



## **The Royal College of Ophthalmologists' response to the Nursing and Midwifery Council's consultation on prescribing and standards for medicines management**

September 17

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) is the professional body for ophthalmologists in the UK. We set the curriculum and examinations for trainee ophthalmologists and work with leaders across the sector to ensure the wider eye health team has the necessary skills and training to deliver safe and effective care.

The RCOphth welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation and supports the NMC's aim to ensure nurses have the necessary prescribing competencies on registration. We have responded to the consultation questions which most closely align with our areas of interest and expertise.

### **CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**

**Q1. Do you agree with our proposal to use the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Single competency framework for all prescribers as the basis for our nurse and midwife prescribing proficiencies and within our post- registration prescribing programme requirements?**

We agree with this proposal and support initiatives that seek to standardise training within and across professions, where possible and practical.

Our Common Clinical Competency Framework for non-medical eye care professionals in secondary care provides a basis for the education and training of eye care professionals from a range of non-medical professions<sup>1</sup>. Key objectives of the framework are to improve the quality of care through standardising skills and improving recognition of these skills among clinicians and patients.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/professional-resources/new-common-clinical-competency-framework-to-standardise-competences-for-ophthalmic-non-medical-healthcare-professionals/>

**Q6. We are consulting on the introduction of teaching and learning of prescribing theory into pre-registration nursing degree programmes. This means that newly qualified nurses in the future will be ready to commence a V150 prescribing programme following initial registration as long as they have the necessary support in place.**

**This is intended to support proficiency of prescribing practice across a range of settings at an earlier stage of a nurse's career.**

We support this proposal. As nurses are responsible for the administration of drugs, knowledge about how they work, risks and potential benefits and how they are prescribed is important. Extra undergraduate training would increase awareness of medication management issues and promote safe medicines use which would be beneficial both for those who do, and do not, go on to prescribe.

With current constraints on resources and increasing demands on clinicians' time, we support the flexible use of all clinical professionals with enhanced skills to improve efficiency and patient access to care. Reducing the postgraduate burden of training should enable more professionals to safely take on extended roles.

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