

Frequently Asked Questions

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Practice (RN Prescribing)



Who should enrol in the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Practice (Registered Nurse Prescribing)?

Experienced Registered Nurses (RNs) wishing to apply to the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) for authorisation to prescribe in primary health and specialty teams as a designated registered nurse prescriber.

What is a Registered Nurse prescriber?

A RN prescriber is an experienced nurse who holds a post graduate diploma and is authorised by the NCNZ to prescribe some medications for a range of common and long term conditions. RN prescribers are required to work in collaborative teams with an authorised prescriber available for consultation.

Please refer to the NCNZ website regarding the features of the work environment and support necessary for students wishing to become an RN prescriber. You should also review the medication list to ensure the medications included are relevant to your area of practice.

What are the entry requirements for the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Practice (Registered Nurse Prescribing)?

Academic entry is via an undergraduate nursing degree
or
contact us to discuss your situation

What are the required courses in the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Practice (Registered Nurse Prescribing)?

| | PART TIME STUDY Courses are offered in both semesters | |
|---------------|---|--|
| Year 1 | PGHL850 Advanced Practice: Pathophysiology | PGHL851 Advanced Practice: Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning |
| Year 2 | PGHL852 Advanced Practice: Pharmacotherapeutics | PGHL853 Registered Nurse Prescribing Practicum |

What are the entry requirements for the RN prescribing practicum?

You must have achieved a minimum of a B grade average for each of the first three courses and:

- Hold a current practising certificate
- Have three years equivalent full time practice in the area you intend to prescribe
- Have employer support
- Have the support of a collaborative interprofessional health care team including a prescribing mentor

Who is eligible to be my prescribing mentor?

Your prescribing mentor must be either an experienced Nurse Practitioner or Doctor. The prescribing mentor is required to supervise 150 hours of prescribing practice and assess your practice against the RN prescribing competencies.

Am I required to be onsite?

Most of the programme is delivered online including MTeams meetings with lecturers and other students. The only courses with compulsory onsite days are:

PGHL851 Advanced Practice: Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning (2 blocks of 2 days plus a half day = total of 4^{1/2} days)

And PGHL853 Registered Nurse Prescribing Practicum (1- 2 days)

How long will it take to complete the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Practice (RN Prescribing)?

Most students complete the post graduate diploma part time over two years. This can be reduced to 18 months with one semester of full-time study.

How many hours per week do I need to plan to study?

You should expect to spend approximately 15-17 hours per week.

If you are interested in this qualification please contact:

Please contact us at: deptofhealthpractice@ara.ac.nz for details.

Use the NCNZ web site for more information on:

- Guidelines for registered nurses prescribing in primary health and specialty teams
- Guideline - prescribing practicum for registered nurses preparing to prescribe in primary health and specialty teams
- Competencies for nurse prescribers
- Application for registered nurse prescribing in primary health and specialty teams

nursingcouncil.org.nz/