Explore Registered Nurse Prescribing

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History

• U.K. - 1986
  – more than 55,000 RNs are qualified to prescribe nationally
  – Drivers: increase in complex and special needs, workforce supply, waiting list targets

• Ireland – 2007
  – Currently 104 Registered Nurse Prescribers
  – Drivers: changing health environment, increased political will
Prescribing in U.K. and Ireland

• Independent authorization, in writing, of the dispensing, supply and administration of a named medicinal product for a specific patient.
One Story

• Matt Griffiths is a registered nurse independent prescriber

  – Matt works in a walk-in centre and out-of-hours care.
  – Matt completes full episodes of care for up to 50 patients per week.
  – Patients would have previously had to wait for a prescription signed by a doctor.
Internationally

• RNs can legally prescribe medication in several countries.
• RN prescribing in other countries is proving beneficial for professionals, the health-care system, and patients.
Regulation in U.K. and Ireland

• Prescribing is an expansion of a registered nurse’s scope of practice, beyond the competence an individual practitioner possesses at the point of registration.

• Developed tools i.e. Decision-Making Frameworks and Practice Standards
Legal / Nursing Association

• RN prescribers in Ireland
  – prescribe controlled drugs independently
  – are subject to conditions for drugs for pain relief in hospital, palliative care, midwifery, and neonatal care in hospital
  – law does not allow for nurses to prescribe unlicensed medicines

• RN prescribers in U.K.
  – ensure have professional indemnity
Education

- minimum 3 years post-registration clinical experience
- ability to study at degree level
- support from employer / access to medical prescriber
- attendance in university course (attendance at class, self-directed learning and clinical practice)
Employers in U.K. and Ireland

- Structures need to be in place
  - a local written policy
  - a collaborative practice agreement (Ireland)
  - must meet site selection criteria in order to participate
Front line RN Perspective

• Critical to have RN champions in management
• No backlash from physicians
• Facilitates the RN role
• RN prescribing rights has decreased wait times in outpatient departments
Other Health Professionals

• Buy-in from the individual physician and pharmacist in the practice setting is critical

• Concerns included:
  – patient safety
  – disparity in training between the medical profession and other health-care professionals
Evaluation in England

- University of Southampton
- National survey of 246 registered nurse prescribers
  - RN prescribers have very effective prescribing decisions
  - patient return visits reduced
  - patients adhered to treatment programs
  - improved uptake of medicines and better patient outcomes
Evaluation in Ireland

• 2009 University College of Dublin

• Patients and parents:
  – highly satisfied with the care they received from RN prescribers
  – received comprehensive education and advice from the RN prescriber on the medication prescribed
  – more than 90% indicated that wait times were reduced
Questions?

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References


References


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