

# Position Description

## Pharmacist Prescriber



**Position:** Pharmacist Prescriber  
**Reports to:** Practice Manager

**Memberships:** Clinical Team

**Responsibilities:**

<b><i>Overall performance</i></b>	Self
<b><i>Clinical Supervision</i></b>	GP Lead
<b><i>Daily Supervision</i></b>	GP Lead
<b><i>Practice issues</i></b>	Practice Manager

**Functional Relationships**

<b><i>Internal</i></b>	Practice Manager Lead Team members Providers Nurses Reception and administrative staff
<b><i>External</i></b>	Patients Visitors Allied health professionals Local Pharmacy Tuwharetoa Health staff

**Main purpose of role:** Pharmacist Prescribers have specialised clinical, pharmacological, and pharmaceutical knowledge, skills and understanding relevant to their area of prescribing practice.

This role is accountable and responsible for optimising drug-related health outcomes and reducing drug related morbidity and mortality by individualising medicines therapy through the identification and resolving of drug therapy problems.

The purpose of this role is to provide individualised medicines management services, including the prescribing of medicines to patients registered with Pihanga Health. It is expected that the role will work in a collaborative environment with other healthcare providers and be open and responsive to alternative therapy practitioners where these are important to the patient and their whānau.

The role includes providing a wide range of assessment and treatment interventions, promoting good medicine management, assessing the patient's response to therapy, and providing education and advice with a focus on helping individuals better manage chronic, long-term health conditions.

The work involves direct interaction with patients and their whānau (in liaison with the wider general practice team) and is expected to be delivered in a patient-centred, culturally responsive, and holistic way. Patients and their whānau are to be the primary decision makers in their care. The focus should be on achieving equitable health outcomes for Māori with a clear pursuit of Māori health gain. The medicines prescribed should help patients get better and stay well.

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### Key Tasks

#### 1. Prescribing

##### 1.1 *Repeat Prescribing Requests*

### Standards/Outcomes Expected

- Autonomously manage repeat prescribing or a portion of repeat prescribing (within scope of practice) including:
  - Checking laboratory tests are up to date and appropriate for the medicines prescribed,
  - Measurements are within the goals of/for the patient.
  - Checking any recent clinic or hospital letters and any concerns that need following up as per safe repeat prescribing practice.
  - Contact patient and/or practitioner as required.
  - Check timeliness of request for adherence to dosing regime
- Use repeat prescribing requests to identify patients who would benefit from medicines review or medicine optimisation.
- Use repeat prescribing requests review prescribing trends at the practice and highlight areas that would benefit from quality initiatives.

#### 2. Medicine Optimisation

##### 2.1 *Optimising drug-related health outcomes*

- Undertake clinical medication reviews for complicated (single disease) and/or complex (multiple comorbidity) patients.
- Engage with patients for:
  - Medication reviews
  - A particular aspect of care
  - To manage a chronic condition until at clinical target and/or patient goal
  - As an ongoing part of the patient's health plan or care team
- Formulate, initiate and / or monitor an agreed treatment or prescribing / deprescribing plans collaboratively with the patient, their whānau, the patient's provider and care team. Proactively plan and coordinate care for those at greatest risk of poor health outcomes.

##### 2.2 *Hospital Admission Reduction*

- Contribute to reductions in medicine related hospital admissions and readmissions by supporting patients to get the best outcomes from their medicines and identifying and addressing medicine-related issues.
- Work alongside and advocate for patients and their whānau who are at highest risk of hospital admissions to support successful care in the community.
- Prioritize hospital avoidance and early supported discharge activities.

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- 2.3 **Medication Reconciliation**
- Reconcile medicines following hospital discharge, outpatient clinics and transfer between providers:
    - Resolve any discrepancies.
    - Discuss changes with patients and whānau/care givers to clarify any misunderstandings.
    - Update patient records in patient management system ensuring changes are fully documented with reasons for stop, start, or change of dose.
    - Provide medicine education.
    - Ensure appropriate follow up plan is in place (e.g. blood tests, adverse effects, clinical review and dose titration etc.)
    - Communicate, coordinate, and collaborate with patients care team over changes.
    - Update patients' medication allergies and adverse drug reactions to ensure safety with prescribing.

### 3 Information and Advice

3.1 **For the person and their whānau**

- Manage patients medicine related queries at the practice.
- Identify the patients' ideas, concerns, and expectations around their medicines and as they relate to their medical conditions.
- Present at or run sessions for patients such as self-management groups.
- Provide one-on-one or whānau centred medicines education including the provision of resources, devices, and medications.

3.2 **For the practice**

- Be a medicines information resources for day-to-day medicine related queries.
- Respond to requests for complex medicine information queries including quantification of risk/benefit for an individual.
- Provide up-dates on changes/trends in medicines therapy – providing independent critical appraisal of the literature.
- Improve prescribing practice through educational support for prescribers within the practice.
- Lead where changes in evidence require changes in prescribing across patient populations

### 4 Collaboration

4.1 **Internal**

- Participate in IDT meetings for complex patients.
- Assist with annual long-term condition planning and monitoring.
- Assist with triage and acute presentations when medicines are the focus/reason for contact.
- Assist with public health initiatives/campaigns (e.g. CVRA, stop smoking etc.)

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### 4.2 *External*

- Work with secondary setting based healthcare providers, colleagues in community pharmacy, other allied health care colleagues and alternative therapy practitioners to provide relevant information, support and communication regarding shared patients or patient groups. Align support for medicines adherence or oversight, continuity and integration of all care approaches and the supply of medicines.
- Work within the context of He Ara Whakapikiora (Tūwharetoa Locality Plan) to support its achievement. This includes:
  - Sharing approved unidentifiable data to ensure accurate reporting.
  - Identifying and providing feedback on the impact of the Pharmacist Prescriber role on improving Māori health outcomes.
  - Participate in He Ara Whakapikiora wānanga to explore ways to improve Māori health outcomes bringing these back into Pihanga Health activities.

## 5 **Audits and Quality Improvement**

### 5.1 *Audit*

- Identify people and whānau at greatest risk of complex health issues and assess and/or review health and wellbeing need in line with medication management.
- Undertake in-depth clinical audits to identify patients in whom pharmacotherapy can be improved including:
  - High risk medicine or combinations of medicines
  - At risk populations (e.g. frail and elderly, Māori etc)
  - Targeted medical conditions (e.g. diabetes, gout, COPD)
  - Targeted indications (e.g. blood pressure, HbA1c etc.)
- Feedback this information in a useful, practical manner with further review of individuals as agreed, so that recommendations are individualized and not merely guideline driven.

### 5.2 *Continuous Improvement*

- Work with patients, whānau, providers and other team members to implement evidence-based guidelines which improve outcomes for patients.
- Report on results of audits and discuss actions arising from them.
- Increase quality and safety of prescribing through mechanisms such as audit and Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles.
- Develop and review practice medicines related policies and standing orders.
- Undertake Centre of Adverse Reaction Monitoring (CARM) reporting.

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- Positively and constructively engage in the process of developing a culture of continuous improvement and efficiency within the practice.
- Identify opportunities for improvement within the practice.

### 6. Training and development

#### 6.1 *Training needs*

Training needs will be assessed on a regular basis, and staff will be required to attend internal and external training seminars and courses accordingly.

### 7. Other

#### 7.1 *Meetings*

Attendance is expected at all staff meetings and team meetings.

#### 7.2 *Other duties*

The Pharmacist Prescriber will be asked from time to time, to perform other tasks to maintain the smooth and effective running of the practice.

**Delegations**

*Financial*

None

*Other*

None