



#PrescribingNow - two years on February 2025

The #PrescribingNow campaign was launched in February 2023. It called for the extension of independent prescribing responsibilities to more allied health professionals.

In the last two years, we have been very grateful for all the support we have received from parliamentarians and our members as we have made the case to the UK Government that extending independent prescribing responsibilities would benefit the people we work with and support, the other professionals working with them, as well as reducing pressure on the health and care system, and supporting our members' continuing professional development.

As detailed in the timeline below, our activity has been extensive. Despite that, there has been no meaningful movement on the issue. So, as we mark the campaign's second anniversary, we reiterate our call on the UK Government to begin the process of extending independent prescribing responsibilities to us.

How you can help

You can help with that. If you have not done so already, then please use the template email we have set up to contact your MP asking them to support the campaign. The email can be accessed on the campaign's dedicated webpage:

<https://www.rcslt.org/policy-and-influencing/england/campaigns/#section-1>

#PrescribingNow timeline February 2023-February 2025

- **February 2023:** Launched the #PrescribingNow campaign, a partnership between the British Dietetic Association, the Royal College of Occupational Therapists, the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, the British and Irish Orthoptic Society, and the Society of Radiographers. The campaign called for independent

prescribing responsibilities to be extended to dietitians, occupational therapists, orthoptists, diagnostic radiographers, and speech and language therapists.

- **February 2023:** Initiated advocacy efforts by writing to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, as well as all Members of Parliament and members of the House of Lords, to highlight the campaign's objectives.
- **Throughout 2023:** Engaged with MPs and peers, resulting in numerous parliamentary questions and discussions to raise awareness and support for the campaign.
- **November 2023:** The College of Operating Department Practitioners joined the coalition.
- **December 2023:** The House of Lords Integration of Primary and Community Care Committee published a report recommending the extension of independent prescribing and referral rights to more allied health professionals, aligning with the campaign's goals.
- **February 2024:** Marked the first anniversary of the #PrescribingNow campaign by reiterating calls for the UK Government to commence the process of extending independent prescribing responsibilities to the specified allied health professions.
- **February 2024:** The Institute of Osteopathy joined the #PrescribingNow coalition, strengthening the campaign's collective voice.
- **February 2024:** Lord Bradley had an Oral Question in the House of Lords on the issue:
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-02-06/debates/2853AD64-D394-46F4-BB8A-7E4E75A3CB29/AlliedHealthProfessionalsPrescribingResponsibilities>
- **October 2024:** To mark Allied Health Professions (AHPs) Day, the coalition delivered a letter to the Department of Health and Social Care to urge action on extending prescribing responsibilities.

For more information, please contact: elissa.cregan@rcslt.org