In addition you should be aware of current best evidence and utilise this when prescribing.

If you are a nurse or an AHP, it is recommended that you should have a discussion with your Line Manager before you begin prescribing to ensure that all systems are in place to enable your development, confirm your area of expertise and to ensure your core formulary is agreed and recorded.

Q:  Are there any local informal support networks that I could access?

A:  Within Fife, there is local prescribing forum- Fife Prescribers Forum- that meets on a bi-monthly basis and consists of non medical prescribers from CHPs, the operational division and AHPs. These meetings take place at the Dunnikier Hotel, Kirkcaldy starting at 18:30. Details of the meetings and the forum can be found at www.FifePrescribersForum.co.uk.

In addition, there is a support group set up for prescribers in the Operational Division. Meetings tend to take place during lunchtime and vary between the VHK and QMH. Details of these meetings can be obtained from the lead for Non Medical Prescribing.

Q:  I have had a change of circumstance-e.g. moved job, changed name, am leaving NHS Fife, what should I do?

A:  If you are moving job within NHS Fife or have a change of name we may need to organise a new prescriber code for you if it is still appropriate for you to continue as a prescriber, and we will also need to update your details on the prescriber database. For these reasons you should contact:

- The NMP Advisor if you are a nurse or AHP in the CHPs or Operational Division.
- The Director of Pharmacy if you are a pharmacist in the CHPs.
- The Principal Pharmacist Service Development if you are a pharmacist in the Operational Division.

If you are leaving NHS Fife you should also contact the people identified above, and you should arrange for your prescription stationery to be destroyed. In primary care this can be done in a general practice by shredding the stationery; good practice would recommend ensuring witnessing and documentation of this act. Outside a general practice setting, the stationery should be returned to Primary Care for destruction.

In the Operational Division, the stationery should be returned to pharmacy for destruction.

Q:  What opportunities are available for continuing professional development to ensure I keep up to date with current practice?

A:  You have an individual responsibility to ensure your professional development needs are met.
**BECOMING A NON-MEDICAL PRESCRIBER**

**Q:** I would like to undertake a Non Medical Prescribing (NMP) Module, what should I do?

**A:** If you are considering undertaking a prescribing module you must speak to your line manager in the first instance. This will only be agreed if there is an organisational need for you to undertake this course and issues such as access to a prescribing budget and time out of practice are identified.

Once this agreement has been reached, if you are a nurse in a Community Health Partnership (CHP) or Operational Division or an Allied Health Professional (AHP) you should contact:

- The Non Medical Prescribing Advisor for an application form if you are a nurse or Allied Health Professional (AHP) in the CHPs.
- The Principal Pharmacist Service Development if you are a pharmacist in the Operational Division.
- The Director of Pharmacy if you are a pharmacist in the CHPs.

**Q:** I understand that I may have to undertake a pre course numeracy test. Can you explain why this is necessary and what it will entail?

**A:** The Nursing and Midwifery Council standards specify a 100% pass mark for numerical assessment is required for nurses undertaking a prescribing module (NMC 2006). To date no specific guidance has been issued for AHPs, although they are also expected to obtain a 100% pass mark for the numeracy assessment in the prescribing module.

The universities evaluate numeracy skills as part of the assessment for the non medical prescribing modules, but nationally, there have been issues raised with regard to the achievement of a 100% pass for numeracy.

Locally we have agreed that numeracy is a pre course required skill and have developed a pre course self assessment day which will enable ‘students’ to self assess their needs and meet professional and practice development staff who will be able to provide assistance and support if required.

The web link recommended to self assess your numeracy skills is: [http://www.testandcalc.com/](http://www.testandcalc.com/).

There is no current requirement for assessment of numeracy skills for pharmacists.

**Q:** I have completed an application form for the non medical prescribing course. Can you tell me how long I will have to wait until I hear anything?

**A:** If you are a pharmacist or AHP, you will hear directly from the university. If you are a nurse, you will hear following an informal interview/selection process.

**Q:** I have undergone a selection process for nurses within NHS Fife, can you tell me when I will hear if I have been successful or not?

**A:** You will hear within 2 weeks via the method agreed at the selection process-phone, this may be by phone, e-mail or letter.

**Q:** I have some professional issues that my designated medical practitioner is unable to answer, who should I approach for clarity?

