



Curious about supplementary prescribing?

Email: Prescribers@bda.uk.com



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BDA_Prescribers



British Dietetic Association Prescribers

Submit questions on the chat





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Preparing to prescribe toolkit

Sally Gilborson

Independent Prescribing Lead Royal Devon University Healthcare
Funding and infrastructure

Natalie Yerlett

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The managers role in supporting prescribing practice

Sarah Lavery

Update on independent prescribing campaign





Using the “preparing for prescribing” toolkit for nonmedical prescribers

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The website Resource

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://learninghub.nhs.uk/Resource/41243/Item>. The page header features the NHS Learning Hub logo and a 'Help' link. A blue banner indicates a BETA status and requests feedback. A light blue box contains the message 'You have to be signed in to use this resource.' and two login buttons: 'Learning Hub Log in' (green) and 'OpenAthens Log in' (grey). Below these are links for 'Forgotten username or password' and 'Create new account'. A blue arrow points from a text box on the right to the 'OpenAthens Log in' button. The breadcrumb trail shows 'Home > Prescribing Implementation Toolkits >'. The main heading is 'Prescribing Implementation Toolkits' followed by 'Preparing to Prescribe Toolkit'.

NHS Learning Hub [Help](#)

BETA This is a new platform - your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

You have to be signed in to use this resource.

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[Home](#) > [Prescribing Implementation Toolkits](#) >

Prescribing Implementation Toolkits

Preparing to Prescribe Toolkit

Need a learning
hub or open
Athens Login

Prescribing Implementation Toolkits

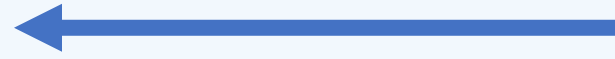
Preparing to Prescribe Toolkit

[Remove from my bookmarks](#)



3.2 out of 5 ([5 ratings](#))

Play elearning resource



Click here

This resource will launch in a new window

Welcome to the 'Preparing to Prescribe' toolkit. This toolkit takes you on a step-by-step basis through the requirements you need to meet before you register on a non-medical prescribing programme (NMP) in the UK.

Resource details



Contributed by: [Prescribing Implementation Toolkits](#)



MENU

Home ✓

Main Menu

About

Step 1: Professional Criteria

Step 2: Numeracy

Step 3: Assessment Skills

Step 4: Practice Assessor

Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe

Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres...

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Preparing to Prescribe Toolkit

Welcome to the non-medical prescribing toolkit.
This toolkit takes you on a step-by-step basis
through the requirements you need to meet
before you register on a non-medical prescribing
programme (NMP) in the UK.

Select next to continue



NEXT >





MENU

Home ✓

Main Menu ✓

About

Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓

Step 2: Numeracy

Step 3: Assessment Skills

Step 4: Practice Assessor

Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe

Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres...

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Step 1: Professional Criteria

Step 1

Please check the following list of professions for which prescribing legislation is currently in place in the UK:

- Nurse or midwife
- Pharmacist
- Physiotherapist
- Podiatrist
- Optometrist
- Dietitian
- Radiographer
- Paramedic

Are you working in a profession that is eligible to undertake a prescribing qualification in the UK?

Select an option and submit.

☐ Yes☐ No

< PREV

SUBMIT ✓





MENU

Home ✓

Main Menu ✓

About

Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓

Step 2: Numeracy

Step 3: Assessment Skills

Step 4: Practice Assessor

Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe

Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres...

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Step 1

Step 1: Professional Criteria

Minimum entry criteria vary slightly for each profession.

The key criteria are:

- a) prior experience
- b) numeracy and
- c) assessment skills



< PREV

NEXT >



MENU

Home ✓

Main Menu ✓

About

Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓

Step 2: Numeracy

Step 3: Assessment Skills

Step 4: Practice Assessor

Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe

Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres...

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Step 1

You selected Dietitian

- Registered with the HCPC
- Professionally practicing in an environment with an identified need for regular use of supplementary prescribing
- Have at least 2 years of relevant post-qualification experience in the clinical area of prescribing
- Working at an advanced practitioner or equivalent level
- Able to demonstrate how you reflect on your own performance and take responsibility for your own Continuing Professional

Select next to continue

NEXT >



< PREV

SUBMIT ✓



MENU

Home ✓

Main Menu ✓

About

Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓

Step 2: Numeracy

Step 3: Assessment Skills

Step 4: Practice Assessor

Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe

Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres...

