



Midland Collaborative designated Registered Nurse Prescriber in Community Health (designated RNPCH) recertification programme

The Midland Collaborative of five DHBs and eight PHOs within the Midland geographical area (including Pinnacle MHN) have applied to Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) to be approved as recertification programme providers. We are currently awaiting notification of approval, so in readiness for this we are inviting Expressions of Interest from Registered Nurses (RN), via an application process (which will transfer over if we are successful and the RN and their employing organisation remain committed).

The recertification programme delivers education and training to prepare an RN to safely manage care for normally healthy people presenting with common acute illness using a limited formulary approved for the community health setting.

Midland Collaborative designated RNPCH recertification programme Intent: meeting population needs in the Midland Region

The designated RNPCH recertification programme reflects a commitment to achieve equity in health outcomes for Māori, Pasifika peoples and communities with health inequities; with associated responsibility in reducing inequity in health for our populations, and in provision of safe, quality healthcare services by professionals who are well trained and fit for purpose.

Midland Collaborative designated RNPCH recertification programme course

Once the RN is successfully recertified as a designated RNPCH, they must notify the Midland Collaborative nominated nurse lead in the locality

Queries or application

Email or phone Hilde Mullins nurse lead for further information. Mobile: 027 552 7783

or,

- Complete your Applicant and Employer Support Form and email to:
Hilde.mullins@pinnacle.health.nz

Frequently asked Questions – FAQs

How do I apply?

- Application is via an Expression of Interest form – this must be completed by all applicants and their employer. Please speak with your employer first, to ensure you meet the eligibility requirements and have their support – it is essential to have employer support and sign-off for you to be eligible to take part in the programme

What are the entry criteria for the programme?

- A current NZ RN annual practicing certificate
- Minimum of three years clinical experience with at least one year in the area of practice you will be prescribing
- Expression of interest form- Applicant and Employer Support Form completed and submitted to the Midland Collaborative nominated nurse lead in your locality
- RNs must have access to clinical pathways to help inform treatment options. Demonstrated competence in using these pathways is a requirement. Competent use of standing orders is an advantage, but not a requirement
- PDRP programme participation, employer's credentialing programme or equivalent

What are the education and training requirements?

- The designated RNPCH education and training programme is designed to provide preparation for an RN to prescribe within the RN scope. On completion of the twelve month programme an RN will be able to prescribe from the community nurse medicines list using existing clinical pathways to guide decision making and medication selection.

Course components:

There are two main components of the Midland Collaborative designated RNPCH programme:

1. A theoretical component

- Six compulsory self- directed online learning modules via Ko Awatea
- Seven compulsory virtual group sessions of 2 - 2.5 hours delivered via zoom, learning will be facilitated by the Midland Nurse Practitioner workforce delivered within a culturally competent nursing framework. This will consolidate the self -directed learning with further theoretical knowledge to inform the practical application within the nurse's work setting

2. A clinical practice component

- Includes clinical supervision provided by an authorised prescriber (e.g. a GP or Nurse Practitioner) within the work setting, with structured meetings to develop knowledge, and to support completion of a learning log using case studies to demonstrate competence
- An additional workplace mentor who can provide support, coaching, guidance
- Development of an electronic prescribing portfolio
- Submission of the electronic portfolio to the Midland Collaborative designated RNPCH recertification programme for review and endorsement, to enable the RN to apply to NCNZ with the required documents for recertification as a designated RNPCH
- Application by RN to NCNZ with all required documents and current fee to apply for recertification (via MyNC on the NCNZ website)

How long does the programme take to complete?

- It is expected that the programme will be completed within a year: up to six months to complete the online and virtual group learning, and a further six months for development of the electronic prescribing portfolio through clinical experience and support until the clinical supervisor endorses competence. This may be achieved in an earlier time frame.
- You will need to ensure you and your employer can identify and agree an authorised prescriber supervisor, and the required release time

Who can be a clinical supervisor?

- Clinical Supervisors must be authorised prescribers (e.g. a GP or a Nurse Practitioner)
- A named Clinical Supervisor is essential to support the required learning and development

Will I gain academic credits?

