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Current Issues in Nurse Prescribing

Molly Courtenay

PhD, MSc, BSc, RGN, RNT, Cert Ed

*Independent Consultant and Honorary Visiting Fellow
Department of Professional Education in Community Studies
The University of Reading*



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CONTRIBUTORS

Catherine Blowers RGN DN
Nurse Prescribing Project Nurse
West Berkshire PCS NHS Trust
Prospect Park Hospital
Reading, UK

Paul Cain MA Oxon MA Dip Phil(Healthcare)
Dept. of Professional Education in Community Studies
The University of Reading
Reading, UK

Laraine Clark BPharm MSc MRPharmS
Prescribing Adviser
Canterbury and Coastal PCG
Chestfield Medical Centre
Whitstable, Kent

Molly Courtenay PhD MSc BSc RGN RNT Cert Ed
Independent Consultant and Honorary Visiting Fellow
Department of Professional Education in Community Studies
The University of Reading, UK

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CONTRIBUTORS

Christopher Derrett GP BSc Mphil MBBS MRCPG DRCOG DCH
Senior Lecturer
Dept. of General Practice and Primary Care
St Bartholomew's & The Royal London
School of Medicine & Dentistry
London, UK

Breda Gibson RGN DipN PGCEA RNT BA MA Dip HealthCare Law
Training and Development Consultant
South Ferring
Worthing, UK

Mary Mullix RGN RSCN BA (Hons) MSc
Nurse Prescribing Project Nurse
Primary Care Services
St Mark's Hospital
Maidenhead, UK

Beth Taylor BSc MRPSGB
Pharmacy Manager
Community Health South London NHS Trust
Elizabeth Blackwell House
New Cross
London, UK

Cynthia Thornton MSc RGN DN PWT PGCEA DNT
Dept. of Professional Education in Community Studies
The University of Reading
Reading, UK

PREFACE

The introduction of nurse prescribing has meant that nurses have had to acquire new knowledge in a number of fields including ethics, law and Pharmacology. Furthermore, this knowledge has had to be applied to the many issues surrounding prescribing in the practice setting. As prescribing is a new area in which nurses have expanded their practice, there are currently few books available that provide prescribers with information to help them in this role. It is hoped that the information provided in this book will help to fill this gap.

Chapter 1 provides a general overview of the development of nurse prescribing and describes the current education and training available for prescribers. Chapters 2 and 3 describe the legal and ethical frameworks within which prescribers must practise. Practice scenarios are used to illustrate the application of this knowledge. Chapter 4 describes the clinical diagnosis and treatment management of a number of conditions for which nurses are involved in prescribing. Nurse prescribing from a pharmacist's perspective is presented in Chapter 5. Topics discussed include: how pharmacists can support nurse prescribers, sources of drug information, prescribing and group protocols, bulk purchasing, the development of prescribing guidelines and formularies, prescribing budgets and the use of

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PREFACE

prescription analysis and cost (PACT) reports. Finally, Chapter 6 provides a critical account of the implementation of nurse prescribing within one health authority and two adjoining community healthcare trusts. Issues that arose in relation to both education and practice are presented.

Molly Courtenay
Independent Consultant and Honorary
Visiting Fellow
Department of Professional Education
in Community Studies
The University of Reading
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