**A:** You should approach your Line Manager at any point for clarity. The resources in place for you to utilise, depending on the area where you work in include-the Non Medical Prescribing Advisor (NMP Advisor), the Clinical Effectiveness Pharmacist, the primary care development pharmacists and within the Operational Division, the lead for Non Medical Prescribing. Please contact the NMP Advisor for appropriate contact details.

**Q:** If I have questions regarding prescribing practice at any time, who should I contact?

**A:** It will depend upon the question that you have. If it is a general enquiry about pharmacy then the Pharmacy Team for Operational Division and CHPs should be able to help. If the question is specific- for example you have tried a first and second line product for a specific disease area and found no benefit, then you will need to approach a lead clinician for that speciality or a GP. If the question is with regard to professional issues then you could contact your Line Manager or the NMP Advisor who will be able to direct you appropriately.

**Q:** Who will determine what is meant by my area of competence?

**A:** You will determine your area of competence and those areas where you feel you are safe and competent to prescribe medication for the patients presenting complaint. It is suggested that you would utilise your own core formulary when prescribing for these patients independently. You can through time, experience and training develop your competent areas and you may wish to utilise your supplementary prescribing qualification when you do expand your role i.e. you may wish to prescribe initially as a supplementary prescriber when you are looking to take on new disease or condition areas.
UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE, GLASGOW-Pharmacy
• 2/3 courses per year, depending on demand.
• January, May and September compulsory residential 5 days.
• Follow-up day, post residential period, takes place 6 weeks later to assist in PLP and portfolio development.
• Conversion courses run in line with follow-up days.
• 5 day block Monday to Friday to develop skills on consultation, communication, physical assessment, information retrieval and synthesis of CMPs.
• 4 modules attracting 5 SQF points all at level 11-therapeutics, consultation skills, public health and care planning and portfolio from period in practice.
• NES or self funding.
• Fees - £1200 for independent course and £300 for conversion course.
• Exam boards May and September.
• Independent course completed in two years, conversion course completed in 12 months.

GLASGOW CALEDONIA -Nursing and AHPs
• 2 intakes per year-September and February.
• Event for DMP held.
• 26 theory days – mix of face to face and self directed variable.
• Additional 2 days attendance for assessment.
• Variable days.
• BB’d- and NES prescribing site.
• Based Glasgow.
• 78hrs (12 days) learning in practice.
• Assessment-exam includes short answer, MCQ and numeracy.
• Portfolio.
• OSCE in practice-clinical area sign off.
• 40 credits level 9 or 30 credits 11-need to do level 9 if no degree.
• Same course for both levels, difference in portfolio in terms of writing and assessment of it.
• Fees-£610 for level 9 or 11.
• All completed within 12 months.
• Exam Board tie in with modules.

Q: I have commenced my prescribing course. What support is available locally, in addition to my Designated Medical Practitioner?
A: There are many avenues of support available for you depending on your needs. This may include, for example, identification of other Non Medical Prescribers who will be able to provide support. Please contact the Non Medical Prescribing Advisor (NMP Advisor) who will direct you appropriately.

Q: I have been advised by the university that I have successfully completed my training, what happens now?
A: The University will inform your registering body who will send paperwork for you to complete and send back with a fee for registering your qualification.

Nurses and AHPs in CHPs
Once you have received written confirmation from your regulatory body you should contact the NMP Advisor who will arrange for your information to be added to the prescriber database and ensure prescription stationery and BNFs are organised for you. AHPs should also ensure the relevant Head of Service is aware of your new role.

CHP based Pharmacists
On receipt of written confirmation from your regulatory body, you should contact the Director of Pharmacy who will ensure your details are added to the prescriber database and BNFs are ordered for you. You can order your prescription stationery directly from PSD. The Director of Pharmacy will sign the relevant paperwork for you.

Nurses and AHPs in the Operational Division
On receipt of written confirmation from your regulatory body, you should contact the Depute Director for Nursing’s secretary to obtain paperwork to register you on the prescriber database and request prescription pads if necessary.

Pharmacists in the Operational Division
On receipt of written confirmation from your regulatory body, you should contact the Principal Pharmacist Service Development based in QMH.

