

UNIT SPECIFICATION

Supplementary Prescribing for Allied Health Professionals

Version 3

Level M

Credit value 40 (20 ECTS)

PRE AND CO-REQUISITES

None

AIMS

To develop the knowledge and skills required by an allied health professional to practice as a safe, effective and competent supplementary prescriber

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Having completed this unit, the student is expected to demonstrate the ability to:

1. Demonstrate how to assess patients needs for medicines through effective consultation
2. Articulate and demonstrate how they will prescribe safely, appropriately and cost effectively
3. Critically appraise and apply the legislation relevant to the practice of supplementary prescribing
4. Debate and analyse the influences on prescribing behaviour
5. Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of drug actions and apply these principles to prescribing practice, including monitoring response to therapy and justify modifications to treatment
6. Evaluate the roles and relationships of others involved in prescribing, supplying and administering medicines with a view to actively building therapeutic alliances
7. Practice independently within a framework of professional accountability and responsibility in relation to supplementary prescribing whilst acknowledging their own limitations
8. Proactively develop dynamic clinical management plans
9. Demonstrate numeracy skills appropriate to be able to prescribe safely in own area of practice

The Department of Health and The Health Professions Council (HPC) have stipulated these outcomes

Competencies for Prescribing

The competencies for prescribing are laid out in the appendix.

Relationship between course outcomes and Prescribing Competencies

The learning outcomes of the programme relate to the prescribing competencies as follows:

Learning outcome 1 – Practice

Learning outcome 2 and 9 – Practice
Learning outcome 3 – Principles
Learning outcome 4 – Principles
Learning outcome 5 – Practice
Learning outcome 6 – Responsibility
Learning outcome 7 – Subsumes all the competencies
Learning outcome 8 – Principles and practice

LEARNING & TEACHING METHODS

The taught indicative content will normally be delivered over 26 days plus 12 days of supervised clinical practice. Attendance for the taught days is mandatory. Learning and teaching will take place in both the classroom and in practice. Lectures of factual material will be followed by question and answer sessions including group discussion and analysis of case examples. Lectures will be shared with students undertaking the Independent and Supplementary Prescribing Programme for Nurses and Midwives.

A medical practitioner who will be required to assess potential prescribing competence will carry out practice supervision. Students will be expected to shadow their medical supervisor and critically reflect upon patient care scenarios, demonstrating in-depth analysis of prescribing behaviour. To facilitate learning the student will be required to maintain a portfolio that will be structured around practice based competencies. Successful completion of the portfolio will include evidence of supervised practice and will be summatively assessed.

All students will have a personal tutor from the University and the support of a general medical practitioner as a supervisor in practice. In addition weekly action learning groups will provide the opportunity for student to discuss issues arising from their burgeoning role. Supervisor workshops are planned to appraise medical supervisors of the learning outcomes expected from the programme and their responsibilities. Telephone consultation and support for the student and mentor will be used when necessary.

Students' understanding of the content and application of knowledge for prescribing behaviour along with the associated decision-making skills will be tested through the programme by means of a written examination and a portfolio. Competency in the strategies for undertaking a prescribing consultation, notably those related to communicating with patients and generating treatment options, will be assured through a final OSCE.

ASSESSMENT

Total assessment workload will not exceed the equivalent of 10,000 words

The learning outcomes of the programme will be assessed as follows:

1. Learning outcomes 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 – examination (two hours equivalent to 2,000 words)
2. Learning outcomes 1, 2 - OSCE (equivalent to 2,000 words)
3. Learning outcomes 1-8- Practice portfolio (5,500 word equivalency)
4. Learning outcome 9 – in course numeracy test (30 minutes equivalent to 500 words)
5. Learning outcomes 1-9 successful completion of practice experience and attainment of practice outcomes

INDICATIVE CONTENT

Consultation, decision-making and therapy including referral

Models of consultation

Accurate assessment, communication and consultation with patients and their carers

Concepts of working diagnosis or best formulation

Development of a management plan

Confirmation of diagnosis – further examination, investigation, referral for diagnosis

