



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Designated Registered Nurse Prescribing Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office Communique

May 2026

Designated RN prescribing in Western Australia: Implementation update May 2026

The Department of Health is progressing the implementation of designated registered nurse (RN) prescribing in Western Australia (WA). This work is being led by the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office (CNMO).

Designated RN prescribing will enable eligible RNs, who hold an endorsement for scheduled medicines, to prescribe certain medicines in partnership with an authorised health practitioner who is also an autonomous prescriber.

When will designated RN prescribers be able to practice in WA?

Regulatory requirements and amendments

Designated RN prescribers will not be authorised to prescribe in WA until amendments to the *WA Medicines and Poisons Regulations 2016* (regulations) are made. These amendments will provide designated RN prescribers with the authority to prescribe schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines.

Broad consultation of the regulations has been completed and reviewed by the Office of the Chief Pharmacist, with recommendations submitted to the Minister for Health; Mental Health.

WA regulatory amendments are expected to be in place by mid-to-late 2026.

Nationally, amendments to the *National Health Act 1953* are progressing to recognise designated RN prescribers as PBS prescribers from mid-2026.

In addition, the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is working closely with the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) to develop an approach for reviewing PBS medicine listings relevant to designated RN prescribing. The latest publicly available statement can be accessed [here](#).

Designated RN prescriber courses of study

RNs considering further study to become designated RN prescribers are encouraged to speak with their employer first to ensure their workplace can support the role once it becomes available.

Courses of study are also available at:

Education Provider	Program of Study
La Trobe University	Graduate Certificate in Registered Nurse Prescribing
Queensland University of Technology	Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Designated Registered Nurse Prescribing)
University of Melbourne	Specialist Certificate in Registered Nurse Prescribing
University of Tasmania	Graduate Diploma of Advanced Nursing (Specialisation), RN Prescribing Pathway

In WA, Edith Cowan University will offer a Graduate Certificate in Registered Nurse Prescribing and anticipates accepting enrolments from Semester 2, 2026.

Please note Completing a qualification and obtaining the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia endorsement for scheduled medicines confirms that an RN is *qualified* and *endorsed* to prescribe scheduled medicines in partnership with an authorised health practitioner. *Authority* to prescribe is dependent on amendments to the medicines and poisons regulations.

Designated RN Prescribing Roundtable February 2026

On 24 February 2026, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the CNMO co-hosted a designated RN prescriber roundtable with stakeholders invited from the aged care and disability sectors, as well as WA Health Service providers. The session generated constructive discussion and encouraged stakeholders to consider the necessary governance, workforce, and implementation requirements relevant to their agency.

The roundtable helped clarify areas of uncertainty, identify governance and operational requirements, highlight opportunities to strengthen models of care, and surface key barriers to implementation.

Analysis of written feedback and facilitated workshop discussions identified five interrelated themes reflecting implementation readiness across sectors:

- Variable understanding of designated RN prescribing
- Variation in governance capability and implementation readiness
- Uncertainty regarding local operationalisation and oversight capacity
- Strong clinical case constrained by system capacity
- High awareness of clinical and organisational risks

Overall, the findings demonstrate strong clinical support for designated RN prescribing, alongside clear variability in organisational readiness, governance capability, and operational confidence across settings.

Designated RN Prescribing Roadshows

To support health services and organisation to be informed, prepared and aligned for the safe and effective implementation of designated RN prescribing, the CNMO is planning a series of roadshows. These sessions will provide an opportunity for the CNMO to visit sites, share key information, and answer any questions.

The roadshows will reflect the insights from the recent roundtable and will include:

- Exploring system requirements, including governance structures, authorisation processes, and necessary policy updates
- Clarifying safeguards such as risk management expectations, mentoring arrangements, prescribing agreements, and quality assurance mechanisms
- Supporting operational readiness by assisting services identify gaps and understand how designated RN prescribing aligns within models of care, workforce capability and capacity, and local context

Designated RN Prescribing Resources

To support a nationally consistent approach to designated RN prescribing, the CNMO has collaborated with all Australian jurisdictions to develop the *WA Designated Registered Nurse Prescriber Prescribing Agreement* and the *WA Designated Registered Nurse Clinical Mentorship Agreement*.

In addition, the CNMO has also developed two supporting documents, the *WA Designated Registered Nurse Prescriber Prescribing Agreement Guidelines* and the *WA Designated Registered Nurse Prescriber Mentorship Framework*.

Public consultation on all documents has recently been completed. While overall engagement was low, the feedback received was detailed, constructive and valuable. Respondents generally viewed the documents as clear, well structured, and aligned with the intent of expanding safe, collaborative prescribing. Insights from this process will inform refinement of the national templates.

Five major themes emerged from the feedback:

- Medication safety
- Professional scope
- Regulatory alignment
- Clinical governance
- Terminology consistency

Although there will be no further consultation on the national templates, the CNMO will re-open consultation on the WA supporting documents to ensure these are well understood, fit for purpose and reflective of the WA context. Consultation will be conducted via the Department of Health's Citizen Space platform, with consultation period to be communicated through Health Happenings and other approved WA Health communication channels.

Designated RN Prescribing webpage

A designated RN prescribing webpage has been developed and is regularly updated to provide contemporary information and implementation updates.

The webpage can be found at https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Designated-registered-nurse-prescribing.

Contact us

The CNMO has a dedicated email address for designated RN prescribing.

Please contact us for further information or to answer any queries.

DOH.DRNP-CNMO@health.wa.gov.au

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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