



Michelle Koo, Karen Baskett, Gosia Mendrela, Heather Petrie

Online learning is a sustainable way to deliver QUM activities when chosen and applied appropriately, adding a valuable complement to other QUM interventions.

Since 2002, the National Prescribing Service (NPS) has used online learning to deliver QUM activities. Developed by internal and external experts, sometimes in partnership with other organisations, the materials are available for health professional students, practising health professionals and NPS facilitators. The QUM principles of judicious selection of management options, appropriate choice, and safe and effective use, can be applied to the development and delivery of online learning at NPS.

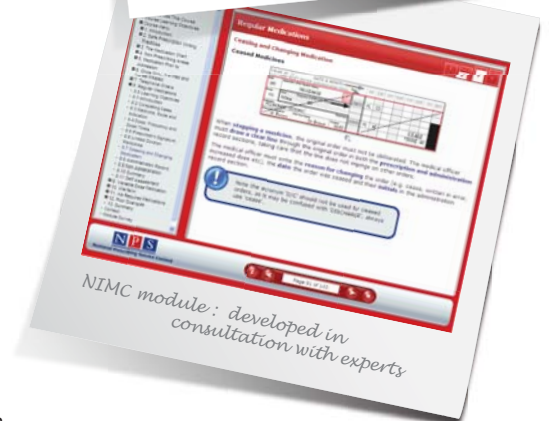
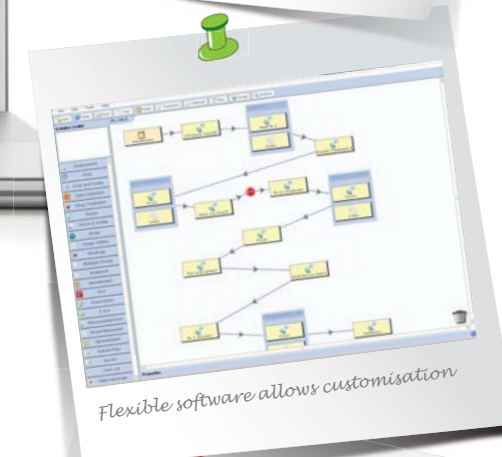
Judicious selection of management options

This involves careful selection of appropriate learning strategies and delivery methods, as well as identifying when online learning is not the most appropriate intervention to address QUM issues in practice.

NPS has used various online delivery options:

- solely online (e.g. Finding Evidence – Recognising Hype, a series of modules to improve skills in assessing new drugs; National Inpatient Medication Chart training module)

- blended (e.g. self-assessment questions completed by NPS facilitators prior to attending a face-to-face therapeutic topic briefing, QUM module complemented by face-to-face lecture/tutorial)
- a combination of both (e.g. National Prescribing Curriculum, a series of case-based modules encouraging rational prescribing).



Appropriate choice

'Appropriate choice' involves selecting systems that ensure that NPS online learning is flexible, scalable and customisable. This allows easy tailoring of materials to suit learner needs, and enables tools, templates and content to be repurposed for greater reach, ongoing usefulness and relevance.

Safe and effective use

To ensure 'safety', materials are developed in partnership with relevant experts e.g. the QUM for nurse practitioner modules were developed by nurse practitioner academic staff, and the NIMC training module was developed in consultation with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Materials are reviewed to ensure accuracy, and linked to other evidence-based resources e.g. Australian Medicines Handbook and Therapeutic Guidelines.

To ensure 'effective use' by learners the materials are developed using principles of educational design e.g. using authentic tasks, fostering interaction, providing feedback, meeting individual learning style and optimising usability.