Oifig an Stiúrthóra Seirbhísí Altranais & Cnáimhseachais | Office of the Nursing & Midwifery Services Director

Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing Toolkit

Application Guidelines for Education Programmes (Standalone)

Sixth Edition – April 2026

Introduction

The Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director (ONMSD) Health Service Executive (HSE) provides funding for registered nurses and registered midwives employed in the HSE, HSE funded agencies (Section 38) and registered nurses employed by the Irish Prison Service (IPS) to undertake the Nurse/Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing Education Programme provided by the following Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), University College Cork (UCC), University College Dublin (UCD), Trinity College Dublin (TCD), University of Galway (UoG) and University of Limerick (UL).

The education programme meets the *Prescriptive Authority for Nurses and Midwives Standards and Requirements* (NMBI, 2015). The programme consists of 28 days of theoretical instruction, delivered through blended and online learning plus 12 days (96 hours) of clinical supervision with a medical practitioner/mentor in the clinical area during the education programme.

There are a number of options to undertake the Nurse/Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing education programme. The programme can be undertaken as a standalone programme or integrated within Higher Diploma/Masters' programmes. **These application guidelines are for registered nurses/midwives who wish to undertake the standalone education programme.** Applications are welcome from all clinical areas. Registered nurses and registered midwives employed by private health service providers who meet the HEI entry criteria must self-fund or receive funding from their employer.
It is essential that the health service provider is committed to supporting the applicant in developing safe nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing in the appropriate setting based on patient/service need.

Process for applying for nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing education programme (standalone)

The applicant applies online to the relevant HEI (as listed above) for a place on the standalone education programme. The applicant is responsible for fully completing all aspects of the application form as part of the application process as per individual HEI requirements.

- The registered nurse or registered midwife applicant must meet the NMBI entry criteria and any other requirements of the HEI they are applying to (see information sheet one).
- The *Site Declaration Form*, which is part of the HEI application process, must be signed by the Director of Nursing/Midwifery/Public Health Nursing/Service Manager/Designate on behalf of the health service provider (see information sheet two).
- The Medical practitioner/mentor must also sign the *Site Declaration Form* as a commitment to act as a mentor and provide instruction and supervision within the specific clinical practice area for the duration of the education programme (see information sheet three).

Funding for the nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing education programme (standalone)

Funding is provided by the applicant's local Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Unit (NMPDU)/Centre of Nurse and Midwifery Education (CNME). Applicants are required to complete an **electronic** Postgraduate Education Funding Application Form. The application form must be downloaded from the local NMPDU/CNME (Table 1).

Applicants must complete all sections of this form in consultation with their line manager and Director of Nursing/Midwifery/Public Health Nursing/Service Manager/Designate (see information sheet two).

Please note to secure funding for the standalone education programme the completed electronic funding application form must be submitted prior to the application closing date for the relevant HEI. Incomplete funding application forms will not be accepted.

Table 1: HSE NMPDU/CNME Postgraduate Education Funding Application Form links

HSE NMPDU/CNME	Link	Contact Person
NMPDU Midlands (Laois/Offaly/Longford /Westmeath)	Postgraduate_Funding_Application_Form_Midlands.pdf	Nmpdu.midlands@hse.ie
NMPDU Cork/Kerry, South West	NMPDU_Cork_Kerry_Formal_Academic_Funding_Application_Form.pdf	Nmpduapplications.corkkerry@hse.ie
NMPDU, Dublin South, Kildare & Wicklow	**Email for postgraduate funding application form**	postgraduate.fundingdskw@hse.ie
NMPDU, Dublin North	Postgraduate_Application_Form_Dublin_North.pdf	postgradfunding.dn@hse.ie
NMPDU, Dublin and North East	**Email for postgraduate funding application form**	nmpdu.dne@hse.ie
NMPDU Dublin and South East	Postgraduate_Application_Form_DSE.pdf	Nmpdupostreged.kilkenny@hse.ie
CNME Mayo/Roscommon	Postgraduate_Application_Form_Mayo_Ros_2026.pdf	cnme.mayoros@hse.ie
CNME Midwest (Limerick/Clare/North Tipperary)	Postgraduate_Funding_Application_eForm_CNME_Midwest_LCNT.pdf	cnmemidwest@hse.ie
CNME Galway	postgraduate application_Form_Galway.pdf	cnme.guh@hse.ie
CNME Donegal	**Email for postgraduate funding application form**	Educationfunding.cnmedl@hse.ie
CNME Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	Postgraduate_Application_Form_Sligo.pdf	Cnme.sligo@hse.ie

