Independent and Supplementary Prescribing

An Essential Guide

Second edition
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Edited by
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Foreword by
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Foreword to the second edition

The extension of the authority to prescribe has moved on apace since the publication of the *Review of the Prescribing, Supply and Administration of Medicines* in 1999. Now nurses, pharmacists, allied health professionals and optometrists, as well as doctors and dentists, can prescribe. These rapid developments have set challenges for professional and regulatory bodies and for individual practitioners. However, all concerned have risen to these challenges with energy and enthusiasm. Training programmes are well developed, many nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals have completed training, and the benefits to patients are already being felt.

This book is timely and I would like to congratulate Molly Courtenay and Matt Griffiths on bringing together a group of distinguished contributors who have produced an authoritative and comprehensive account of all aspects of prescribing. I am sure that it will prove invaluable both as a practical guide to new prescribers and as a continuing reference source.

I hope that this book will not be seen only as a book for the new prescribing professions. Its thorough examination of all aspects of the prescribing process and the implications of extended prescribing for multidisciplinary teams should also commend it to existing prescribers. It is a valuable text for every professional who is learning to prescribe or who wishes to improve their practice.

I have no doubt that *Independent and Supplementary Prescribing* will inform and support prescribers and that it will make an important contribution to improvements in both the quality and accessibility of patient care.

*Dr June Crown CBE*
Preface to the second edition

The introduction of non-medical prescribing has meant that nurses, pharmacists, allied health professionals and optometrists have had to expand their practice and so acquire new knowledge and skills in a number of fields. This new knowledge has had to be applied to the many issues surrounding prescribing in the practice setting. There are currently few books available that provide these prescribers with information to help them in this role. As the number of non-medical prescribers grows and as other healthcare professionals take on this role, the need for such information will increase. This book is aimed at those non-medical professions involved in prescribing medicines.

Chapter 1 provides a general overview of non-medical prescribing and describes the current education and training available for extended independent and supplementary prescribers. Chapters 2 to 5 examine non-medical prescribing within a multiprofessional team context, the different models of consultation that might be used by prescribers and the legal and ethical aspects surrounding prescribing. The psychology and sociology of prescribing, applied pharmacology and monitoring skills are explored in chapters 6 to 8. Chapters 9 to 12 deal with promoting concordance, evidence-based prescribing, prescribing within a public health context and the calculation skills required by prescribers. Chapter 13 describes how prescribing can be implemented for practitioners working in the area of dermatology. It is hoped that insights gained from this chapter can be applied to other practice settings. The concluding chapter, chapter 14, examines prescribing errors, their causes and actions to be taken to minimise the risk of prescribing error.

Each chapter is fully referenced and, where appropriate, readers are offered suggestions for further reading and other information sources. We hope that this book will make a positive contribution in a very important aspect of patient care.