

Proposed standards of competence for registered nurse prescribers

Board-approved RN prescriber scope statement

The registered nurse prescriber scope of practice is built on the platform of the registered nurse scope of practice. Registered nurse prescribers must meet the Nursing Council of New Zealand's regulatory and professional requirements.

Registered nurse prescribers have a post graduate diploma or equivalent qualification, that develops the required scientific knowledge including pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and assessment and diagnostic reasoning skills, to safely prescribe.

Registered nurse prescribers undertake comprehensive assessments, plan care, order and interpret diagnostic and laboratory tests where appropriate, and diagnose and prescribe within their area of practice and competence. Registered nurse prescribers must have access to prescribing guidance from an experienced prescriber when appropriate.

Registered nurse prescribers have the clinical knowledge to prescribe medicines and medical products consistent with their education, relevant legislative requirements and assessment against the Nursing Council of New Zealand's standards of competence for registered nurse prescribing.

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The proposed RN prescriber standards of competence are the same as the [RN standards of competence](#) with the addition of a pou specific to prescribing practice.

This additional pou is for RNs who have met the requirements for the Council approved RN prescriber scope.

Pou seven: Rongoā haumarū - safe prescribing practice

Safe prescribing practice requires comprehensive information gathering, diagnostic reasoning, shared decision-making, clear communication, and ongoing evaluation. The descriptors in this pou ensure the safe and effective initiation, continuation, modification, or cessation of pharmacological therapy within the prescribers' area of practice and competence. Registered nurse prescribers must have access to prescribing guidance from an experienced prescriber and work in collaboration with the wider health team.¹



Descriptor 7.1	Ensures health equity, Kawa Whakaruruhau and cultural safety are considered in all prescribing decisions.
Descriptor 7.2	Incorporates evidence-based medicine and treatment options to provide therapeutically effective and safe treatment to meet individual and whānau needs.
Descriptor 7.3	Performs a comprehensive assessment which includes a clinical examination and review of medical and medicines history.
Descriptor 7.4	Requests and interprets relevant investigations including laboratory or radiological tests, to inform diagnostic reasoning and treatment planning.
Descriptor 7.5	Integrates the outcome of tests, investigations and assessment to develop a diagnosis and treatment plan. Consults with a nurse practitioner or medical practitioner for any diagnostic uncertainty.
Descriptor 7.6	Ensures the medicine or treatment prescribed and the intended outcomes are communicated in a manner that is understood by the individual and whānau to support informed consent. Ensures a medicines safety plan and follow up are in place.
Descriptor 7.7	Issues prescriptions compliant with relevant legislation, regulatory frameworks, guidelines, codes of practice and organisational policies and procedures.
Descriptor 7.8	Demonstrates knowledge of actions, indications, dose, contraindications, interactions, cautions and adverse effects. Ensures dose, frequency, route of administration, and quantity/period of supply are appropriate and safe. Prescribes or deprescribes based on clinical need.
Descriptor 7.9	Provides accurate and complete information to the health care team when implementing new medicines or treatments, modifying existing medicines or treatment plans, or transferring care.
Descriptor 7.10	Ensures follow up and review of medicines and treatment with the individual, whānau and wider health team as required.



- Descriptor 7.11 Identifies and maintains personal and professional boundaries relevant to prescribing to ensure real or perceived conflicts of interest are declared and managed.
- Descriptor 7.12 Participates in regular peer review, case review and audit to ensure safe and competent prescribing practice.

