualifications and experience to be able to support your supervision, learning and assessment as a prescriber in training. NHS Trusts may hold their own register of practitioners whom they approve to fulfil these roles, and you should check this detail before submitting your application to the governance lead for non-medical prescribing within your organisation.

The PA and PS will have experience in the clinical field in which they will be supporting and supervising your learning and assessment as a prescriber in training. PAs will also have prior experience or training in teaching and/or supervising practice and are required to confirm that they meet the competencies of the framework for Designated Prescribing Practitioners (RPS, 2019), the

umbrella term that includes PAs. These competencies have been identified to ensure the safety and quality of your prescribing practice as well as for them to be able to optimise and the opportunities for your learning and assessment in practice (RPS, 2019). In addition to support for your learning, the PA's role involves gathering and co-ordinating feedback from the PS and others who may have been involved in your development as a prescriber, in order to make objective decisions for your assessment and progression (NMC, 2018).

The PA and PS will be supported by the programme team to prepare for and undertake their roles as your PA and PS whilst you undertake this programme. Face-to-face workshops are facilitated to enable PAs and PSs to be up-to-date with the programme learning outcomes and requirements for assessment. PAs and PSs have access to a webfolio of information and guidance. Your Academic Assessor as well as the Programme Lead are available to support both you and your PA and PS in the learning and assessment process in practice. Your Academic Assessor is responsible also for monitoring your progress in the academic environment and for working with your PA to consider your achievement of the programme outcomes and competencies and recommendations for your progression to award. Academic Assessors have appropriate equivalent experience for the programme you are undertaking and receive ongoing support to fulfil their roles.

The NMC (2018) standards are that only in exceptional circumstances may the same person fulfil the role of PA and PS. In such instances, the NMC requires that the student, and the PA and the University will need to evidence why it is necessary for the supervisor and assessor roles to be carried out by the same person.

### **Use of student feedback on your experience of the programme**

The programme team uses student feedback in the continuing development of the programme, to enhance the experience of learning, teaching and assessment, and to ensure that the programme remains fit for the preparation of Nurse and Midwife Independent/Supplementary prescribers in training to work in the contemporary clinical environment. Feedback is received through programme evaluations, Programme Partnership meetings and also the wider network of Non-Medical Prescribing Leads within the north-west. We recognise the challenges in establishing a Student Academic Representative System for part-time students who are responsible and accountable for busy professional roles and have significant personal responsibilities also. Therefore, your feedback shared with tutors informally as well as more formally is valued and used to help us to develop the programme and to offer an optimum learning experience.

Evaluations feed into the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for the programme and Institute of Health. The experience and recommendations of External Examiners are also used to review the programme and its comparability with similar programmes elsewhere, and to enhance the programme where this is indicated.

## **Student Support**

We provide responsive learner support that promotes student success. Our approach to learner support is designed to support achievement and progression, champion inclusivity and accessibility, prepare you for opportunities beyond study, and promote independence and resilience, enabling you to achieve your potential.

As a student of the University of Cumbria, you will be taught by academics and expert practitioners who facilitate learning through structured inquiry. You will be provided with access to high quality academic resources through physical and digital libraries and will be supported to develop skills that enable you to become a critical, reflective, discerning and independent learner and researcher.

We recognise that undertaking this qualification can be a challenging, as well as a rewarding, process. nurse and midwife Independent/Supplementary prescribers in training are highly motivated to succeed with high expectations of their own performance development whilst on programme. You will often be exploring new knowledge from the position of demonstrated clinical competence, and in

doing so, may need support to consolidate knowledge, integrate new skills and re-establish your own confidence in practice.

### **Induction**

You will be offered a well-structured induction programme during which you will be introduced to the programme team and to peers, to university services and support systems as well as to the learning and assessment strategy and learning resources for the programme. You will be given support and direction to develop confidence and fluency in accessing and using the eLearning technologies supporting learning. Embedded induction input will cover IT network passwords, basic introduction to the University VLE and webmail, library services and electronic resources (ebooks, ejournals, image collections etc).

