

## KEY PROGRAMME INFORMATION

<b>Originating institution(s)</b> Bournemouth University	<b>Faculty responsible for the programme</b> Faculty of Health and Social Sciences
<b>Final award(s), title(s) and credits</b> Independent and Supplementary Prescribing (40 credits level 7. 20 ECTS)	
<b>Intermediate award(s), title(s) and credits</b> Not applicable	
<b>UCAS Programme Code(s) (where applicable and if known)</b> NA	<b>HECoS (Higher Education Classification of Subjects) Code and balanced or major/minor load</b> 100251 (50%) 100476 (50%)
<b>External reference points</b> The UK Quality Code for Higher Education; Part A: Setting and maintaining academic standards; Chapter A1: UK and European reference points for academic standards (October 2013)  Nursing and Midwifery Council Standards for prescribing programmes (2018) HCPC Standards for Prescribing (2019) General Pharmaceutical Council Education And Training Standards For Pharmacist Independent Prescribers (2019)	
<b>Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) links</b> Nursing and Midwifery Council Standards for prescribing programmes (2018) HCPC Standards for Prescribing (2019) General Pharmaceutical Council Education And Training Standards For Pharmacist Independent Prescribers (2019)	
<b>Places of delivery</b> Bournemouth University and Portsmouth Campus	
<b>Mode(s) of delivery</b> Part time	<b>Language of delivery</b> English
<b>Typical duration</b> 8months (increase from 6 months)	
<b>Date of first intake</b> September 2019	<b>Expected start dates</b> September, October, January, February, March and June
<b>Maximum student numbers</b> 40 per intake	<b>Placements</b> N/A - All Students in employment
<b>Partner(s)</b> Not applicable	<b>Partnership model</b> Not applicable
<b>Date of this Programme Specification</b> September 2023	
<b>Version number</b> 1.2-0924	

**Approval, review or modification reference numbers**

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EC 1920 11, approved 26/11/2019

FHSS 1920 07, approved 19/11/2019. Previously version 1.0-0919

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EC 2223 43, approved 19/07/2023. No change to version number

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### PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Level 7								
Unit Name	Core / Option	No of credits	Assessment Element Weightings			Expected Contact hours per unit	Unit Version No.	HECoS Code (plus balanced or major/minor load)
			Exam 1	Exam 2	Cwk 1			
Independent and Supplementary Prescribing	Core	40 (level 7)	Pharmacology Exam P/F	Numeracy Test P/F	Portfolio 100%	48	1.1	100251 (50%) 100476 (50%)

**Progression requirements:** N/A  
**Exit qualification:** Independent and Supplementary prescribing

### AIMS OF THE DOCUMENT

The aims of this document are to:

- define the structure of the programme;
- specify the programme award titles;
- identify programme and level learning outcomes;
- articulate the regulations governing the awards defined within the document.

### AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

The aim of this programme (unit) is to prepare eligible Registered Health Care Professionals (NMC/HPCP/GPhC) to prescribe safely, appropriately and competently. In doing so students will be required to evaluate the evidence underlining the practice of prescribing, critically reflect on their competency in respect of prescribing and evidence knowledge of the products they will prescribe.

The programme has been developed in line with the Nursing and Midwifery Council Standards for prescribing programmes (2018), HCPC Standards for Prescribing (2019) and the General Pharmaceutical Council Education And Training Standards For Pharmacist Independent Prescribers (2019).

### ALIGNMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN

This programme aligns with the BU Strategic Plan. The students' learning will be facilitated by University staff who are Non-Medical Prescribers themselves and Lecturer Practitioners from Community and Pharmacy settings. The lectures will be research/evidence based and highly relevant to professional practice. As successful students will attain a nationally and professionally accepted qualification it enhances mobility and transferability. Close liaison with the local NHS employers throughout the planning of the programme has informed the employability of students completing the programme and fostered local links with 'industry'.

