



Registered nurse prescribing in the South Island

South Island Registered Nurse Prescribing Framework

Registered nurses (RNs) working in primary health care and speciality health services who have completed the specified educational requirements are able to apply to the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) to become a designated nurse prescriber (NCNZ, 2016). These nurses have additional experience, education and training and are able to prescribe medicines within their area of practice. For the purposes of this document they will be referred to as RN prescribers.

RN prescribers work in collaborative teams within primary health care and specialty services, including general practice, outpatient clinics, family planning, sexual health, public health, district and home care, and rural and remote areas.

The collaborative team setting is important so an RN prescriber can consult with an authorised prescriber if they need advice on diagnosis or treatment or if the patient's health concerns are outside their scope of practice or experience.

RN prescribers can prescribe from a restricted list of medicines for specific common and long-term conditions. These include diabetes and related conditions, hypertension, respiratory diseases including asthma and COPD, anxiety, depression, heart failure, gout, palliative care, contraception, vaccines, common skin conditions and infections.

Advancing nursing practice through the development of RN prescribing will complement and contribute to ongoing positive health outcomes for New Zealanders. RN prescribers will support improved access to health care and the reduction of barriers to treatment, especially for vulnerable or hard to reach populations.

Incorporating RN prescribers into contemporary health service models of care is closely aligned with the themes in the New Zealand Health Strategy (2016), enabling health services to be delivered closer to home.

This framework provides guidance for employers, health professionals and collaborative teams to support RNs to become RN prescribers, and achieve potential health gains for our population. It is intended to be used in conjunction with the South Island Registered Nurse Prescribing Policy and aims to:

- outline the process for an RN to become an RN prescriber
- describe the role of a prescribing mentor and prescribing supervision
- support operational managers in the design of contemporary models of care that allow for RN prescribing to be integrated into South Island health services
- support RN prescribers in ongoing competence and role development.

More detailed information on nurse prescribing is available on the NCNZ website:

<http://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz/Nurses/Nurse-Prescribing>

RN prescribing roles and responsibilities

	RN prescriber	Nurse leader/Health care team	Mentor	Employer
Areas of practice	Identify area of practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • primary health • speciality team¹ Hold current RN annual practising certificate Employed as an RN in the identified area of practice	Familiar with legislative requirements and NCNZ process Actively endorse priority areas and population needs for RN prescribing practice within their service Have clear links to professional nursing leader/advisor roles e.g. local Director of Nursing, NZNO	Authorised prescriber with knowledge of RN prescribing requirements Experience in teaching or clinical supervision Three years' recent relevant clinical practice	Sets priority areas of practice for population and ensures contemporary models of care align with the NZ Health Strategy Identify a clinical lead for RN prescribing (does not need to be a prescriber) Supports RN prescriber trainee to work in RN prescribing scope on endorsement by NCNZ
Education	Complete required study with employer's pre-approval Access professional nursing leader/advisor for support Meet clinical requirements of education	Agree on an education plan Approve and assign an appropriate prescribing mentor Negotiate ongoing support to meet educational requirements	Available to meet hours of supervision required for prescribing practicum Establish learning plan with RN prescriber trainee and support learning through case review and reflection	Support mentor input into trainee RN prescriber Discuss funding source for trainees Ensure RN prescribing is incorporated into models of care
Registration	Provide evidence to NCNZ of meeting requirements Retain annual practising certificate with RN prescriber endorsement Negotiate ongoing level of support with employer and mentor	Maintain a local register of RN prescribers Ensure localised support network is available Support employers to determine or advise on any concerns regarding RN prescribing practice Remain aware of progress, challenges and barriers for RN prescribers and/or employers	Provide ongoing mentorship and support to meet registration and audit needs or make alternative arrangements Skills and knowledge to appraise RN prescribing competence in practice area	Annual practising certificate reimbursement and monitoring of scope Notify RN prescriber of any concerns around scope of practice in a timely manner and liaise with professional leads Provide the ongoing professional development required for RN prescriber practice
Audit	Participate in audit requirements for employer and NCNZ	Review audit process and outcomes for RN prescribers	Participate in audit process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • case review • appropriateness of prescribing practice 	Ensure robust policy and governance that supports RN prescribing and prescribers System for incident and event reporting and investigation

¹ Speciality services, including general practice, outpatient clinics, family planning, sexual health, public health, district and home care, and rural and remote areas.