### **Personal Tutoring**

You will also be allocated a Personal Tutor who is most usually also your identified Academic Assessor. Academic Assessors will have appropriate equivalent experience for the student's field of practice and communicate and collaborate with PAs at scheduled points in the programme to make and record objective, evidence-based decisions on your proficiency and achievement of the competencies and learning outcomes of the programme, and ultimately to be able to recommend your award.

For this reason, your Personal Tutor will be proactively involved in the delivery of your programme and will have contact with you throughout your time at the University. They will support your learning and development, including through tutorials, Progress Reviews and other support as outlined in the Personal Tutoring Policy. This can take various forms, depending on what is most reasonably practical for you and your Personal Tutor to ensure timely and effective support of your learning and development. Regular individual and group tutorial support is offered in a group online environment, and additional tutorial support in face-to-face meetings, via telephone, email and webcam link through the use of Skype can all be utilised.

As previously identified (in section Learning and Teaching Strategy) work based learning in practice settings is supported by an appropriately qualified and experienced PA and PS who facilitate and support the underpinning philosophy of contextual learning, and the embedding of employable knowledge and skills within the curriculum.

### **Personal Development Planning**

As a nurse or midwife Independent/Supplementary prescriber in training, you will already have experience of working in a particular clinical area and will be preparing to apply prescribing in different ways and in different healthcare contexts. Learning agreements will be used to support the identification of your learning needs throughout the programme, and aimed at the successful demonstration of all Learning Outcomes required for nurse and midwife Independent/Supplementary prescribers in training. At the point of assessment, you will be required to demonstrate your commitment and preparation for your continuing development as a nurse or midwife Independent/Supplementary prescriber (subject to annotation by the NMC as a nurse or midwife Independent/Supplementary prescriber).

### **Library and Academic Support (based in Information Services)**

Module leaders will collaborate with Library and Academic Advisors to ensure that your reading and resource lists are current and items are available via the library discovery tool OneSearch. In order to maximise access, availability and usefulness, ebooks and electronic journal titles will, in most cases, be prioritised. You can access a wide range of electronic and print content using [OneSearch](#) and you can find out more about key texts, databases and journals for your subject by accessing the library's [subject resources webpages](#). Where appropriate, module reading and resource lists will be made available to you electronically using the University's [online reading and resource list system](#).

The [Skills@Cumbria](#) service can help support your academic skills and success throughout your programme. The service is delivered by a team of professional Library and Academic Advisors. It includes a suite of [online self-help resources](#) accessible 24/7 via the University's website and Blackboard site. It also provides group and individual advice and guidance accessible through and alongside your course and by different means such as face to face, email or virtual. Visit [skills@cumbria](#) for more details.

### **IT and Technical Support**

Technology is an invaluable asset when it comes to studying, so it's important you know how to make the most out of the excellent [facilities](#) we have available. Our aim is to ensure you can access university electronic resources from anywhere or any device, whether on or off campus. The [Student Hub](#) is your one-stop gateway to all university systems, Outlook email, and OneDrive.

Whether you consider yourself a computer expert or you're not confident about your IT skills, we're always around to ensure you get the level of support you need. We have a wealth of information and support available on the [website](#) and have a dedicated IT Service Desk where you can talk to someone by phone or log your question online from anywhere, at any time.

### **Student Support Services**

Student Support Services offer a wide range of support, including: careers and employability, financial help, counselling, health and wellbeing and support for disabled students and those with specific learning requirements. We also offer mentoring by trained students which you can request at any point during your studies. We know that you want to get the most out of your programme, make the best use of your time and find or continue in the career you always dreamed of. Access university support and facilities easily and quickly via the [website](#) and/or via the Student Services guidance tile on the [Student Hub](#).

In addition to the range of guidance above, you have the opportunity to further develop your personal, academic and professional skills by taking part in a number of initiatives coordinated and delivered by professional services advisers:

### **Preparing for Postgraduate Study**

This free online pre-entry Master's level course is available free of charge through the Open Education Platform powered by Blackboard as is Head Start Plus. It provides a useful insight into the academic requirements of study at postgraduate level and is recommended to students who are about to start their PG qualification.

To access the course simply follow the link to <https://openeducation.blackboard.com/cumbria> and set-up a free account with Open Education. Once logged on, select the course free of charge and work through it at your own pace.

