

## Guidance on Choosing your Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP)

A designated medical practitioner (DMP) is a medical practitioner who directs and supervises a non-medical prescriber's period of learning in practice – a required element of non-medical prescribing (NMP) qualifications. They will also be responsible for assessing whether the learning outcomes have been met and whether the trainee has acquired certain competencies.

### Eligibility criteria for becoming a DMP

The DMP must be a registered medical practitioner who:

- Has normally had at least three years recent clinical experience for a group of patients / clients in the relevant field of practice
- Is within a GP practice and is either vocationally trained or is in possession of a certificate of equivalent experience from the Joint Committee for Post-graduate Training in General Practice Certificate **or** is a specialist registrar, clinical assistant or a consultant within a NHS Trust or other NHS employer
- Has the support of the employing organisation or GP practice to act as the DMP who will provide supervision, support and opportunities to develop competence in prescribing practice
- Has some experience or training in teaching and / or supervising in practice
- Normally works with the trainee prescriber. If this is not possible (such as in nurse-led services or community pharmacy), arrangements can be agreed for another doctor to take on the role of the DMP, provided the above criteria are met and the learning in practice relates to the clinical area in which the trainee prescriber will ultimately be carrying out their prescribing role.

## What is a Designated Medical Practitioner Expected to Do?

The DMP has a crucial role in educating and assessing non-medical prescribers. The non-medical prescribing student must spend 12 days in practice (90 hours for pharmacists, 78 hours for nurses) and the DMPs role is to support the student during their time in practice.

This involves:

- Establishing a learning contract with the trainee
- Planning a learning programme which will provide the opportunity for the trainee to meet their learning objectives and gain competency in prescribing
- Facilitating learning by encouraging critical thinking and reflection
- Providing dedicated time and opportunities for the trainee to observe how the DMP conducts a consultation / interview with patients and / or carers and the development of a management plan
- Allowing opportunities for the trainee to carry out consultations and suggest clinical management and prescribing options, which are then discussed with the DMP
- Helping ensure that the trainees integrate theory with practice
- Taking opportunities to allow in-depth discussion and analysis of clinical management using a random case analysis approach, when patient care and prescribing behaviour can be examined further.
- Assessing and verifying that, by the end of the course, the trainee is competent to assume the prescribing role.
- Taking responsibility for signing off competencies
- Working in collaboration with other support systems for students including the personal tutor.

Prior to undertaking to role, the DMP must ensure that:

- he/she has time to supervise the student effectively
- he/she can attend an induction session provided by the university

Prospective Non-Medical Prescribers should be aware that the DMP must be sufficiently impartial to the outcome for the student and should not be the same individual as the person sponsoring the student to undertake the programme, nor should they be related to the student.

Although it is a little dated, the National Prescribing Centre (NPC) has written guidance for the role of the Designated Medical Practitioner:

['Training non-medical prescribers in practice: A guide to help doctors prepare for and carry out the role of designated medical practitioner'](#).

This guide was published prior to some of the more recent changes in extending prescribing responsibilities legislation, so the newer types of prescriber are not reflected in the guide – however the DMP's roles and responsibilities remain the same.