PRESCRIPTIONS
Prescription Pad Safety:
You are responsible for the safety of your prescription pad and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent loss or inappropriate use. You must keep a record of the first and last serial number of prescription pads issued to you. It is good practice to record the serial number of the first remaining prescription form of an in use pad at the end of each working day. If a prescription pad is lost or stolen this should be reported to your employer and the Primary Care Manager (if appropriate) immediately and you should follow the local policy. Community pharmacists should report directly to the Director of Pharmacy.

Q: How long will it take for me to receive my prescription pads?
A: It may take up to 3 months for your prescription pads to arrive. If you have waited for longer than this you should contact the Non Medical Prescribing Advisor.
QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY, EDINBURGH- Nursing and AHPs

- 2 intakes per year-September and January over 6 months.
- Event for DMP held-evening briefing session 1730-1830 and 1830-1930, access to timetable on WebCT.
- 25 theory days – 12 face to face and 13 self directed.
- Wednesday-first 1 week Wednesday and Thursday, subject to change.
- IT-WebCT and NES prescribing site.
- Based Edinburgh (train from Waverley takes 6 mins and classes are timed to coincide with trains.
- 78hrs learning in practice-not all with DMP.
- Assessment-exam includes short answer, MCQ and numeracy.
- Portfolio.
- OSCE in practice-clinical area sign off.
- Pass/fail for exam-mark for portfolio.
- 30 credits level 9 or 11-need to do level 9 if no degree.
- Same course for both levels, difference in portfolio in terms of writing and assessment of it.
- Fees-level 9 £660 and level 11 £730.
- Have to complete within 2 years.
- Developing clinical assessment skills course, but not running for next 6 months, could utilise work based learning modules for clinical assessments meantime.
- Exam Boards coincide with module, but also can call extraordinary exam boards.

Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen-Pharmacy

- 2 intakes per year-September/ October and April.
- Event for DMP held- half day session and DMP handbook and invitation of phone or video conference.
- 26 theory days – 8 face to face, 1 for exam and the rest self directed.
- Variable days-Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursdays-first week two days.
- IT-Moodle and NES prescribing site.
- Based Aberdeen.
- 78hrs learning in practice-not all with DMP.
- Assessment-exam includes short answer, MCQ and numeracy.
- Portfolio.
- OSCE in practice-clinical area sign off.
- Exam 4 weeks before end of course.
- 30 credits level 9 or 11-need to do level 9 if no degree.
- Same course for both levels, difference in portfolio in terms of writing and assessment of it.
- Fees-£600 for level 9 or 11.
- All completed within 12 months.
- Only Scottish RCN approved NP programme offered here.
- Exam Board June and November-conveners action for exceptional cases.

Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen-Nursing and AHPs

- 2 intakes per year-September/ October and April.
- Event for DMP held- half day session and DMP handbook and invitation of phone or video conference.
- 26 theory days – 8 face to face, 1 for exam and the rest self directed.
- Variable days-Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursdays-first week two days.
- IT-Moodle and NES prescribing site.
- Based Aberdeen.
- 78hrs learning in practice-not all with DMP.
- Assessment-exam includes short answer, MCQ and numeracy.
- Portfolio.
- OSCE in practice-clinical area sign off.
- Exam 4 weeks before end of course.
- 30 credits level 9 or 11-need to do level 9 if no degree.
- Same course for both levels, difference in portfolio in terms of writing and assessment of it.
- Fees-£600 for level 9 or 11.
- All completed within 12 months.
- Only Scottish RCN approved NP programme offered here.
- Exam Board June and November-conveners action for exceptional cases.

CHPs

There have been occasions when prescription pads have arrived more quickly. They are sent to the prescriber as soon as is practical when Primary Care Supplies receive them, usually either the same day or the next day.

When prescription pads are ordered, 5 are received per prescriber and all of these will be sent out to you.

Should you require further stock, then you should order from Primary Care Supplies. This can be done by placing an order in the GPs bag or by phoning 01592 226766.

Prescribers who will be prescribing for more than one practice will be issued with a generic prescription pad and you will have to add your prescriber code and the practice code number to each prescription. You will have a different code for each practice and will need to add this on depending on the practice you are prescribing for.

Operational Division

Once Pharmacy is in receipt of a completed “Request for Outpatient Prescription Pads” form (as per Code of Practice Medicines) prescription pads will be ordered for you. Queries should be directed to the Dispensary Manager on the site where the pad was requested. 5 pads are received per order, but only 1 pad will be issued to prescribers at a time.