Prescribing toolkit v4



Step 1

You selected Dietitian

For more information, visit: <https://www.bda.uk.com/news-campaigns/campaigns/independent-prescribing.html>

If you are considering a NMP course and are a member of the BDA, please email edpd@bda.uk.com. They will add you to the supplementary prescribing discussion forum, where you can share experiences with others already on the NMP course and/or those who have already qualified as a supplementary prescriber.

Select next to continue

NEXT >



< PREV

SUBMIT ✓





MENU

Home ✓

Main Menu ✓

About

Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓

Step 2: Numeracy ✓

Step 3: Assessment Skills

Step 4: Practice Assessor

Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe

Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres...

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Step 2

Step 2: Numeracy

Numeracy is a key skill that is required for safe prescribing.

Even if you have undertaken numeracy tests or exams in the past, you may still be asked to take a numeracy test prior to accessing the course.

If so, this will be a useful practice as numeracy ability is part of the final course assessment.

Test your own numeracy ability using the 'SN@P assessment and education' website:

snap-services.org



< PREV

NEXT >





MENU

- Home ✓
- Main Menu ✓
- About
- Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓
- Step 2: Numeracy ✓
- Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓
- Step 4: Practice Assessor
- Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe
- Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres...

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Step 3

Step 3: Assessment Skills

Before you can be considered for the prescribing course, your employer is likely to ask you to confirm that you have been assessed as competent to take a history, undertake a clinical assessment and diagnose. It is strongly recommended that you have undertaken additional educational training in physical examination and diagnostics and can demonstrate evidence of this competency.

NB: there is no requirement for pharmacists to be assessed before entry on to NMP training.



MENU

- Home ✓
- Main Menu ✓
- About
- Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓
- Step 2: Numeracy ✓
- Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓
- Step 4: Practice Assessor ✓
- Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe
- Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres...

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Step 4

Step 4: Practice Assessor (previously known as Designated Medical Practitioner, DMP)

In order to register on a prescribing programme, and undergo a period of supervised practice (Period of Learning in Practice - PLP) you need to have prior agreement of a named Practice Assessor. The role of the assessor is to direct and support your PLP, and undertake assessment of your clinical practice. This is a role that was traditionally held only by medical prescribers (Designated Medical Practitioners (DMP))



< PREV

NEXT >





MENU

Home ✓

Main Menu ✓

About ✓

Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓

Step 2: Numeracy ✓

Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓

Step 4: Practice Assessor ✓

Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe ✓

Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres...

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Step 5

Step 5: Have you identified a clinical need to prescribe?

To be accepted on the course, you need the support of your employer to confirm that your post is one in which you will have the need and the opportunity to prescribe upon qualifying.

There should be an agreed local need and an agreed therapeutic area in which you will prescribe.

To help identify where prescribing may be useful please complete the **NMP self assessment form** located under the resources button.



< PREV

NEXT >





MENU

- Home ✓
- Main Menu ✓
- About
- Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓
- Step 2: Numeracy ✓
- Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓
- Step 4: Practice Assessor ✓
- Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe ✓
- Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres... ✓

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Step 6

Step 6: Your personal readiness to prescribe

In this section, we ask you to explore how ready you are, on a personal level, to undertake the prescribing program and become a prescriber.



< PREV

NEXT >





MENU

Home ✓

Main Menu ✓

About

Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓

Step 2: Numeracy ✓

Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓

Step 4: Practice Assessor ✓

Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe ✓

Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres... ✓

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Why take the prescribing course?

Personal readiness

Watch the video below to see what other NMP students say about the benefits of prescribing:



< PREV

NEXT >





MENU

- Home ✓
- Main Menu ✓
- About
- Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓
- Step 2: Numeracy ✓
- Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓
- Step 4: Practice Assessor ✓
- Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe ✓
- Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres... ✓

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Personal readiness

Financial considerations

Consider travel time and expenses to and from your HEI and/or placements, as well as costs for books, resources, and study materials. Some trusts may cover travel expenses, so be sure to check and discuss this with your NMP lead and/or refer to your organization or workforce training policy.



< PREV

NEXT >





MENU

- Home ✓
- Main Menu ✓
- About
- Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓
- Step 2: Numeracy ✓
- Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓
- Step 4: Practice Assessor ✓
- Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe ✓
- Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres... ✓

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Step 7

Step 7: Organisational Support

Before proceeding with your prescribing journey, there are some important factors you should consider in addition to obtaining support from your employer or sponsor and ensuring appropriate supervised practice is agreed upon. Work through the next three slides to find out more.