### LEARNING HOURS AND ASSESSMENT

Bournemouth University taught programmes are composed of units of study, which are assigned a credit value indicating the amount of learning undertaken. The minimum credit value of a unit is normally 20 credits, above which credit values normally increase at 20-point intervals. 20 credits is the equivalent

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of 200 study hours required of the student, including lectures, seminars, assessment and independent study. 20 University credits are equivalent to 10 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits.

As a general rule, time devoted to assessment should normally represent approximately 25% of the student learning time for a unit (i.e. 50 hours for a 20-credit unit), leaving the rest for specific programme-related activities, including lectures, seminars, preparatory work, practical activities, reading, critical reflection and independent learning.

Of the time devoted to assessment, every 10 hours of student effort is equivalent to approximately 1,000 words of coursework or 1 hour of examination. Therefore, as a guideline, a 20-credit unit would normally require the equivalent of approximately 5,000 words in total (e.g. a 2,000-word written coursework and a 3-hour unseen examination).

The theoretical delivery of this programme will take place over 8 taught days in University with equivalent of an additional 15 days open learning web based and electronic open learning materials to be studied. (18 days open learning web based and electronic open learning for Pharmacists) The University days are a mixture of lectures, seminars and discussion, and also focus on discussion and feedback from the open learning activities. An additional 10 days of supervised clinical practice is undertaken in the student's workplace for NMC and HCPC registrants and 14 days for pharmacists (assuming a 6.5 hour working day). Attendance at the taught days is mandatory.

### **Assessment**

Students will undertake three elements of assessment, as follows:

Coursework 1: A numerical assessment within the context of prescribing practice. Pass mark 100% (Pass/Fail) (500 words equivalent)

Coursework 2: Examination: A written examination consisting of 20 short answer/ multi-choice questions. The examination tests prescribing and pharmacology knowledge and its application to practice. The pass mark for the examination is 80% (Pass/Fail) (1500 word equivalent)

Coursework 3 : A portfolio of evidence, which must include evidence for all RPS competencies demonstrated via a mapping document. The portfolio must include an observation of a clinical consultation by a practice assessor and a 3,000 word case study. (Portfolio evidence equivalent to 4,000 words)

### **STAFF DELIVERING THE PROGRAMME**

Students will be taught by a combination of senior academic staff and Lecturer Practitioners who have relevant expertise in prescribing.

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### INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES – AND HOW THE PROGRAMME ENABLES STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE AND DEMONSTRATE THE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

All intended outcomes are taken from Royal Pharmaceutical Society: A competency Framework for all Prescribers (2021), the Nursing and Midwifery Council: Standards for prescribing (2018) and Health and Care Professions Council: Standards for Prescribing (2019)

