

International context of RN prescribing

Country/ Jurisdiction	Level of Qualification	Defined Area of Practice	Length of Study	Entry Requirements	Level of Prescribing Rights
New Zealand	Postgraduate diploma	Primary health and specialty teams	One year full-time study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RN registration • Three years of full-time equivalent practice in the area where they intend to prescribe with at least one year of the total practice in New Zealand or a similar healthcare context. • Completion of a supervised practicum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated prescriber: able to prescribe specified medicines. • Works within a collaborative multi-disciplinary team. Must work with an authorised prescriber (NP or doctor) available for consultation. • Able to diagnose and treat common conditions (e.g. asthma, diabetes, hypertension) within a collaborative interdisciplinary team.
New Zealand	Work-based education programme	Community health	Six-seven months part-time learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RN registration • Three years' clinical experience with at least one year in area of prescribing practice. • Complete period of supervised practice with authorised prescriber. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated prescriber: able to prescribe specified medicines. • Works within a collaborative multi-disciplinary team. Must work with an authorised prescriber (NP or doctor) available for consultation. <p>Prescribes from a limited list of medicines from which they can prescribe within their competence and area of practice.</p>
Australia	Postgraduate certificate	No	Six months full-time study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RN registration • Two years' full-time clinical practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated prescribers. • Prescribes in partnership (with a NP or doctor) in a prescribing agreement. • Qualified to administer, obtain, possess prescribe, supply and/or use specific medicines.
Ireland	Graduate certificate (Level 7 NZQF)	No	26 weeks full-time study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RN registration • Three years of clinical experience in the last five years, with one-year full time experience in the specific area of practice. • Employer confirmation and a supervision agreement with a medical practitioner. 	Able to prescribe any medication within their scope of practice.

United Kingdom	V100 course (as part of a specialist practitioner qualification) or V150 course for those who wish to prescribe but have not done a specialist course.	Community practitioner nurse	10 weeks plus	No practice time requirement. Education institute decides on whether nurse ready to complete.	Able to prescribe from a limited community formulary (Nurse Prescribers' Formulary for Community Practitioners in the British National Formulary).
United Kingdom	V300 course	Independent prescriber	10 weeks plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RN registration for at least one year. • Confirmation that the applicant is capable at a level of proficiency appropriate to the programme and their intended area of prescribing practice in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clinical/health assessment - Diagnostics/care management - Planning and evaluation of care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent prescriber • Prescribes from the British Formulary.
Finland	45 credits at Master's level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health 	One year full-time study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RN registration • Three years of experience in a prescription-related field within the last five years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted right to prescribe medicines used in treatment from pharmacies and from a list published by the Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services. • May prescribe for preventative treatment or in continuation of pharmacotherapy prescribed by a doctor.
The Netherlands	PG course in specialisation with a component of pharmacotherapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetes • Oncology • Asthma • COPD 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated prescriber • Able to prescribe a limited number of medicines within their speciality after a diagnosis has been made by a physician.
Canada (Ontario)	Graduate certificate or approved programme as part of undergraduate	No	One year maximum part time or full time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RN registration • Two years of full time work experience in nursing (graduate certificate) • Complete within 1 calendar year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to prescribe in hospitals by law • Can only prescribe from a limited number of categories including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunisations • Contraception • Travel health

	degree (none seem to be available)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topical wound care • Smoking cessation • Anaesthetics • Allergic reaction • OTC medications
Canada (Alberta)	Approved programme (1 for all of Alberta at present)	Yes, specific clinical practice area may be related to the type of care (e.g., wound care), practice setting (e.g., emergency department), specific issue (e.g., sexually transmitted infection), or medical diagnostic grouping (e.g., diabetes or other chronic disease management).	2x 13 week modules online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RN registration • 3000 clinical hours (750 within specific clinical area for prescribing) • Complete approved program • Clinical support tool specific to the clinical area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to prescribe all schedule I medicines (excluding controlled drugs and substances) – an extensive list of 1,679 prescription and OTC medicines • Able to order relevant diagnostic tests