

Purpose of this procedure:

Non-medical prescribing refers to the practice of registered healthcare professionals, other than doctors or dentists, prescribing medicines. This includes nurses, pharmacists, optometrists and other allied health professionals, who have undergone additional training and possess the necessary regulatory qualifications to prescribe within their area of expertise.

The legal authority for NMP is underpinned by national legislation and professional standards, which have evolved significantly since the initial restrictions of the Medicines Act 1968.

Following recommendations from the Cumberlege Report (1986), prescribing rights were gradually extended beyond doctors and dentists. The Health and Social Care Act (2001) introduced supplementary prescribing, and subsequent legislative changes enabled non-medical prescribing for nurses and pharmacists in 2006, later expanding to other allied health professionals.

NHS Lothian has two separate prescribing leads to support different professional groups, a Nurse, Midwifery and Allied Health Professional (NMAHP) Lead and a Pharmacist Lead.

Responsibilities include:

- Promotion and coordination
- Clinical governance
- Support and development
- Strategic development

Non-medical prescribers in NHS Lothian must comply with the NHS Lothian Non-Medical Prescribing Framework.

The framework should be used in conjunction with:

- Relevant professional codes of conduct and professional standards
- [The Royal Pharmaceutical Society* Competency Framework for Prescribers 2021](#)
- [NHS Lothian Safe Use of Medicines Policy and Procedures](#)
- Relevant NHS Lothian policy, procedures and guidelines

The Framework

[Non - Medical Prescribing Framework](#)

Associated materials/references:

[NHS Lothian Safe Use of Medicines Policy](#)

[Safe Use of Medicines Policy](#)

[The Human Medicines Regulations 2012](#)

[RPS English Competency Framework 3.pdf](#)

[Controlled Drugs Procedures](#)

[Formulary | East Region Formulary](#)