



Registered nurse prescribing in the South Island

South Island Registered Nurse Prescribing Policy

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. They are referred to as RN prescribers.

Principles

The following principles guide RN prescribing practice in the South Island and have been endorsed by the five South Island district health boards as represented by the five Directors of Nursing and the regional RN Prescribing Steering Group.

- South Island health services support RN prescribing as an addition to the collaborative team, to meet identified population health needs.
- All registered nurses who wish to practice as RN prescribers must discuss their intentions with their employer and their professional nursing leader before commencing study on this pathway.
- Supervision, support and mentorship is provided to trainee and certified RN prescribers, with specific roles and responsibilities for each of the following: trainee and certified RN prescribers, employers, nurse leaders and mentors.

Purpose

To ensure the practice of RN prescribing is well supported during education preparation and in daily practice as an RN prescriber.

Scope

Registered nurses employed within the South Island health system, their managers, employers and professional nursing leaders.

Nurse practitioners and midwives are outside the scope of this policy as they are authorised prescribers.

Roles and responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of trainee and certified RN prescribers, employers, nurse leaders and mentors are outlined in detail in the *South Island Registered Nurse Prescribing Framework*.

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Associated documents

Medicines (Designated Prescriber – Registered Nurses) Notice 2016. New Zealand Gazette, No. 72, 18 August 2016.

Competencies for nurse prescribers, August 2016. Nursing Council of New Zealand, 2016.

Medicines list for Registered nurse prescribing in primary health and speciality teams – Prescription, restricted (pharmacist only), pharmacy only and general sales medicines, and controlled drugs approved by the Nursing Council of New Zealand, September 2016. Nursing Council of New Zealand, 2016.

Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. New Zealand Government (Reprint as at 7 March 2017).

South Island Registered Nurse Prescribing Framework. 2018. South Island Alliance, 2018.

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