Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Q. I want to become a registered nurse prescriber, what do I need to do?

To apply for registered nurse prescribing in primary health and specialty teams, nurses must have:
- Completed a minimum of three years of clinical practice in the relevant area of prescribing practice;
- Have employer support;
- Completed a Council approved postgraduate diploma in registered nurse prescribing for long term and common conditions.

The postgraduate diploma in registered nurse prescribing for common and long term conditions prepares registered nurses with advanced knowledge and includes:
- Pathophysiology
- Pharmacology
- Assessment and diagnostic reasoning in relation to the clinical management of and prescribing for patients with long term and common conditions in New Zealand
- Prescribing practicum.

Q. I have already completed a postgraduate diploma or masters in nursing, what further study do I need to complete?

Nurses who have completed a postgraduate diploma or masters in nursing will need to ensure this study aligns with the course/paper content of the postgraduate diploma (please see the Education programme standards for the postgraduate diploma in registered nurse prescribing for long term and common conditions). Nursing Council will assess completed course/papers and/or qualifications as part of an application for authorisation to become a registered nurse prescriber only.

Nurses who have completed a postgraduate diploma or masters in nursing will be required to provide an assessment against the registered nurse prescribing competencies as part of their application. For nurses who have already completed a prescribing practicum paper, this will mean a period of supervised practice in their work place with an assessment against the prescribing competencies completed by an authorised prescriber.

August 2016