Q: I work in general practice and we print all our prescriptions from the computer. What is the process for arranging this happens and where do I get computer prescription paper from?

A: In order to begin prescribing electronically you will need to be added onto the practice system. Therefore, you will need to speak to the person who is responsible for IT within the surgery. They will ensure that your details, including your prescriber code are added on to the surgery electronic prescribing system.

Computer prescription paper can be arranged if you request it at the same time as asking for your prescription pads/BNF. Should you require further stock, then you should order from Primary Care Supplies. This can be done by placing an order in the GPs bag or by phoning 01592 226766.

If you have any difficulties with the practice administration system, please contact the Non Medical Prescribing Advisor who will be able to direct you appropriately.

Many of the systems used in Fife do not recognise RPSGB unique identifier numbers. Therefore, currently, if you are a pharmacist working in a general practice you will need to use a prescription pad.

Q: I have not received my prescription stationery and a colleague non medical prescriber has advised me that I can use his prescription paper, is this OK?

A: No, you should not use someone else’s stationery, you must wait until you have received your own stock.

Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen-Pharmacy

- 2 intakes per year-September and January over 6 months.
- Event for DMP held-evening briefing session 1730-1830 and 1830-1930, access to timetable on WebCT.
- 25 theory days – 12 face to face and 13 self directed.
- Wednesday-first 1 week Wednesday and Thursday, subject to change.
- IT-WebCT and NES prescribing site.
- Based Edinburgh (train from Waverley takes 6 mins and classes are timed to coincide with trains.
- 78hrs learning in practice-not all with DMP.
- Assessment-exam includes short answer, MCQ and numeracy.
- Portfolio.
- OSCE in practice-clinical area sign off.
- Pass/fail for exam-mark for portfolio.
- 30 credits level 9 or 11-need to do level 9 if no degree.
- Same course for both levels, difference in portfolio in terms of writing and assessment of it.
- Fees-level 9 £660 and level 11 £730.
- Have to complete within 2 years.
- Developing clinical assessment skills course, but not running for next 6 months, could utilise work based learning modules for clinical assessments meantime.
- Exam Boards coincide with module, but also can call extraordinary exam boards.

Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen-Nursing and AHPs

- 2 intakes per year-September/ October and April.
- Event for DMP held- half day session and DMP handbook and invitation of phone or video conference.
- 26 theory days – 8 face to face, 1 for exam and the rest self directed.
- Variable days-Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursdays-first week two days.
- IT-Moodle and NES prescribing site.
- Based Aberdeen.
- 78hrs learning in practice-not all with DMP.
- Assessment-exam includes short answer, MCQ and numeracy.
- Portfolio.
- OSCE in practice-clinical area sign off.
- Exam 4 weeks before end of course.
- 30 credits level 9 or 11-need to do level 9 if no degree.
- Same course for both levels, difference in portfolio in terms of writing and assessment of it.
- Fees-£600 for level 9 or 11.
- All completed within 12 months.
- Only Scottish RCN approved NP programme offered here.
- Exam Board June and November-conveners action for exceptional cases.

Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen-Nursing and AHPs

- 2 intakes per year-September/ October and April.
- Event for DMP held- half day session and DMP handbook and invitation of phone or video conference.
- 26 theory days – 8 face to face, 1 for exam and the rest self directed.
- Variable days-Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursdays-first week two days.
- IT-Moodle and NES prescribing site.
- Based Aberdeen.
- 78hrs learning in practice-not all with DMP.
- Assessment-exam includes short answer, MCQ and numeracy.
- Portfolio.
- OSCE in practice-clinical area sign off.
- Exam 4 weeks before end of course.
- 30 credits level 9 or 11-need to do level 9 if no degree.
- Same course for both levels, difference in portfolio in terms of writing and assessment of it.
- Fees-£600 for level 9 or 11.
- All completed within 12 months.
- Only Scottish RCN approved NP programme offered here.
- Exam Board June and November-conveners action for exceptional cases.

Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen-Nursing and AHPs

- 2 intakes per year-September/ October and April.
- Event for DMP held- half day session and DMP handbook and invitation of phone or video conference.
- 26 theory days – 8 face to face, 1 for exam and the rest self directed.
- Variable days-Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursdays-first week two days.
- IT-Moodle and NES prescribing site.
- Based Aberdeen.
- 78hrs learning in practice-not all with DMP.
- Assessment-exam includes short answer, MCQ and numeracy.
- Portfolio.
- OSCE in practice-clinical area sign off.
- Exam 4 weeks before end of course.
- 30 credits level 9 or 11-need to do level 9 if no degree.
- Same course for both levels, difference in portfolio in terms of writing and assessment of it.
- Fees-£600 for level 9 or 11.
- All completed within 12 months.
- Only Scottish RCN approved NP programme offered here.
- Exam Board June and November-conveners action for exceptional cases.
HEI NON MEDICAL PRESCRIBING COURSES*

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE,
DUNDEE- Nursing and AHPs
• 2 intakes per year-September and January.
• Event for Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP) held-DMP pack and access to blackboard (BB’d).
• 26 theory days – 14 face to face and the rest self directed.
• Thursdays-first 2 weeks Wednesday and Thursday.
• IT-BB’d and NHS Education Scotland (NES) prescribing site.
• Based Dundee.
• 78hrs learning in practice-not all with DMP.
• Assessment-exam includes short answer, multiple choice questions (MCQ) and numeracy Portfolio.
• OSCE (objective structured clinical examination) in practice - clinical area sign off.
• 30 credits level 9 or 11-need to do level 9 if no degree.
• Same course for both levels, difference in portfolio in terms of writing and assessment of it.
• Fees-£610 level 9 and £680 level 11 as stand alone module.
• Have to complete within 2 years.
• Offers clinical assessment skills course.
• Exam Board May and October-chairs action when modules don’t fit with exam board.

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING,
STIRLING- Nursing and AHPs
• 2 intakes per year-September and January.
• Event for DMP-as required meetings.
• Deadlines for applications-July and November.
• Web CT.
• 26 theory days – 8 face to face and 18 self directed.
• First week Tue-Fri (4 days) and mid course Tue-Fri (4 days).
• Based Stirling, Highland and Western Isles.
• 78hrs (12days) learning in practice-not all with DMP.
• Assessment-exam includes short answer, MCQ and numeracy test.
• Portfolio.
• OSCE in practice-using pre determined criteria (DMP sign off).
• Level 9 only 44 credits (dble weighted).
• Have to complete within 2 years.
• Offers clinical assessment skills course.
• Exam Boards-February, June and September.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH,
EDINBURGH- Nursing and AHPs
• 2 intakes per year-October and February, run over 2 trimesters.
• Will meet DMP face to face if requested-sends information to DMP.
• 26 theory days-10 face to face and 16 self directed.
• Thursdays weekly for face to face 0930-1600.
• Staff available every Thursday for students to meet/discuss issues with.
• IT-WebCT and NES prescribing site.
• 72 hrs learning in practice-not all with DMP.
• Assessment-exam end of 1st trimester-short answer, MCQ, numeracy.
• Portfolio submitted end of 2nd trimester.
• OSCE in practice-clinical area sign off.
• 40 credits level 9 or 11-need to do level 9 if no degree.
• Same course for both levels, difference in portfolio in terms of writing and assessment of it.
• Fees-£600 level 9, £750 level 11.
• Have to complete within 2 years.
• IT-WebCT and NES prescribing site.

NON MEDICAL PRESCRIBING COURSES

In the case of computer prescription stationery for general practice nurses, if a box is received within the surgery, you may share the prescription paper providing you detail the first and last serial numbers taken from the batch and who received them.

In the case of Fife Primary Care Emergency Service, there is a generic prescription pad for nurses to which you need to add your prescriber details. This is the only area that has a generic prescription pad.

Non medical prescriber HBP pads are specific to the prescriber and cannot be shared.

White (Hospital Pharmacy Only) prescriptions and GP recommendation pads are not prescriber specific. NMPs working in outpatients should use the pads held in outpatient clinic areas.

Q: If prescription pads are redesigned, will I have to apply for new prescription pads?
A: No, these will automatically be sent to you, but within the operational division you will be asked to return your old pads first and within primary care you should ensure the stationery is shredded and put in confidential waste and the destruction documented and witnessed.

Q: Is it safe for my NMC/RPSGB/HPC number to be printed on the Prescription stationery?
A: Your professional identification number needs to be printed on the stationery so that your identity can be checked by the pharmacist issuing your prescriptions.

