

Registration Requirements for the Pharmacist Prescriber Scope of Practice

An applicant must satisfy all the following requirements to apply for full registration in the Pharmacist Prescriber Scope of Practice:

Registration requirements

- a) Hold a practising certificate in the Pharmacist scope of practice;
- b) Have at least three (3) years of recent and appropriate post registration experience working in a [collaborative health team environment](#);
- c) Hold a qualification set by the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand ('the Council') for the purpose of the pharmacist prescriber scope of practice;
- d) Submit a Practice Plan, endorsed by the clinical lead, which includes evidence to confirm that their prescribing practice occurs in a collaborative health team environment; and
- e) Declare that their current practice meet relevant standards from [Competence Standards for Aotearoa New Zealand Pharmacy Profession](#).

Each of the above requirements is explained below:

Requirement a) *Hold a practising certificate in the Pharmacist scope of practice.*

Applicants must first be registered with the Council as a pharmacist and hold a current practising certificate; the Pharmacist Prescriber scope is an additional scope of practice.

Requirement b) *Have at least three years of recent and appropriate post registration experience working in a collaborative health team environment.*

The Council places paramount importance on recent, relevant experience in the area in which the pharmacist would be practising as a Pharmacist Prescriber.

Applicants holding a postgraduate diploma in clinical pharmacy, or equivalent, are considered to have the level of clinical knowledge needed to support advanced practice and may be registered without conditions in the Pharmacist Prescriber scope of practice.

Applicants will need to submit a curriculum vitae (CV) including details of qualifications, work history and the clinical aspects of their work experience (breadth & depth) within a collaborative team. Applicants that do not meet this requirement may be initially registered¹ with restrictions on their practice.

¹ Before Council finalises registration decisions, applicants will have opportunities to make submissions on any proposal to deviate from allowing unconditional registration in the Pharmacist Prescriber scope of practice.

Requirement c) *Hold a qualification set by the Council for the pharmacist prescriber scope of practice.*

The role of Council is to prescribe one or more qualifications that will lead to registration in a scope of practice and to accredit the course using agreed accreditation standards.

Prescribed qualifications for the Pharmacist Prescriber Scope of Practice include the following:

- Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Pharmacy in Prescribing, University of Auckland
- Postgraduate Certificate in Pharmacist Prescribing, University of Otago.

Requirement d) *Submit a Practice Plan, signed and dated by the clinical lead, which includes evidence to confirm their prescribing occurs within a collaborative health team environment.*

Pharmacist prescribers are *Designated Prescribers*² working as *part of a collaborative health team environment with other healthcare professionals and are not the primary diagnostician*; (as per scope of practice). The Practice Plan ([see template](#)) provides Council with the assurance that pharmacist prescribers demonstrate accountability for their practice and have agreement with the clinical lead and the collaborative health team as to their roles and responsibilities.

The practice plan must include the following information:

- A full explanation of the defined area of practice, for example the type of patients and clinical conditions,
- specified medicines/ group of medicines for the area of practice (including repeat prescribed medicines)
- Confirmation that the pharmacist prescriber has timely access to all relevant patient clinical information which includes history, physical examination results, and essential diagnostics
- Agreed mentoring and clinical governance arrangements
- Quality improvement including clinical audit of prescribing.

Requirement e) Declare that their current practice meet relevant standards from Competence Standards for Aotearoa New Zealand Pharmacy Profession. Further guidance on these standards are described in the guidance (p13,14) accompanying the Pharmacist Prescriber Competence Standards

Ongoing requirements

Pharmacist Prescribers will, from time-to-time, amend or expand their defined area of practice, extend the list of medicines they may prescribe or change the collaborative health team in which they work. For Pharmacist Prescribers to demonstrate competence, safety and accountability for expanded or modified practice, Council requires Pharmacist Prescribers to complete a practice review prior to such changes. This is a reflective exercise (self-directed with input from professional peers) using the competence standards to identify areas where further learning and professional development is required. A new or modified practice plan is declared and submitted at the time of application for a new practising certificate.

² The legislation authorising pharmacist prescribing is the [Medicines \(Designated Pharmacist Prescriber\) Regulations 2013](#). These regulations relate to Medicines Act 1981 as the primary legislative source. The [list of prescription medicines](#) was updated and published in the NZ Gazette on 4 December 2025.