



## Article

# Non-medical prescribing in primary care in the United Kingdom: an overview of the current literature

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Table 7 – The quotations of positive and negative perceptions of NMP

Theme	Sub-theme	Quotations and sources
NMP Positive Perception	Autonomy	“Obviously (I am) completely autonomous, and it benefits me and the nurse” (Nurse 1 – Armstrong 2015).
	Job satisfaction	“All 10 current IPs agreed or strongly agreed that their prescribing role ensured better use of their skills and time, meant they were less dependent on doctors and had increased their job satisfaction” (Hindi et al 2019).
	Support	“Three hundred and forty-seven (91%) indicated that peers/team members were supportive of the prescribing role” (Courtenay et al 2017)
NMP Negative Perceptions	Risk	“I suppose if you prescribe wrongly, you are at risk, and your job is at risk, and you are liable.” (Nurse 1 Armstrong 2015).
		“I’m not paid enough to get sued, should anything go wrong” (Participant number 4334 - Physiotherapists Holden et al 2019)
		“The fear of being sued and the implications of vicarious liability through failing to maintain one’s professional competences was at the forefront of some non-medical prescribers’ minds” (Weglicki et al 2015).

	Lack of support	“the continence specialist nurse felt her confidence to prescribe was diminishing because of lack of support, as she was the sole NMP and did not have a ‘mentoring’ relationship with the GP” (Maddox et al 2016).
	Lack of CPD	“the matrons identified formal structured support, both in the form of mentorship and CPD as lacking in accessibility and regularity (Herklots et al 2015).
	Increased workload	“there were concerns over increased workload for prescribing nurse” (Armstrong 2015).
		“Independent prescribers believed that managing their workload enabled them to spend more prescribing time with each patient. Nonetheless, they felt that independent prescribing duties should be accounted for within their daily workload.” (Hindi et al 2019)
Patient’s Perception of NMP		“Independent prescribers and colleagues commonly mentioned time constraints due to workload pressures as a barrier to independent prescribing” (Hindi et al 2019).
		<b>Patient’s perception of NMP</b>
	Easier to get an appointment	“most perceived that it was easier to get an appointment with the IP in comparison to doctors and believed they got longer appointments (n=17; 71%)” (Hindi et al 2019)

		<p>“I really think this is a great idea as you can be waiting weeks to get an appointment with a doctor (patient no. 6) (Hindi et al 2019).</p>
		<p><b>Other staff perception of NMP</b></p>
Other staff perception of NMP		<p>“the senior doctor saw the expansion of the nurse’s role as a logical progression for senior specialist nurses..” (Armstrong 2015).</p>
	Better use of staff skills	<p>“(nurse prescribing) frees up medical time for other people” (Medical consultant – Armstrong 2015).</p>
		<p>“Non-doctor prescribing is recognised as an effective way of alleviating shortfalls in the global workforce” (Carey 2020).</p>