<b>A: Subject knowledge and understanding</b>  This Unit (level 7) provides opportunities for students to:	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the level 7 learning outcomes:
<b>A1</b> Critically evaluate the options of both pharmacological and non-pharmacological approaches across the lifespan;	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures (A1 – A3);</li> <li>• seminars (A1 – A2);</li> <li>• directed reading (A1 – A3);</li> <li>• use of the VLE (A1 – A3);</li> <li>• practice (A3).</li> </ul>
<b>A2</b> Apply knowledge of pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics to prescribing practice utilising national frameworks;	
<b>A3</b> Demonstrate the ability to calculate drug doses and prescribing regimes within own area of practice.	
	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examination (A1, A2, A3);</li> <li>• portfolio (A1, A2, A3);</li> <li>• in class test (A3);</li> <li>• practice competencies (A3);</li> <li>• exam (A2).</li> </ul>
<b>B: Intellectual skills</b>  This unit provides opportunities for students to:	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the level 7 outcomes:
<b>B1</b> Demonstrate the ability and critically discuss the shared decision making with the patient/carer about treatment options available;	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures (B1);</li> <li>• seminars (B1);</li> <li>• directed reading (B1, B2);</li> <li>• use of the VLE (B1, B2).</li> </ul>
<b>B2</b> Critique the legislation relevant to the practice of prescribing and discuss the influences that effect prescribing practice.	
	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• portfolio (B1, B2);</li> <li>• practice competencies (B1).</li> </ul>
<b>C: Practical skills</b> This unit provides opportunities for students to:	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the level 7 learning outcomes:
<b>C1</b> Prescribe safely, appropriately and cost effectively, and discuss justification for treatment, monitoring and review responses to therapy.	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures (C1);</li> <li>• directed reading (C1);</li> <li>• use of the VLE (C1).</li> </ul>
	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcome) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• portfolio (C1);</li> <li>• in class test (C1);</li> <li>• practice competencies (C1).</li> </ul>
<b>D: Transferable skills</b> This unit provides opportunities for students to:	The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the level 7 learning outcomes:
<b>D1</b> Practise within a framework of professional accountability and responsibility;  <b>D2</b> Critically assesses patients including medical, social and medication histories and formulate a diagnosis.	Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lectures (D1 – D2);</li> <li>• seminars (D1 – D2);</li> <li>• use of the VLE (D1 – D2);</li> <li>• directed reading (D1 –D2).</li> </ul>
	Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• portfolio (D1, D2);</li> <li>• practice competencies (D1, D2).</li> </ul>

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### ADMISSION REGULATIONS

The regulations for this programme are the University's Standard Post Graduate Admission Regulations:

<https://intranetsp.bournemouth.ac.uk/pandptest/3a-postgraduate-admissions-regulations.doc>.

#### **Entry Criteria for all applicants**

- Employer support and suitable practice assessor /supervisor to assess clinical training
- Even if self-funding - employer support is essential. If self-employed contact admissions team for advice
- Be professionally practicing in an environment where there is an identified need for the individual to regularly use independent prescribing
- Have a current enhanced DBS in their current role
- English Language requirement – IELTS 6.5
- Ideally have evidence of credited study or equivalent in the past 5 years
- Ideally have completed an Advanced History Taking And Physical Examination Course

#### **Profession Specific criteria – see below**

##### **Entry criteria for nurses and midwives applying for Level 7**

- Registered nurse (Level 1), midwife or Specialist Community Public Health Nurse
- At least 1 year post-registration experience
- In the role in which they will prescribe for at least one year
- BSc(Hons), unclassified BSc or equivalent  
Employer confirmation that applicant is capable of safe and effective practice in Clinical/health assessment; Diagnostics/care management; Planning and evaluation of care

##### **Professional Body entry criteria for paramedics**

- Registered with the HCPC as a paramedic
- Working at an advanced practitioner or equivalent level in line with [HEE framework](#)
- At least three years relevant post-qualification experience in the clinical area in which they will be prescribing

On a developmental pathway to a Masters in Advanced Clinical Practice having already completed History Taking & Physical Examination for Advancing Practice and Assessment, Critical Reasoning and Decision-making for Advancing Clinical Practice at level 7.

##### **Professional Body entry criteria for HCPC registrants (excluding paramedics)**

- Registered with the HCPC as a registered physiotherapist, therapeutic radiographer or chiropodist/podiatrist, dietician, Diagnostic radiographer (supplementary only)
- At least three years relevant post-qualification experience in the clinical area in which they will be prescribing
- BSc(Hons), unclassified BSc or equivalent

##### **Professional Body entry criteria for Pharmacists**

Pharmacist Applicants must:

- Applicants are registered as a pharmacist with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) or, in Northern Ireland, with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI).
- Applicants are in good standing with the GPhC and/or PSNI and any other healthcare regulator with which they are registered.
- Applicants must have relevant experience in a UK pharmacy setting and be able to recognise, understand and articulate the skills and attributes required by a prescriber to act as the foundation of their prescribing practice whilst training.
- For the purposes of developing their independent prescribing practice applicants must identify an area of clinical or therapeutic practice on which to base their learning.

