

## Allied Health Professional (AHP) Managers Guide

Welcome to the Allied Health Professional (AHP) Managers guide for considering staff applications to undertake a prescribing course.

Whether you are new to managing prescribers, or are newly introducing prescribing to your service this will help you make sure you have (or get) all the information you need to inform an appropriate decision.

If you are a Uni-Professional Lead AHP or a Team Lead working alongside a Uni-Professional Lead for an AHP service, and prescribing will be new within your department/service - please discuss with your Uni-Professional Lead and your AHP Sector Lead in the first instance before you attempt to follow the appended flowchart. There is considerable preparatory work to undertake before introducing prescribing and you should seek advice on whether it is timely/appropriate to undertake this. (Please note for those AHP services whom do not report to an AHP Sector Lead - where there is reference in this document to a Sector Lead this refers to Head of Service or line manager in your management structure - this applies throughout this whole document.

Prescribing can be a valuable addition to an AHP role, enabling more timely access to medications and thus more person-centred care. It is a key element of many advanced clinical practice roles and can be a core or essential requirement for some programmes of study and roles. (*E.g. First Contact Practitioner Physiotherapist*).

It is also a qualification which requires considerable knowledge and expertise in pathophysiology, clinical assessment, diagnosis, and clinical management planning in addition to excellent communication skills.

Before new introduction of prescribing to a role, a lot of preparation is required to ensure that professional, clinical, and fiscal governance measures are in place. To make the case for this you will need to provide appropriate detail to ensure that all these aspects have been considered and that there are plans in place to make sure that the staff involved are able to prescribe on completion of their studies.

These will include:

1. Service Needs Analysis - link to individual services workforce plans and refer to AHP NMP Guidance Document.
2. Educational Needs Analysis - demonstrating appropriate support and training/backfill budget identified.
3. Pharmaceutical budget arrangements/agreements (if working in primary care or community/outpatient settings).
4. Identify appropriate mechanisms for issue of prescriptions/access to medications prescribed.
5. Professional and clinical governance arrangements have been considered e.g. Practice Assessment and Practice Supervision, addition of prescribing to job descriptions, arrangements for assurance of ongoing competency: clinical supervision and CPD.
6. Commitment of the staff member to be able to undertake and complete the programme and to work within the required governance framework will be considered by the AHP Uni-Professional Lead in the sector alongside the AHP Sector Lead with responsibility for AHP practice within the service concerned. There may be requirement for some consultation with the AHP director in NHSG, particularly related to central funding pots as an example.

The approval of the AHP Uni-Professional Lead and AHP Sector Lead is required before any applications to study for a prescribing qualification will be signed-off by the NHS Grampian NMP Lead - contactable at [gram.acateam@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.acateam@nhs.scot)

For fuller information at any point, please refer to the policy on the [NMP webpages](#) or contact [gram.acateam@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.acateam@nhs.scot)

References

[NHSG Staff Policy and Framework for Non-Medical Prescribing including Independent Contractors - Version 2](#)

