

# PRACTICAL PRESCRIBING

## Molly Courtenay helps resolve everyday issues for nurse prescribers



**Q** I worked as a community diabetes nurse specialist up to 2004 and, after a career break, returned to work

**in 2009. I have just taken up a post as a community staff nurse. I also have the V150 prescribing qualification. Can I use the V150 in my current post?**

**A** The V150 qualification<sup>1</sup> is relatively new, and enables nurses to prescribe from the Nurse Prescribers Formulary (NPF) for

Community Practitioners. Training comprises 10 days of study on the nurse and midwife independent prescribing programme.

Topics covered on this course include accountability and responsibility, legal and ethical aspects of prescribing, consultation skills and decision-making and clinical pharmacology. Students are also required to undertake an additional 10 days of supervised practice with a mentor.

The V150 was developed for staff nurses working in the community setting who do not have the specialist practitioner qualification. So, yes,

you are ideally suited to use this qualification in your current role and can prescribe medicines listed in the NPF for Community Practitioners provided that they are within your area of competence.

You mention that, prior to taking a career break, you worked as a community diabetes nurse specialist. If, in the future, you were to go back to this area of specialism, you may decide to build on your prescribing training and undertake the independent supplementary prescribing training programme. This would enable you to prescribe

licensed and unlicensed medicines (and some controlled drugs) within your area of competence.

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● Please send prescribing related questions to [sarah.wild@haymarket.com](mailto:sarah.wild@haymarket.com)

### References

1. NMC. Standards of educational preparation for Prescribing from the Community Nurse Prescribers Formulary for nurses without a Specialist Practitioner Qualification – V150 (NMC circular 02/2009). 2009.