< PREV

NEXT >





MENU

- Home ✓
- Main Menu ✓
- About
- Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓
- Step 2: Numeracy ✓
- Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓
- Step 4: Practice Assessor ✓
- Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe ✓
- Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres... ✓

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Step 7

Study leave

Have you arranged study leave with your employer? This time off is crucial for you to focus on your prescribing studies.

It is important to discuss expectations about study leave with your line manager. Some organisations allow study leave to attend study days, others may not and you may need to make other arrangements such as annual leave.



< PREV

NEXT >



MENU

- Home ✓
- Main Menu ✓
- About
- Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓
- Step 2: Numeracy ✓
- Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓
- Step 4: Practice Assessor ✓
- Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe ✓
- Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres... ✓

Prescribing toolkit v4



Step 7

Release from clinical practice

Do you have the necessary agreement from your organization to be released from clinical duties for the 12 days of supervised clinical practice required for your training?



MENU

- Home ✓
- Main Menu ✓
- About
- Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓
- Step 2: Numeracy ✓
- Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓
- Step 4: Practice Assessor ✓
- Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe ✓
- Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres... ✓

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Step 7

Pioneering NMP role

If you are going to be the first NMP in your organisation or service, it may be that you will have additional ground work to do to ensure that medicines and clinical governance arrangements are in place for you to prescribe.

This may include initiating or contributing to a non-medical prescribing strategy/policy, developing prescribing agreements with local pharmacies/GPs, identifying a NMP lead.



MENU

- Home ✓
- Main Menu ✓
- About
- Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓
- Step 2: Numeracy ✓
- Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓
- Step 4: Practice Assessor ✓
- Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe ✓
- Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres... ✓

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Step 8

Step 8: Choosing your course

Below is a list of aspects to consider when choosing a course:

- Is the course approved for your profession?
- Location (distance for travel, access to library resources)
- Structure of the course and mode of study (online components, weekly blocks or one day per week attendance)



< PREV

NEXT >





MENU

- Home ✓
- Main Menu ✓
- About
- Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓
- Step 2: Numeracy ✓
- Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓
- Step 4: Practice Assessor ✓
- Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe ✓
- Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres... ✓

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Step 8

Course funding

Funding for the course depends on the region that you live in. Some trusts have commissioned places and others do not, but may still provide the funding. Some students self-fund. Estimated costs range from £1,600 - £3,500.



< PREV

NEXT >





MENU

- Home ✓
- Main Menu ✓
- About
- Step 1: Professional Criteria ✓
- Step 2: Numeracy ✓
- Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓
- Step 4: Practice Assessor ✓
- Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe ✓
- Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres... ✓

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Step 9

Step 9: Building support for yourself

Once you have considered whether or not you are ready and eligible to undertake prescribing, you are probably at the stage of applying for a place on a course. At this stage it may be beneficial to start building up a network of support for yourself that will see you through training and beyond. Below are some suggestions for areas to focus on, hover over each aspect to learn more:

Buddying

Contact NMP
leadTake care of
yourselfOrganisational
opportunities

< PREV

NEXT >





MENU

Step 2: Numeracy ✓

Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓

Step 4: Practice Assessor ✓

Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe ✓

Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres... ✓

Step 7: Organisational support ✓

Step 8: Choosing your course ✓

Step 9: Building support for yourself ✓

Feedback

Prescribing toolkit v4

RESOURCES



Further resources

Step 9

Select the further resources that you are interested in and submit.

☐

General NMP

☐

Radiographers

☐

Nurses

☐

Optometrists

☐

Physiotherapists

☐

Paramedics

☐

Dietitians

☐

Podiatrists

Note: these resources are also available under the resources button (top right).



< PREV

SUBMIT ✓



MENU

Step 2: Numeracy ✓

Step 3: Assessment Skills ✓

Step 4: Practice Assessor ✓

Step 5: Clinical need to prescribe ✓

Step 6: Your personal readiness to pres... ✓

Step 7: Organisational support ✓

Step 8: Choosing your course ✓

Step 9: Building support for yourself ✓

Feedback ✓

Prescribing toolkit v4



Step 9

You selected Dietitians

BDA: The association of UK Dietitians.

<https://www.bda.uk.com/site-search.html?q=prescribing>

Select next to continue

NEXT >



< PREV

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Save the date

13th of March 2026

Face to face meeting

Birmingham

