Overview of prescribing competencies and the Health Practitioner Prescribing Pathway Project

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COMPETENCIES REQUIRED TO PRESCRIBE MEDICINES

Putting quality use of medicines into practice
The structure of the competencies

The seven competency areas in the Prescribing Competencies Framework each describe an activity essential for prescribing. The order in which they are presented does not imply a hierarchical order of importance; all are equally important for ensuring that prescribing is judicious, appropriate, safe and effective.

Competency Area 1
Understands the person and their clinical needs

Competency Area 2
Understands the treatment options and how they support the person's clinical needs

Competency Area 3
Works in partnership with the person to develop and implement a treatment plan

Competency Area 4
Communicates the treatment plan clearly to other health professionals

Competency Area 5
Monitors and reviews the person's response to treatment

Horizontal Competency Area H1
Practices professionally

Horizontal Competency Area H2
Communicates and collaborates effectively with the person and other health professionals

The horizontal competencies (H1 and H2) are competencies that health professionals integrate with the other competency areas during the prescribing cycle.
COMPETENCY AREA

Describes a particular professional activity.

Introduction

Each competency area begins with an introductory section that summarises the focus for each competency.

ELEMENT

The competency areas are then broken down into elements that describe the specific processes, actions, and tasks that health professionals carry out when prescribing.

Performance criteria

The performance criteria for each competency area describe the performance required in practice and break the elements into the observable behaviours or results that are expected of competent prescribers.

Evidence examples

Evidence examples provide cues for assessing prescribing performance. They are examples only, and should be customised for the scope of practice and role the prescriber performs in the workplace.

Knowledge, skills and behaviours

Each competency area also ends with knowledge, skills, and behaviours subsections describing the level of underpinning knowledge, skills and behaviours that prescribers require and integrate when performing the competency.
How can the competency framework be used?

• Guide planning
• Inform training syllabi
• Guide accreditation
• Provide an assessment framework
• Assist standards and guidelines development
• Inform stakeholders
Health Workforce Australia

- Health Practitioners Prescribing Pathway Project
- Wide representation on Steering Committee
- Wide public consultation
- Considered various models
- Project completed
- Final report to HWA Board and then to Ministers
Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway

Step 1
Complete education and training
The health professional completes prescribing education and training that is consistent with their scope of practice and the models of prescribing they are involved in.

Safety and quality requirements
- National Prescribing Competency Framework
- Accreditation Standards
- Safe prescribing models

Roles and Responsibilities
- Prescribers
- Education Providers
- Accreditation Councils
- Consumer Representatives

Step 2
Obtain recognition from the National Board of competence to prescribe
The health professional seeks and receives recognition of their competence to prescribe from their National Board.

Safety and quality requirements
- Registration Standards
- National Board Policy Guidelines
- Safe prescribing models

Roles and Responsibilities
- Prescribers
- National Boards
- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
- Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council
- Consumer Representatives

Step 3
Ensure authorisation to prescribe
The health professional ensures they can prescribe medicines according to the legislation in their state or territory.

Safety and quality requirements
- State and Territory Legislation

Roles and Responsibilities
- Prescribers
- Jurisdictions

Step 4
Prescribe medicines within scope of practice
The health professional prescribes within a safe model of prescribing and works collaboratively with the consumer and the healthcare team for safe and quality care of the person receiving treatment.

Safety and quality requirements
- Safe Practice Standards
- National Medicines Policy - Safe and Quality Use of Medicines
- Information and decision support systems
- Safe prescribing models

Roles and Responsibilities
- Consumers and carers
- Prescribers
- Health Services
- Employers
- Regulators
- Advisory Bodies
- Professional Associations

Step 5
Maintain and enhance competence to prescribe
The health professional maintains and continues to develop their competence to prescribe.

Safety and quality requirements
- CPD Standards
- Professional Development Guidelines
- Self-reflection

Roles and Responsibilities
- Prescribers
- Continuing education providers
- Professional Associations
- National Boards
- Accreditation Councils
- Consumer Representatives
Download a copy of the NPS document – Competencies required to prescribe medicines.