### **Help is at Hand Events**

Keep a look out for these interactive events on campus around October and January. You are encouraged to attend these as they showcase the range of support available here and give you the opportunity to talk to people from Finance, Accommodation, the Students' Union, the Wellbeing and Disability Team etc.

The University is committed to ensuring that all students are able to participate effectively in their chosen programme of study and all areas of University life. Disability is broadly defined and includes:

- mobility impairments
- sensory impairments
- medical conditions
- autism (ASD)

- specific learning difficulties (SpLD's such as dyslexia, dyspraxia)
- mental health conditions.

The University has a disability statement that details the adjustments that are available to all disabled students at the University. There are also specialist advisers who have a range of different roles:

- Learning Development Adviser / Learning Adviser if you have a SpLD / Autism (ASD)
- Disability Officer if you have a disability /or a diagnosis mental health condition

If you have both a SpLD / disability you can see either. You can do this by contacting the learning centre at the campus you are on in person or booking an appointment to discuss your needs and the reasonable adjustments that should be made to support your successful These discussions will become part of an individual disability/SpLD action plan which, with your consent, will be circulated to your academic team and other services. This will ensure that there is an awareness of your needs and adjustments and the right support are available to you whilst you are studying with us.

<b>Programme Curriculum Map</b>					
<b>Academic Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Module Status*</b>	<b>Programme Outcomes achieved</b>
7	HPHN7411	Independent/ Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses and Midwives (V300)	40	Core	K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K6, K7, K8, K9, K10 S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
<b>Notes</b>					
<p>This programme operates in accordance with the <u>University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes</u>, module pass mark: 50% (Postgraduate) with the following permitted exceptions due to the requirements of the Nursing and Midwifery Council:-</p> <p>The pharmacology and numeracy written examination elements of the module assessment have higher pass marks than the standard University pass mark above, details of these pass marks are given on the Module Descriptor form.</p> <p>In the event that the module is failed, entitlement to module re-registration (F8.6) does not apply. However, a student who has failed the module, may be permitted to re-register for this same award. Re-registration is subject to satisfactory completion of the standard application process and approval of the Programme Leader (G4.4) in order to ensure that the admissions criteria of the NMC continue to be met, and specifically, that decisions are made in conjunction with practice learning partners.</p> <p>However, please also note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all assessments must be successfully passed to be eligible for the University Award and transcript of credit of Independent/Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses and Midwives (V300). For students on this programme, compensation will not apply.</li> <li>• all components of assessment (including reassessment) must be completed within two years of the module start date to ensure competence and currency of learning. If a student has not completed all assessments within the allocated time, the student will be deemed to have failed the module.</li> </ul> <p>Concerns regarding the student's practice will be managed according to the University's Fitness to Practise Policy and Procedures (2019-20) which are aligned to professional body standards and the <u>Student Code of Conduct</u>.</p> <p>Nurse and midwife Independent/Supplementary prescribers in training should note that they may only prescribe once their prescribing qualification has been annotated on the NMC register.</p> <p>The award must be registered with the NMC within five years of successfully completing the programme. Failure to do so, will mean that the student will have to retake and successfully complete the programme in order to qualify and register their award as a prescriber.</p>					

**\* Key to Module Statuses**

Core Modules

Must be taken and must be successfully passed

Programme Delivery Structure: Part Time				
Module Code	Module Title	Delivery Pattern	Method(s) of Assessment	Approximate Assessment Deadline
		Autumn Semester / Spring Semester		
HPHN7411	Independent/Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses and Midwives (V300)	Normally delivered over a period of 16-24 weeks, starting Autumn semester (September) and Spring semester (January).	<p><b>Formative:</b> Assessment in practice, academic writing and prescription writing exercise</p> <p><b>Summative:</b></p> <p><b>Pharmacology examination:</b> Qualificatory: Pass/fail (Minimum mark of 80% required to pass)</p> <p><b>Numeracy examination:</b> Qualificatory: Pass/fail (Mark of 100% required to pass)</p> <p><b>Practical skills assessment:</b> Qualificatory: Pass/Fail achievement of all competencies in practice, record of learning and supervised learning hours assessed by PA/PS in the practice learning environment</p>	<p>Completed by mid-way through programme</p> <p>Submission approximately midway</p> <p>Submission approximately midway</p> <p>End of programme assessment required</p>