Prescribe, not to prescribe, non-drug treatment or referral for treatment

Able to work with patients and clients as partners in treatment

Influences on and psychology of prescribing

Patient demand versus patient need

External influences, for example companies/colleagues

Patient partnership in medicine-taking including awareness of cultural and ethnic needs

Conformance – normalisation of professional prescribing behaviour

Achieving shared understanding and negotiating a plan of action

Prescribing in a team context

National and local guidelines, protocols, policies, decision-support systems and formulae –

Rationale, adherence to and deviation from

Understand the role and functions of other team members

Documentation, with particular reference to communication between team members

Auditing, monitoring and evaluating prescribing practice

Interface between multiple prescribers and the management of potential conflict

Budget/cost effectiveness

Issues relating to dispensing practices

Reviews diagnosis and generates treatment options within the clinical management plan

Able to refer back to medical practitioner when appropriate

Proactively develops dynamic clinical management plans

Clinical pharmacology including the effects of co-morbidity

Pharmacology, including pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics

Anatomy and physiology as applied to prescribing practice

Basic principles of drugs to be prescribed – absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion including adverse drug reactions, interactions and reactions

Patient compliance and drug response

Impact of physiological state in, for example the elderly, the young, pregnant or breast-feeding women, on drug responses and safety

Evidence-based practice and Clinical Governance in relation to prescribing

National and local guidelines, protocols, policies, decision support systems and formulae – rationale, adherence to and deviation from

Continuing professional development – role of self and organisation

Management of change

Risk assessment and risk management, including safe storage, handling and disposal

Clinical supervision

Auditing and systems monitoring

Identifying and reporting ADRs and near misses

Drug calculations

Legal, policy and ethical aspects

Legal basis, liability and indemnity

Legal implications of advice to self-medicate including the use of complementary therapy and 'over the counter' medicines

Safe keeping of prescription pads, action if lost, writing prescriptions and record keeping

Awareness and reporting of fraud

Drug licensing and monitoring

Yellow card reporting to the Committee of Safety on Medicines

Prescribing in the policy context

Manufacturers' guidance related to literature, licensing and 'off label'

Ethical basis of intervention

Informed consent, with particular reference to client groups in learning disability, mental health, children, the critically ill and emergency situations

Principles of supplementary prescribing and application to practice

Professional accountability

Accountability and responsibility for assessment and prescribing

Maintaining professional knowledge and competence in relation to prescribing

Accountability and responsibility to the employer

Prescribing in the public health context

Duty to patients and society

Policies regarding the use of antibiotics and vaccines

Inappropriate use of medication including misuse, under- and over-use

Access to health care provisions and medicines

Numeracy for prescribing practice

INDICATIVE KEY LEARNING RESOURCES

Books

Brookes D & Smith A 2007 *Non medical prescribing in Health Care Practice*. Basingstoke. Palgrave Macmillan

Courtney, M & Griffiths, M eds 2010 *Independent and Supplementary Prescribing* 2nd edition. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press

Dawson J. 2002 *Crash Course in Pharmacology* 2nd ed. Edinburgh. Elsevier Science

McGavock, H. 2003 *How drugs Work*. Oxford. Radcliffe Medical Press

Neal, J. 2009 *Medical Pharmacology at a Glance* 6th edition. Oxford. Blackwell Science

Rushforth H. 2009 *Clinical Assessment Made Easy* (UK edition) Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.

The British National Formulary (all students are supplied with a copy)

Web-based sources

Useful websites

www.npc.co.uk

National Prescribing Centre web site, provides a range of information to support non medical prescribers, including a competency framework and access to Merck updates, patient group directions

www.dh.gov.uk

The Department of Health website provides information on non medical prescribing

www.mhra.gov.uk

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency website contains information about the legal framework governing prescribing, supply and administration of medicines

www.nelh.org

National Electronic Library for Health, latest information on medicines and clinical conditions, as well as useful resource on complementary therapies

www.the-shipman-inquiry.org.uk

Information on the recommendations from the Shipman Inquiry

www.nelm.nhs.uk

National electronic library for medicines – good links to research, NICE guidance, and latest news page

www.palgarve.com/skills-4study/index