

Independent and Supplementary Prescribing

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Independent and Supplementary Prescribing

An Essential Guide

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Foreword

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 have been 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

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Preface

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. As the number of non-medical prescribers (NMPs) grows, the need for such information will increase. This book is aimed at those non-medical professions involved in prescribing medicines.

At the same time as the development of non-medical prescribing, medical prescribing has seen an increasingly formalised structure. Both medical and non-medical prescribers now work towards the same prescribing competencies described in the prescribing competency framework, developed by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in collaboration with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Therefore, the non-medical prescribing programme, and so the content of this book, is also applicable to medical prescribers. Standardising prescribing education in this way can only help achieve a higher standard of practice, ensuring patient safety remains the number one priority for us all.

The topics covered in the non-medical prescribing programme are used as a framework for this book. Chapter 1 provides a general overview of NMP including a description of the legislative and policy changes, the different modes of prescribing and the associated educational preparation. Chapters 2 to 5 examine non-medical prescribing within a multidisciplinary team context, consultation skills and decision making, and the legal and ethical aspects surrounding prescribing. The psychology and sociology of prescribing, applied pharmacology and monitoring skills (including diabetes, asthma and renal impairment) 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 dermatology, an area in which NMPs frequently prescribe. It is hoped that insights gained from this chapter can be applied to other practice settings. Chapter 14 examines prescribing errors, their causes, and actions to be taken to minimise the risk of prescribing error. Chapters 15 and 16 are new chapters in this third edition. Chapter 15 looks at the education of prescribers (including both prescribing students and undergraduate students) from both the educator and student perspective. Chapter 16 examines antimicrobial prescribing, another therapy area in which high numbers of NMPs prescribe.

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.

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