			<p><b>Set exercise assessment:</b></p> <p>Qualificatory: Pass/Fail</p> <p>practical demonstration and viva voce assessment of prescribing skills undertaken in the context of the quality assurance processes of the University</p> <p><b>Written assignment: (100%)</b></p> <p>2500 word (equivalent) assessment demonstrating knowledge and understanding applied to the practice area.</p>	<p>End of programme assessment</p> <p>End of programme assessment</p>
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**Students exiting at this point with 40 credits would receive a University transcript of credit confirming successful completion of the programme and period of learning in practice 'University Award Independent/ Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses and Midwives (V300)'.**

**As a result of successful completion of the module, students will be eligible to apply for annotation with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.**

## Exceptions to Academic Regulations

The following exceptions to the Academic Regulations apply for the University Award Independent/Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses and Midwives (V300):

- Exception 1: in the event that the module is failed, entitlement to module re-registration (F8.6) does not apply. However, a student who has failed the module, may be permitted to re-register for this same award. Re-registration is subject to satisfactory completion of the standard application process and approval of the Programme Leader (G4.4) in order to ensure that the admissions criteria of the NMC (2018) continue to be met, and specifically, that decisions are made in conjunction with practice learning partners.
- Exception 2: the maximum registration period of one year for a single module (D3.1) does not apply. Instead, the maximum registration period for this module is extended to two years (D3.2). This is due to the curriculum delivery arrangements required to support successful completion by all students undertaking this 40-credit module and in order for the University to apply other regulations including those permitting re-assessment, the consideration of Extenuating Circumstances and the opportunity for student suspension of their studies where appropriate circumstances apply.
- Exception 3: The combination of five elements of summative assessment identified by the Module Descriptor for this programme, is outwith the standard expectation of the Academic Design Principles and Academic Regulations (F5.5) which is that no more than two pieces of summative assessment will normally be required, regardless of the module size or level. However, regulations also permit that "where programmes of study lead to the qualifications of professional bodies... full account is taken of the regulations and requirements of the professional bodies in respect of assessment requirements" (F5.3). The elements of assessment for this programme are required to provide assurance that the student has demonstrated the outcomes required by the NMC and specifically, in respect of a pharmacology examination and numeracy assessment to meet the standards of the NMC for prescribing programmes.

## Methods for Evaluating and Improving the Quality and Standards of Learning

### Mechanisms used for the Review and Evaluation of the Curriculum and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods

- Nursing and Midwifery Council annual monitoring process
- University Annual Monitoring
- University Programme Validation and Periodic Review
- Peer Review of Teaching
- External Examiner Reports
- Module Assessment Boards
- Module Evaluation
- Programme Partnership Committees
- Operational (programme) Team meetings
- Student Success and Quality Assurance Committee

### Mechanisms used for gaining and responding to feedback on the

- Staff/student liaison throughout the programme
- Module/Programme Evaluation Forms

<b>quality of teaching and the learning experience – gained from: Students, graduates, employers, placement and work-based learning providers, other stakeholders, etc.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module/Programme/Personal tutorials</li> <li>• Meetings with External Examiners</li> <li>• Student representation on Programme Partnership Committee</li> <li>• Regional network meetings with Non-Medical Prescribing Leads</li> <li>• Health Education England review meetings</li> <li>• Online Forums (e.g. using the University’s VLE)</li> <li>• Personal Tutor meetings with feedback to Module and Programme Leads</li> <li>• Informal discussion with students</li> <li>• Module Evaluation Forms</li> </ul>
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<b>Date of Programme Specification Production:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<b>Date Programme Specification was last updated:</b>	06.07.2020
<p><b>For further information about this programme, refer to the programme page on the University website:-</b></p> <p><b><u><a href="https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/independent-prescribing-for-nurses-midwives-and-specialist-community-public-health-nurses-v300-level-7/">https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/independent-prescribing-for-nurses-midwives-and-specialist-community-public-health-nurses-v300-level-7/</a></u></b></p>	