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Applicants must have a designated prescribing practitioner who has agreed to supervise their learning in practice. The applicant's designated prescribing practitioner must be a registered healthcare professional in Great Britain or Northern Ireland with legal independent prescribing rights, who is suitably experienced and qualified to carry out this supervisory role, and who has demonstrated CPD or revalidation relevant to this role. Although an applicant may be supervised by more than one person, only one prescriber must be the designated prescribing practitioner. The designated prescribing practitioner is the person who will certify that successful pharmacists are competent to practise as independent prescribers.

### PROGRESSION ROUTES

This is a CPD unit delivered at level 7. Students can use the credit towards MA Advanced Practice or MSc Advanced Clinical Practice/Advanced Nurse Practitioner.

### ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

The regulations for this programme are the University's Standard Postgraduate Taught Regulations at <https://intranetsp.bournemouth.ac.uk/Documents/arpp61.aspx> with the following approved exceptions:

#### Period of Registration

The maximum period of registration a student may take to complete the programme, from the first registration, is normally 1 year.

Students registered with the NMC and HCPC must complete 10 days of supervised practice (65 hours) within this period of registration. Students registered with GPhC 12 days of supervised practice (90 hours)

No compensation is allowed for this programme due to PSRB accreditation.

#### Pass Mark

Prescribing Examination - The pass mark for the examination will be 80% (assessed on a pass/fail basis)

Numeracy exam - The pass mark for the numeracy test will be 100% (assessed on a pass/ fail basis).

Coursework – Portfolio - a pass will be awarded where the overall element mark is at least 50%. (100%)

All formal elements of assessment must be awarded a pass for candidates to pass the unit.

#### Provision for failed candidates

If a student in any element of assessment fails to answer correctly any question that may result in direct harm to a patient/client or within written submissions within the clinical competencies coursework recommends treatment which may result in direct harm to a patient/client, the student will fail that element of the programme. If this occurs where a student is being reassessed, the student will be required to re-register and to re-attend the programme.

#### Attendance

100% attendance is required: the programme team maintain a register. Students who miss one day of the face-to-face taught element of the programme are required to undertake work to demonstrate they have met the learning outcomes for the session they have missed. Students who miss more than one day will be required to discuss with the programme leader and their manager which may mean withdrawal or deferment from the programme.

### WORK BASED LEARNING (WBL) AND PLACEMENT ELEMENTS

All students will be employed within a healthcare setting. They will undertake 10 days (65 hours exclusive of breaks) (12 days or 90 hours for pharmacists) supervised practice within this setting over the duration of the course and be supported and assessed by a qualified prescriber.



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### Programme Skills Matrix

### Independent and Supplementary prescribing Level 7

Unit		A 1	A 2	A 3	B 1	B 2	B 3	C 1	D 1	D 2
L 7	Independent and Supplementary prescribing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<p><b>A – Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b></p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:</p> <p><b>A1</b> Critically evaluate the options of both pharmacological and non-pharmacological approaches across the lifespan;</p> <p><b>A2</b> Apply knowledge of pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics to prescribing practice utilising national frameworks;</p> <p><b>A3</b> Demonstrate the ability to calculate drug doses and prescribing regimes within own area of practice.</p>					<p><b>C – Subject-specific/Practical Skills</b></p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p> <p><b>C1</b> Prescribe safely, appropriately and cost effectively, and discuss justification for treatment, monitoring and review responses to therapy.</p>					
<p><b>B – Intellectual Skills</b></p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p> <p><b>B1</b> Demonstrate the ability and critically discuss the shared decision making with the patient/carer about treatment options available;</p> <p><b>B2</b> Critique the legislation relevant to the practice of prescribing and discuss the influences that effect prescribing practice.</p>					<p><b>D – Transferable Skills</b></p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p> <p><b>D1</b> Practise within a framework of professional accountability and responsibility;</p> <p><b>D2</b> Critically asses patients including medical, social and medication histories and formulate a diagnosis.</p>					