- RN Prescribing in Community Health does not provide academic credits and is not a post graduate qualification.
- The study is equal to level 7 (e.g. smear or diabetes level 7 course). It is not post graduate level (university level) and each RN will be recertified as a designated RNPCH able to prescribe from the specified formulary on the NCNZ website

https://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz/Public/Nursing/Nurse_prescribing/RN_prescribing_in_community_health/NCNZ/nursing-section/Registered_nurse_prescribing_in_community_health.aspx?hkey=01dfa242-5385-4b65-a501-e21955944e0b

How much does the course cost?

- There is no cost to participate in the recertification programme
- Employers are required to support the RN with release time for e.g. study hours to access education and training, and to support protected time with the clinical supervisor. Longer appointments to facilitate learning may be required
- There is a registration fee (\$70- as at July 2020) payable to NCNZ for registration as a designated RN prescriber in community health

What can I prescribe?

- There is a limited formulary of prescription and over the counter medicines – to be found on the NCNZ website – ‘Medicines list for registered nurses prescribing in community health July 2019’:

https://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz/Public/Nursing/Nurse_prescribing/Registered_nurse_prescribing_in_community_health/NCNZ/nursing-section/Registered_nurse_prescribing_in_community_health.aspx?hkey=6f9b0230-0753-4271-9a81-0ee990032959

Please note: completion of a certificate in sexual health and contraception through Family Planning Association (FPA) will extend the formulary available to the nurse if they can demonstrate competence in this area of practice. Currently only FPA have the required course to enable this, but the Midland Collaborative are intending to develop an online course with NCNZ, that satisfies NCNZ requirements:

<https://www.familyplanning.org.nz/courses>

How will this benefit my patients?

- You will be able to support patients presenting with common skin conditions, common aches and pains, ear infections, rheumatic fever prophylaxis and ongoing treatment, urinary infections, constipation.

If a patient living with a long- term condition presents acutely with an UTI for example, can I prescribe for them?

- RN prescribing in community health is for normally health individuals. If your patient has a long-term condition it is important to work collaboratively with the patient’s usual medical care provider and agree management

What does a mentor do and do I need one?

- There is an expectation that you have a mentor to support you on your journey to become a designated RNPCH. Your mentor may be a nurse or colleague and should be someone who can provide support, guidance and advice.

What will I need to do to pass the course?

You must meet all the requirements determined by Nursing Council NZ:

- Evidence of completion of the required Ko Awatea modules and 16.5 hours of virtual learning study sessions

- Complete an electronic designated RNPCH portfolio that includes:
 - Two case studies demonstrating a cultural approach incorporating Māori/Pasifika models of care, using assessment and diagnostic reasoning, clinical decision support tools, outlining a plan of care and treatment and evaluation in partnership with the patient and whanau
 - Evidence of the 11 NCNZ prescribing competencies for designated RNPCH being met via self-review and sign-off by clinical supervisor
 - Clinical learning log detailing assessment and prescribing decisions within a holistic and culturally appropriate framework
 - Clinical supervisor endorsement letter

What is the process I need to follow to be endorsed as a designated RNPCH prescriber?

This is a two stage process:

1. Electronic submission of your portfolio to the Midland Collaborative nominated lead nurse in your locality who will arrange assessment, notify you of the outcome and provide an endorsement letter if you are successful
2. Electronic Submission of all required documents to NCNZ by you (via your individual MyNC portal) upon endorsement from the Midland Collaborative

How often will the courses be run?

- The Midland Collaborative will be offering courses every few months in the first instance. We hope the first course will commence early November, the second course commencing February 2021

Will I be paid more once I am able to prescribe?

- This is ultimately up to your employer - NCNZ consider this to be within the RN scope of practice

Will the competencies I meet in this programme transfer into a full professional development portfolio?

- They will contribute. Alternatively, if you have a current assessed full portfolio, you must also complete the 11 prescribing competencies outlined in the programme – it is the 11 prescribing competencies that must be submitted as part of your RNPCH electronic prescribing portfolio.