

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing (V300P)
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI)
Credit Structure ²	40 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	6 months
Intended Award	Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered with appropriate Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (GPhC/PSNI) • Have at least two years appropriate patient-orientated experience in a UK hospital, community or primary care setting following their preregistration year • Entrants must have identified an area of clinical practice in which to develop their prescribing skills and have up-to-date clinical, pharmacological and pharmaceutical knowledge relevant to their intended area of prescribing practice • Entrants should demonstrate how they reflect on their own performance and take responsibility for own CPD. • Identified Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP) for 90 hours practice supervision • A first degree or proven ability to study at masters level. • All employer responsibilities are met (see pre-course information pack for guidance) • A current DBS check (within 3 years from the start of your programme)
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2017-18 academic year⁵.

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Summary

The V300P course enables Pharmacists to acquire the non-medical prescribing qualification in independent and supplementary prescribing.

On successful completion of the programme registrant name will be put forward as appropriate for a recordable prescribing qualification with their specific Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB):

General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)

or

Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI)

This multi-professional course is offered at two levels: Honours level (6) and Masters Level (7). Teaching is delivered in Ipswich and both levels study alongside each other.

Students are required to attend the university campus for 26 academic days. You will be in school approximately 1 day per week. A small proportion of the 26 days are allocated as “self-directed leaning days/online learning”, the nature of these will be explained at the start of the course and although you will not be required to attend campus on those particular days they are an integral part of the campus based learning so you do not go into work.

In addition, the equal practice theory split of this course means you are required to organise practice based mentoring for the duration of the course. This support is essential to your development as a prescriber and must be provided by a Medical Doctor, known as the Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP). The regulators specify the required time for this practice mentoring, it is 90 hours for Pharmacists. This equates to 12 days or a half day a week for the duration of the course.

The PSRBs set the standards for the educational requirements of non-medical prescribing and this informs the curriculum. Although these requirements do not call for teaching on specific clinical areas, some specifics are included, but the overall focus is on applying the principles of prescribing to the students own specialist clinical area. It is expected therefore, that students will embrace a high degree of autonomy to apply these principles to the context of their current or future practice. In school a wide variety of key theoretical areas are timetabled, to re-iterate the emphasis is on the application of prescribing principles; the first half of the course largely looks at the developing foundation for prescribing so to give some examples: background legislation, standards and ethics, prescribing pressures, evidence based decisions, theories of consultation, and basic pharmacology principles.

The second half of the course looks more at the application of prescribing in some common clinical areas that most prescribers will come across regardless of their specialist areas of practice, so for example; cardiac, mental health, pain, reproductive health special groups (inc children/elderly).

A variety of teaching methods are used, including lecture, enquiry based learning, discussion, workshop, experiential learning and case study formats.

Throughout this programme there is a requirement by the GPhC that pharmacists exit the course being able to use common diagnostic aids e.g. stethoscope, sphygmomanometer, relevant to the condition being treated and/or the treatment response being monitored. Some separate clinical skills teaching is timetabled specifically for pharmacists.

Pharmacists are required, by the GPhC, to attend all the scheduled sessions on clinical assessment /clinical skills but may choose to opt out of the sessions on pharmacology principles in the first semester.

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

The course has been designed to facilitate students in the acquisition of a comprehensive knowledge base on which to base critical decisions and clinical judgements in the application of prescribing practice. Students therefore require a high level of support within both the academic and practice setting in order to acquire mastery of prescribing practice that within their specialist area. The role of the Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP) as supervisor within the students practice area is paramount to achieving success on the programme. The achievement of practice prescribing competencies is fundamental to this recordable qualification. Therefore the academic team work in *partnership* with the designated medical practitioners. The pharmacist is likely to require less support from the DMP with regard to pharmacology but more in respect of clinical assessment and diagnostic skills.

Course Aims

- Prepare Pharmacists to meet the required regulatory standards in order to act as Independent and Supplementary prescribers
- Extend opportunities for critical appraisal of their existing practice whilst achieving prescribing competencies in the workplace
- Enable students to engage in comprehensive enquiry with specific identified aspects of their prescribing practice

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

1. Evaluate effective history taking, assessment and consultation skills with patients/clients, parents and carers to inform working/differential diagnoses;
2. Integrate a shared approach to decision making taking account of patients/carers wishes, values, religion or culture;
3. Evaluate the political context of non-medical prescribing as applied to the individual's profession demonstrating understanding and application of the relevant legislation;
4. Critically appraise sources of information/advice and decision support systems in prescribing practice and apply the principles of evidence-based practice to decision making;
5. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the influences and pressures on prescribing practice;
6. Integrate and apply knowledge of drug actions in relation to pathophysiology of the condition being treated;

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

7. Demonstrate critical awareness of the roles and relationships of others involved in prescribing, supplying and administering medicines;
8. Demonstrate the ability to prescribe safely, rationally, cost effectively, and in consideration of the public health issues around medicines use;
9. Demonstrate an expert understanding of prescribing decisions made within an ethical framework with due consideration for equality and diversity;
10. Develop a clinical management plan within legislative requirements, critically appraise it in the context of supplementary prescribing, clearly identifying how supplementary prescribing differs from independent prescribing;
11. Critically appraise history taking and clinical assessment of the child in the context of a prescribing consultation, giving consideration to the legal, cognitive, emotional and physical differences between children and adults. Demonstrate appropriate decision making with regard to diagnosis, treatment and/or referral;
12. Apply critical analysis to the professional issues to be addressed in prescribing Off/unlicensed medicines;
13. Contribute to clinical governance and quality assurance/audit of prescribing practice through the recognition of different types of medication error;
14. Evaluate responses to medicines and modify or cease treatment as appropriate within professional scope of practice;
15. *Use common diagnostic aids e.g. stethoscope, sphygmomanometer, relevant to the condition being treated and/or the treatment response being monitored. *outcome specific to pharmacists only

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following Professional Standards and competency Frameworks:

- General Pharmaceutical Council- Prescribing standards at <http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacist-independent-prescriber>
- <http://www.psnl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Standards-and-Guidance-for-Pharmacist-Prescribing-April-2013.pdf> PNSI prescribing standards 2013
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society, (2016). A Competency Framework for all Prescribers

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Structure

The Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing comprises ONE double module at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 7			
	The Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing	40	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded the Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing are likely to have approximately 150 contact hours.

The contact hours will be a mix of lecture, seminar, practical activity, and students will also be required to participate in 78/90 hours of work based supervision. Students will normally be expected to undertake 5 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments are used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess the intended learning outcomes.

Assessment on the course overall will include a portfolio, (part academic and part practice) presentations, group work, reflective learning journals, 2 examinations and practical assessments.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and are registered with the appropriate professional body (i.e. NMC HCPC, GPHC).

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#)

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Costs

Students undertaking Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	Not applicable
Part-time UK/EU	£1,650 for the 40 credit module
Full-time International	Not applicable
Part-time International	Not applicable

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).