



Problem statement:

Healthcare professionals that have a non-medical prescribers (NMP) qualification are required to update their ‘scope of practice’ (scope) for prescribing on a yearly basis . This is currently achieved by completing a form and sending it through to the Pharmacy Team to log. However, this has a high time demand for the Pharmacy Team, following-up with prescribers that need to submit and chasing non-compliance. NMPs must update their scope to ensure that at all times they are practising safely, lawfully and effectively.

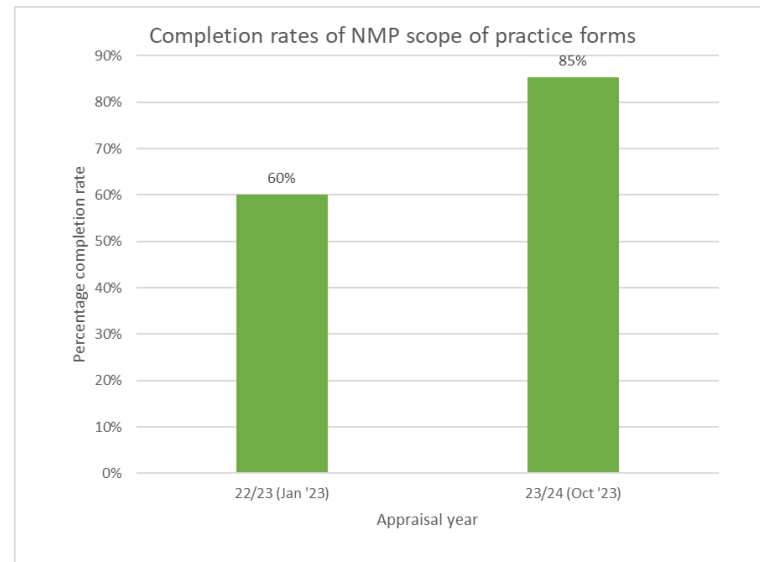
SMART aim:

To increase non-medical prescriber compliance with the yearly scope submissions from 60 per cent to 80 per cent by October 2023.

Measures to track improvement:

The scope completion rate will be used to demonstrate the improvements made to the process, making it easier for NMPs to maintain their prescribing rights on a yearly basis. Therefore, impacting positively on patients being prescribed medications appropriately through their care and linking to our trust’s We care strategy and the ambition of ‘better patient experience’.

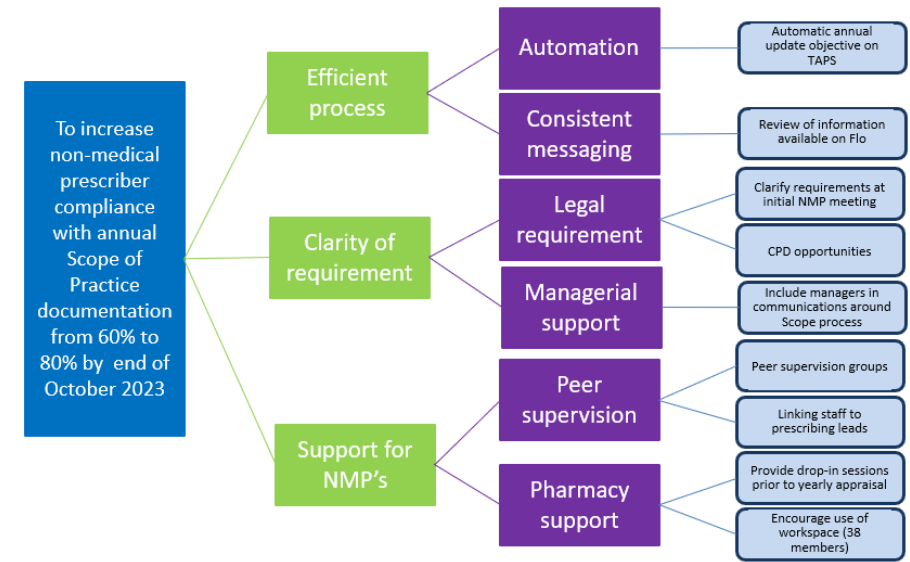
Data:



Tests of change:

The project group worked closely with the training, appraisal and performance system (TAPS) Team to develop an automated process for requesting completion of the scope through the annual appraisal format.

Initial introduction to the scope requirements has also been reviewed with the TAPs Team with the initial ‘intention to prescribe’ sessions with Pharmacy now available on the system for booking. This includes all the pre-work and requirements for the annual scope of practice.



Results, what we learned and what’s next:

The 2023/2024 scope of practice completion has been slightly out of sync with the years appraisal tasks but was useful learning for the team to make 2024/2025 completion much easier. Following the changes made, the completion rate for NMPs has **increased from 60 per cent to in January 2023 to 85.4 per cent in October 2023**, therefore achieving the aim of the project during this period.

The process still requires some manual checks and updates, but for intention to prescribe session booking and the yearly scope of practice, completion is now more formalised and will require less time from the team to manage next year.

What’s next?

The Pharmacy Team will continue to review compliance through the 2024/2025 appraisal process and will engage with the NMPs further to ensure the process is streamlined and easy to follow.