

Guidance Statement

Enrolment in the postgraduate certificate programme in pharmacist prescribing

Background

The Pharmacy Council requires an accredited university-based postgraduate qualification in pharmacist prescribing for registration in the Pharmacist Prescriber scope of practice.

Accredited programmes are:

- Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Pharmacy in Prescribing (University of Auckland)
- Postgraduate Certificate in Pharmacist Prescribing (University of Otago)

In July 2019, after a comprehensive review of prescriber programmes, Council removed its requirement for completion of a post-graduate Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy as a prerequisite for enrolment in the postgraduate certificate pharmacist prescriber programme.

Council believes that an appropriately trained pharmacy workforce contributes to better health outcomes through pharmacists undertaking more complex patient-centred models of pharmacy and multidisciplinary healthcare. For some pharmacists, new roles will include prescribing.

Preparation for enrolment

We recognise that pharmacists from different practice backgrounds and levels of experience may wish to undertake the prescriber course.

Council has an expectation that pharmacists applying to undertake the prescribing course already have at least two years of post-registration experience in collaborative, patient-facing practice that is relevant to the area of practice in which they plan to prescribe.

Pharmacists are also expected to discuss their qualifications and career experience with the university to establish whether any additional actions may support their success in the prescriber programme.

Each university determines entry requirements for its programmes. Council expects universities to consider the totality of qualifications, training and individual experience, and provide enabling advice to applicants on actions to increase the likelihood of their successful completion of the pharmacist prescriber programme.