Over the past decades, the combined processes of task substitution and professionalisation within nursing have resulted in nurses taking up new positions and new tasks. One of the most prominent developments in this regard has been the partial substitution by nurses for doctors in the task of prescribing medicines. When nurses start prescribing medicines, they enter an area that has traditionally been the sole domain of the medical profession. This has consequences for the relationship between both professions and for the division of jurisdictional control over the prescribing task.

The aim of this thesis was twofold: firstly, to gain more insight from an international perspective into the effects of nurse prescribing, the forces that have led to the introduction of nurse prescribing and the legal, educational and organisational conditions under which nurse prescribing has been realised. Secondly, to investigate the processes going on within and between the nursing and medical professions in the Netherlands concerning nurse prescribing and the division of jurisdictional control over prescribing between the two professions.