Pharmacist prescribing

Australasian Pharmacist Prescribing Workshop
National Alliance for Pharmacy Education
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NPS Better Choices, Better Health

Outline

- NPS
  - our focus
  - how we work
- NPS perspective on pharmacist prescribing
- National Prescribing Curriculum

NPS (National Prescribing Service)

- Established in 1998
- Funded by the Australian Government
- Independent, not-for-profit organisation
- Membership based
- Work in partnership
  - consumers
  - health professionals
  - government
  - industry

Dr Lynn Weekes
CEO, NPS since 1998

Activities to improve medicine use

- When decisions are made
  - Immediate impact
  - Intermittent impact
- Between decision making
  - Teaching how to make decisions
- Building the evidence base

- Decision support
- Practice guidance
- Drug information
- Academic detailing
- Peer group discussion
- Audit and feedback
- Continuing education
- Undergraduate education
- Research

Pharmacist prescribing: NPS perspective

NPS has an independent perspective:

- support all prescribers
- collaborative approach
  - how does it help consumers?
  - how does it support health care team and health system?
- competencies
  - quality and safety of prescribing
- need to differentiate prescriber and dispenser roles
  - prescribing is not at expense of quality of dispensing practice
  - prescribing not driven by perverse financial incentives
Pharmacist prescribing: NPS perspective

- Pharmacist prescribing for OTCs and complementary medicines
  - evidence of how well pharmacists would undertake further prescribing responsibilities?
- Specialised prescribing areas
  - evidence that is effective, eg anticoagulation
- Prescribing should not be viewed as an isolated activity
  - eg repeat prescribing is often used as an opportunity to follow-up other issues and activities
- Should not add to fragmentation of healthcare
  - how easy for consumers to navigate?

Quality use of medicines

- selecting management options wisely
- choosing the most suitable medicines if medicines are needed
- using medicines safely and effectively

QUM depends on committed teamwork between all members of the partnership on behalf of the Australian community.

It follows that all members must be committed to ensuring exchange of relevant information between involved groups and members of the community to ensure they are able to make informed decisions.

Activities to improve medicine use

When decisions are made

- Immediate impact
- Intermittent impact
- Enduring impact

Teaching how to make decisions

Building the evidence base

National Prescribing Curriculum

- Web-based interactive modules
- WHO Guide to Good Prescribing
- Case-based topics
- Diagnosis provided – focus on prescribing
- Medical, pharmacy, nurse practitioner and dentistry students
Examples of National Prescribing Curriculum topics

- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Peptic ulcer disease
- Hypertension
- The confused patient
- Seizures
- Acute chest pain
- Acute otitis media (child)
- Heart failure
- Anticoagulation
- Postoperative pain and vomiting
- Polypharmacy

Topics for pharmacist prescribers?

Uptake: medical schools

Uptake: pharmacy schools

Conclusion

NPS has an independent perspective

- benefits for consumers
- good and safe practice

NPS will support pharmacist prescribers

- provision of online learning modules
  - National Prescribing Curriculum
  - supports a number of prescribing competencies
- as an audience for our therapeutic programs
  - to improve medicines use and patient outcomes