Q: I work in an acute ward setting and we do not need prescription pads, we use the medicine chart. Can I begin prescribing immediately?
A: You must wait until you have been advised you can begin prescribing by the appropriate Lead for Non Medical Prescribing. The Lead will arrange for the appropriate ward/department/directorate to be notified and for nursing or AHP prescribers, notify the appropriate Chief Pharmacist.

Q: I am an independent prescriber. Can I prescribe controlled drugs to be administered via a syringe driver?
A: Pharmacists cannot currently prescribe controlled drugs independently so you would not be able to prescribe controlled drugs to be administered via a syringe driver.

Independent nurse prescribers are at present able to prescribe from a list of 12 controlled drugs independently for specified medical conditions.

Independent nurse prescribers may prescribe medicines separately providing the product licence for the chosen medication includes the selected route of administration for the particular medicine.
Annual review of personal development plans (PDPs) will enable prescribers to identify learning needs and work on developing their areas of competence. All prescribers should ensure they have access to annual PDP reviews.

Community pharmacists are encouraged to ensure they have a personal development plan in place.

A rolling programme of continuous professional development (CPD) events is provided for all NHS Fife staff to access. Details of this will be sent to prescribers as soon as programme dates are confirmed.

National CPD events may be of interest to you—information will be sent to prescribers when it is available.

**MEDICINES MANAGEMENT WITHIN NHS FIFE**

**Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee (ADTC)**

Within NHS Fife there is an Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee which meets every two months and oversees the use of medicines. This committee is made up of representatives from the CHPs and the operational division from a variety of disciplines—medicine, pharmacy, nursing, AHPs.

The contact person in the Operational Division is the appropriate Lead for Non Medical Prescribing and for AHPs the Head of Therapies & Rehabilitation and Head of Service. The contact person for the CHPs is the Director of Pharmacy.

One of the roles of the committee is to decide whether new medicines should be used within Fife—this is done following advice from the Scottish Medicines Consortium, a national body which assesses the clinical and cost-effectiveness of new medicines.

The ADTC Bulletin which highlights decisions made by the committee is published after each meeting and is sent to all prescribers.

If you have any comments on ADTC business, please contact the Non Medical Prescribing Advisor who will direct you appropriately.

**Fife Formulary**

Medicines which have been approved for use are listed in the Fife Formulary which is based on the BNF. The Fife Formulary is available in an A4 ring binder format or can be accessed via the intranet www.intranet.fife.scot.nhs.uk or on the ADTC website at www.fifeadtc.scot.nhs.uk or through SHOW-organisations-Fife-ADTC.

The Formulary also contains prescribing guidance documents for a variety of clinical conditions.

There are separate Antibiotic Prescribing Guidelines and Woundcare Guidelines which are available as small booklets or via the intranet. If you are unable to access the intranet or would like a paper copy of the wound care or antibiotic guidelines, please contact the Non Medical Prescribing Advisor.

In General Practice there is also an electronic version of the Formulary, the e-Formulary, which is integrated into the GPASS prescribing system.

**PRESCRIBING SUPPORT**

**Operational Division**

A team of clinical pharmacists provide pharmaceutical and medicines advice to most wards. If prescribers have any queries about medicines they should contact the clinical pharmacist within their specialty.

**CHPs**

Each CHP has at least one Primary Care Development Pharmacist supported by Practice Pharmacists who provide advice to GPs and other prescribers. Each year the pharmacy team carry out several prescribing projects in each practice aimed at improving the quality, safety or cost-effectiveness of prescribing. Data on prescribing is obtained from the PRISMs system and pharmacists provide feedback to prescribers on selected therapeutic areas.

**REFERENCE SOURCES**

**British National Formulary (BNF) and BNF for Children**

Available via intranet or at www.bnf.org.

**Electronic Medicines Compendium**

Gives full prescribing advice in the format of Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) on all medicines—www.emc.medicines.org.uk.

**National Electronic Library of Medicines**

Has news items on new advice and clinical trial results for medicines—www.nelm.nhs.uk.

**Clinical Knowledge Summaries (formerly Prodigy)**

Provides latest evidence on treating conditions in primary care and detailed advice on prescribing medicines—www.cks.library.nhs.uk/home.

**Scottish Medicines Consortium**

Has advice on new drugs—www.scottishmedicines.org.uk.

**Non Medical Prescribing in Scotland**

—www.scotland.gov.uk

**CONTACT**

Non-medical Prescribing Advisor
01592-720321