

Non-Medical Prescribing Commissioned Courses in Kent, Surrey and Sussex

Information for Employers

The Non-Medical Prescribing (NMP) course has been commissioned since 2015, and is accessible to all staff working within Kent Surrey and Sussex whom provide NHS services to patients where non-medical prescribing is appropriate to their role.

What is provided within this commissioned course?

The NMP courses commissioned are stand-alone programmes designed to achieve status as an independent prescriber recognised through IP annotation with appropriate regulatory bodies.

Courses that are commissioned within Kent, Surrey and Sussex are outlined in the NMP factsheet, available on our website.

What are the professional / skill / experience requirements of the course?

Requirements slightly vary dependant on the profession of the applicant.

In general the requirements are:

- Registration with the appropriate professional/regulatory body (NMC or HCPC)
- appropriate experience in the area of practice in which they will be prescribing
- the ability to study at academic level 6 or level 7
- at least 3 years post-registration clinical experience (Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals)
- appropriate numeracy skills
- appropriate diagnostic knowledge
- a named Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP) who will facilitate, supervise and support the student during their clinical placement

The requirements of each course are listed on the university websites (addresses are available on our NMP factsheet).

What is NOT provided within this commissioned course?

- HEE KSS only funds the cost of the university course. HEE KSS does not fund work place costs e.g. supervision or remuneration for time on the course.
- Those that are on an existing course with a module leading to IP annotation as an option will not be eligible for these places.
- Formal advanced assessment is not included and applicants should have diagnostic knowledge and skills prior to application.
- HEE KSS does not fund other courses not outlined in the NMP factsheet above.

What are the employer's responsibilities?

Each NMP applicant will require the following support, which will need to be signed off by a local NMP lead or manager on application:

- That the applicant is in a role where they will be able to benefit patients by prescribing once qualified and there is a NHS service need
- That the applicant has the clinical and diagnostic skills to support prescribing as required. (The applicant also signs to declare this on the application).
- That the applicant will be released for study days and given support supervised practice days, as per minimum requirements of the regulator.
- There will be a prescribing budget available to meet the costs of prescriptions on completion of training

It should be noted that HEE KSS monitors each course for performance of participants. Any issues arising from this monitoring in regards to trainees from a specific employer will be investigated e.g. drop out rates, progression (including failures and those that defer), problems with accessing prescribing budgets post qualification.

Assisting staff undertaking the NMP course

It should be made clear to staff wishing to undertake the course the requirements of the course, this also includes the following:

- The course is very intensive, representing up to 60 academic credits, which equates to 600 hours of effort. Although some of this effort can be achieved via the study and practice day, applicants should be aware that they will be required to study during their personal time to pass the course.
- The course requires academic level writing, therefore those staff that have not been in course of study for a substantial amount of time may need assistance, which is available via the universities.
- Attendance at study days is mandatory.
- Once the course is completed the applicants are required to apply to their professional body for the independent prescribing annotation. This can be lengthy and staff should be encouraged to initiate this process as soon as qualification confirmed. Please note, annotation status is monitored by HEE KSS.

Allocation of NMP places on commissioned courses

HEE KSS commissioned the number of NMP places against forecast demand from Trust and CCGs across the region, via a scoping exercise that takes place once a year. Numbers submitted via the scoping exercise is not a confirmation of allocated numbers.

The approach taken is of benefit to trusts / organisations as you can put as many staff (or as few) as you need forward for the course (assuming they are in post and adequately supported). The places available are accessed direct from the universities, and often places are on a first come first served basis assuming they fulfil the entry requirements.

The demand for the course exceeds demand therefore Trusts / Organisations are advised to encourage them to apply as soon as possible as there are waiting lists on the courses. Information on application deadlines on the NMP factsheet.