

Crossing Boundaries – Development of a Credentialing Process for Pharmacist Prescribing in the Emergency Department

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Outline

- Background
- Why a credentialing process was needed
- What process was selected
- How the credentialing was designed and completed
- The future for pharmacist prescribing

 

Background

- DHS funded project for pharmacists to undertake prescribing roles in the Emergency Department (ED)
- ED Pharmacists at three Victorian hospitals (Barwon Health, Southern Health and St.Vincent's) decided to participate
- Prescribing role for the project would be to chart regular medications on the medication chart

 

Pharmacist Prescribing in Emergency Departments

- Need for credentialing process for pharmacists involved in prescribing project to ensure competence
- UK registered course was selected
- Four subjects (including a residential period)
- Period of Learning in Practice (PLP) 90 hours



Robert Gordon University
Aberdeen, Scotland



Monash University
Parkville, Australia

 

Learning Objectives of PLP

- Obtain evidence of the following
 - Demonstrate competence in the **generation of treatment options** for patients
 - Demonstrate competence in the **relevant clinical examinations of patients** with those conditions for which the pharmacist may prescribe
 - Demonstrate competence in the **monitoring and assessment of patient's response to treatment** against the objectives in the treatment or clinical management plan
 - Demonstrate **effective communication** with patients, carers, other prescribers and members of the healthcare team
 - Demonstrate and document **professional development** as a pharmacist prescriber

 

Designing and Planning for the PLP

- Develop PLP plan to outline activities that will achieve learning objectives
- Difficulty of designing plan suitable for ED setting and writing up of regular medications
- 90 hours completed over 2 to 3 months



 

PLP Activities



- Shadowing medical staff
- Attending medical education sessions
- Conducting education
- Developing guidelines
- Tutorials on measuring vital observations (limited diagnostic skills)

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PLP Activities

- Attending medical handover
- Taking medication history and writing medication chart
- Attendance at conferences and seminars
- Pain management
- Infections
- Drug monitoring



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Supervision

- Well supported but supervision variable
- Supervision dependent on medical staff and level of activity in ED
- Need to proactively seek out patients and medical staff
- Need to be proactive in seeking help and knowing own limitations
- Senior doctor assigned to assist with problems

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Barriers

- Pace of ED
- Multiple medical staff rostered in shifts
- No experience from UK to draw from as ED setting not ventured into yet
- Need to be proactive
- Difficult to balance new role whilst continuing other responsibilities
- Concern from pharmacy colleagues that prescribing is out of the scope of practice of a pharmacist

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Portfolio

- Reflective essay
- Competency documents
- Clinical management plans
- Evidence of achievement of learning outcomes
- Declaration by designated medical practitioner

Pharmacist Independent Prescribing
Declaration by Designated Medical Practitioner

This declaration must be signed by the Designated Medical Practitioner and submitted with the candidate's portfolio to the University.

Pharmacist: Lee Clough

Medical Practitioner: Paul George Stratford

I confirm that the above named candidate has satisfactorily completed the prescribing module of each module of our course of supervised practice and in my opinion is suitable for registration as an independent and supplementary prescriber.

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 2/5/21

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Achievement of Competence

- Necessary that some form of credentialing is completed prior to pharmacist prescribing
- Difficult to assess competence for prescribing regular medications
- Course assisted with development of activities and ensuring processes in place to address issues that arise



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The Future

- Collate data for project on medication charts
- Push for legislative change
- Develop Australian course and registration process?
- Future roles for pharmacist prescribers
- Sustainability of prescribing roles (what happens if credentialed people leave?)

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