

Protecting Patients Through Peer Review and Support

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Sefton PCT~ Who are we?

- Primary Care Trust in Northwest England
- Urban mainly but with some rural areas
- Mixed economy but with high levels of deprivation
- 280,000 population
- 1500 staff, 1100 in the provider directorate (not including independent contractors GPs etc)
- Commissioner of and provider primary and community services for the population of Sefton
- Key priorities~ improving health, reducing inequalities, improving access, providing value, engaging public and patient safety



Non Medical Prescribing in Sefton

- History of commitment to NMP
- Early implementer of Community practitioner formulary and then supplementary and extended prescribing
- High levels of prescribing trained staff
 - Community practitioners 120
 - Extended prescriber nurses 65
 - Extended prescribing pharmacists 5
 - Supplementary prescribing pharmacists 2
 - Allied Health Professional supplementary 0



Protecting patients

Staffing issues

- Appropriate staff access and complete training
- Knowledge and clinical skills
- Registration with professional bodies
- Professional competencies- assessed and reviewed
- Areas of prescribing in line with clinical areas
- Audit of activity outcomes based not just spend
- Ongoing competency, support and CPD



Protecting Patients

Organisational issues

Organisational strategies which will include

- Commissioning appropriate services to include prescribing (out of hospital care, access, our health, our care, our say)
- Risk assessment and management
- Policies and processes
- Supervision
- Audit and reporting
- Incident reporting and patient safety programmes
- Support structures including access to CPD and inclusion of prescribing in job descriptions and KSF



Peer Review & Support

- NMPs grouped based on areas of prescribing 5 groups in all
- Each group meets 2 monthly initially facilitated by senior clinician
- Each group has pharmacist as member to give pharmaceutical advice/view
- Each NMP receives prescribing activity from PPA (based on areas of prescribing) level of activity/based on expected levels
- Specific updates provided based on areas identified by group



Process

- Each group has agreed ground rules and processes which members are comfortable with
- Members bring for discussion a clinical assessment, diagnostic findings and the prescribing decision (to prescribe or not to prescribe) are presented then using action learning are reviewed
- Individual Prescribing Activity is reviewed so benchmarking can be done
- Sharing of good practice and knowledge



Outcomes

- Development of confidence and competence
- Protecting patients by ensuring appropriate prescribing decisions informed by appropriate skills and knowledge including reflection & CPD
- Debate and discussion of prescribing practice and decisions
- Prescribing activity is based on effective evidence & guidelines and activity is appropriate and generic.



Outcomes

- NMP prescribing issues are less than medical prescribers (prescription queries)
- Patients seen by NMPs report better information regarding medication which appears to lead to increased concordance
- High levels of patient satisfaction- NMP
- More likely to try non-prescribing option- NMP
- Currently no medication/prescribing problems reported & no scripts refused or returned.
- Never had patient refuse to see an NMP in fact in some areas they choose to do so



Outcomes

- Prescribing activity relatively high~ now at least 100 active prescribing every month, spend raising from Aug 06 £42,565 (Aus\$85,000) to December 07 £82,305 (Aus\$ 165,000)
- Extended prescribers
 - All nurses are actively prescribing
 - All pharmacists prescribe but much less frequently
- Community practitioners
 - District nursing high prescribing levels all prescribe at least once daily most more frequently
 - Health visitors less prescribing



Conclusions

- Patient safety is paramount.
- NMPs must have appropriate knowledge, skills and training if not the risk is high for patients, staff & organisation.
- Support, supervision and some form of peer review for NMP is fundamental to providing organisations with assurance.
- Organisational commitment and processes are important this allow the organisation to understand and manage any risk
- Governance processes are the key to ensuring patients are protected.
- Patients must be offered choice