Information Sheet One

Overview of Higher Education Institution Requirements

The registered nurse/ registered midwife must seek the approval of their Director of Nursing/Midwifery/Service Manager/Designate to apply for the Certificate/Professional Diploma in Nurse/Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing. The registered nurse/registered midwife must also satisfy the entry criteria set out by the NMBI which includes the following:

- Name entered in the General, Psychiatric, Children's, Intellectual Disability, Midwife or Public Health Nurse Divisions of the active Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) Register
- Have three years recent post registration clinical experience in nursing/midwifery within the past 5 years with the equivalent of one year full time experience in the specific area of practice
- Possess the competencies recognised at Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)
- Demonstrate evidence of further education
- Possess a competent level of information technology literacy
- Currently employed as a registered nurse or registered midwife in the HSE, HSE funded agencies (Section 38), and registered nurses employed by the Irish Prison Service
- Support from employer to undertake the programme
- Nomination and confirmation of a designated medical practitioner/mentor.

Applicants who meet the above entry criteria are eligible to apply for 100% funding for the nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing education programme (standalone).

Copy of funding approval letter must be forwarded to the relevant HEI by the applicant.

Information Sheet Two

Health Service Provider Requirements

Each health service provider where nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing is or has been implemented must have in place a local health service provider's medicinal product prescribing policy, procedure, protocol or guideline (PPPG) incorporating relevant legislation and regulatory requirements. Health service providers can adopt the National Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing Guideline (HSE ONMSD, 2020) and or develop addenda in relation to local governance arrangements.

For HSE/HSE funded agencies and the Irish Prison Service, local governance arrangements to oversee the introduction and implementation of nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing must be in place and include the following:

- A firm commitment by the health service provider's senior management to support the introduction/ongoing implementation of nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing
- A named Prescribing Site Coordinator (PSC) delegated by the Director of Nursing/Midwifery/Service Manager/Designate to have responsibility for the initiative locally and for liaising with the HEI and the ONMSD prescribing team
- A named medical practitioner/mentor who has agreed to support the candidate nurse/midwife prescriber for the duration of the education programme
- Risk management systems - there must be a process for:
    - Adverse event reporting
    - Incident reporting and management
    - Reporting of near misses
    - Reporting of medication errors
- Confirmation that the name of the registered nurse/registered midwife applying for the education programme, is on the active register maintained by the NMBI
- Confirmation that the PSC will liaise with members of the ONMSD HSE prescribing team
- Access to relevant Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- An agreed process for audit of registered nurse/registered midwife prescriber (RNP/RMP) prescribing practice is in place
- The electronic Postgraduate Education Funding Application Form must be completed by the registered nurse/midwife applicant, their Line Manager and forwarded to the Director of Nursing/Midwifery/Service Manager/Designate. The Director completes their section and submits the application form electronically to the relevant NMPDU/CNME.

Information Sheet Three

The Medical practitioner/mentor Requirements

The clinical component of the education programme is provided in the clinical practice setting of each candidate nurse/midwife prescriber with instruction and supervision from a dedicated medical practitioner who acts as a mentor for the duration of the programme. The medical practitioner/mentor is identified by the candidate nurse/midwife prescriber, in consultation with the health service provider and is a senior medical practitioner within the clinical specialist field. The commitment of a medical practitioner/mentor is confirmed through the inclusion of their signature on the *Site Declaration Form*.

Each HEI provides support to the medical practitioner/mentor through:

- The provision of an introductory session if required
- Individual mentor information pack
- Site visits to the clinical area if required
- On-going support as required.

The key responsibilities for a medical practitioner/mentor include:

- On commencement of the education programme, the candidate nurse/midwife prescriber and the medical practitioner/mentor explore learning needs and agree a programme/contract for learning. This is specific for each candidate nurse/midwife prescriber reflecting the differing clinical skills, experience and scope of practice
- The medical practitioner/mentor and/or members of the medical team provide the candidate nurse/midwife prescriber with supervision, support, teaching and learning opportunities equivalent to 12 days (96 hours) over the duration of the education programme
- The medical practitioner/mentor and candidate nurse/midwife prescriber meet formally to review progress as per HEI requirement
- The medical practitioner/mentor assesses achievement of competence in practice (using the NMBI competency framework)
- The medical practitioner/mentor formally assesses the candidate nurse/midwife prescriber's progress in the clinical setting using the assessment tool provided by the HEI (e.g. Objective Structured Long Examination Record (OSLER))
- At the end of the education programme, the medical practitioner/mentor "signs off" the candidate nurse/midwife prescriber's competence booklet. The candidate nurse/midwife prescriber must pass the learning in practice assessment in order to successfully complete the education programme.

The National Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing Team, Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director, Health Service Executive

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