

Understanding the role of the Non- Medical Prescriber in Dementia Services

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What is a NMP?

- Nurse, Midwife, Pharmacist and Allied Health Professional (AHPs) who have completed an accredited prescribing course and registered their qualification with their regulating body are able to prescribe.
- They are able to prescribe any medication provided it is in their competency to do so.
- This includes medicines and products listed in the BNF, unlicensed medicines and all controlled drugs in Schedule 2 to 5

Types of NMP

- Independent prescriber - practitioner who is responsible and accountable for the assessment of patients with undiagnosed or diagnosed condition and can make prescribing decisions to manage the clinical condition of the patient
- Supplementary prescriber – practitioner who prescribes within an agreed patient specific clinical management plan (CMP), agreed in partnership by a supplementary prescriber with a Doctor.

My Research project

- I started working in the Dementia Assessment Services based in Worthing – cover Adur, Arun, Worthing and mid in Feb 2021.
- There are other DAS in North – Horsham, Crawley and Haywards Heath and West – Bognor, Chichester.
- There is a Memory Assessment Service in East Sussex
- There is an inpatient service in Worthing

What I did?

- Set up network meetings with NMPs
- Did literature search on prescribing in Dementia services
- Developed a q for peers to complete on their NMP role

Feedback from q

- Sent out a q using Qualtrics to the NMPs
- Two thirds response rate – 66.7%
- Locality – 50% East Sussex, 25% North and 25% West Sussex
- How long qualified – shortest 4 years, longest 16 years
- How long prescribing – shortest 3 months, longest 16 years

Feedback cont'd

- 100% felt the role benefitted the patients
- 100% felt they have been supported in the role
- Service areas -50% worked in Dementia Assessment, 25% in Dementia and Older People Mental Health Service and 25% in Memory Assessment/ Older People Mental Health Service

Clinical role and medication

- 75% did assessments, diagnosis, prescribing, signposting and review
- 25% did prescribing, signposting and review
- 50% prescribed for Dementia
- 25% also prescribed for physical health, pain, skin, bone protection, inhalers
- 25% also prescribed anxiolytics, hypnotics and antipsychotics and antidepressants

Benefits

- 100% felt the role benefitted the patients
- Patient feedback-
- happy with the speed of diagnosis and prescribing as longer wait to see a medic
- Continuity of seeing the same clinician
- Ability to contact me and flexibility
- Feeling heard
- Conveying a diagnosis and signposting has been appreciated

Challenges

- Covid – sometimes difficult to contact a patient for a review
- In pharmacy needing another pharmacist to check me. Often quicker to ask someone else to prescribe
- There is a feeling that some want the NMP to do a CPN type role as well as prescribing
- Volume of admin
- Having the role recognised by team/colleagues as being of value to the team
- Colleagues feeling threatened by autonomy
- Role has been isolated at times

Next steps

- Feedback survey to the NMP group
- Explore q for team members to complete about role of NMP
- Write something up

Questions

- Prescribing Competency Framework by Royal Pharmaceutical society
- Thank you