

# Nurse Prescribing

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# Overview



- Prescribers in NZ
- Nurse Prescribing in primary health and specialty teams
- My Journey
- Nurse Prescribing Group & Clinical Governance at HVDHB

# Prescribers in NZ



## Authorised

- Nurse Practitioners
- Midwives
- Doctors
- Dentists
- Optometrists

## Designated

- Nurse Prescribers
- Community Nurse Prescribers
- Pharmacists
- Dieticians

# Nurse Prescribing in PH and Specialty teams



20 September 2016

- Acknowledgement of
  - Previous nurse prescribers success
  - Building on knowledge and skills
  - Awareness of good team collaboration
  - Giving nurses accountability for prescribing decisions
  - Improving access to healthcare

# Changes to Law



## **Medicines Act (1981) and Regulations Misuse of Drugs Act (1975)**

- These acts cover the lawful and unlawful handling, possession, advertising, sale and administration of drugs
- Various amendments have been made over the years including The Medicines (Designated Prescriber: Registered Nurses) Regulation 2016

# Requirements



Registered nurses who wish to prescribe in primary health and speciality teams are required to have additional qualifications:

- **Employer support**
- **A minimum of three years full-time practice** in the area they intend to prescribe in
- The completion of a Council-approved **postgraduate diploma** in registered nurse prescribing
- Prescribing practicum with an **authorised prescriber** as prescribing **mentor**
- Satisfactory assessment of the **competencies** for nurse prescribers
- Alternate pathway available for those who have completed a Masters prescribing practicum

# Post Graduate Diploma in RN Prescribing



- Pathophysiology
- Pharmacology
- Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning
- Prescribing Practicum
- 120 credits (level 8)
- Equivalent to 1 years full time study

# My Journey



## Alternative route

- MN (patho, Pharm, Resear, A&C decision making, Chron cond, PHC, Sleep & PP)
- August 2017
- Specialty: Respiratory
- Clinics and Community
- Supervised 1 year NP



# Respiratory



- SMP
- Back pocket scripts
- Home visits
- Clinics
- Long term management/Acutely unwell
- Change in treatment
- Continuation of treatment
- Knowing when not to prescribe
- De-prescribing

# Medication list



- Oxygen
- Beclometasone dipropionate - nasal spray
- Fluticasone Furoate with Vilanterol
- Indacaterol
- Glycopyrronium
- Umeclidinium
- Glycopyrronium with Indacaterol
- Tiotropium with Olodaterol
- Umeclidinium with Vilanterol

# Nurse Prescribing Group HVDHB



- February 2017
- Meet 2 monthly
- For nurses who are prescribing or on the pathway to becoming a nurse prescriber
- Meets professional development hours
- Supports nurses to meet the NCNZ continuing competence requirements

# Meetings include



- Peer Review/Case studies
- Education
- Formal updates and discussions on medications
- Legislation
- Specific condition management
- Audit reviews
- Addressing quality and risk management issues
- Supporting development of clinical expertise in practice
- Measuring patient outcomes
- Reviewing models of care
- Increasing visibility

# Education so far



- Introduction to Nurse prescribing
- How to apply for nurse prescribing
- Remuneration/JERC process
- How to write a prescription/Notify adverse reactions/Resources available
- Nurse prescribing so far
- Peer review (NP)
- Antibiotic stewardship
- Peer review (Resp)
- Skin management
- Prescribing in Youth health (Dec)

# Clinical Governance Group



- DON holds a registrar of nurse prescribers within HVDHB area
  - Nurse prescriber on medicines council (NP joined)
  - Link to clinical council - Clinical Governance group (DON)
  - Changes made to wording in guidelines (NCNZ)
  - Letter to NCNZ from Nurse Prescribing Group (medicines list)
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- Review Medicines Policy (under review)
  - Review electronic sign off for investigations (under review)
  - Continue to promote Nurse Prescribing (Nursing Strategy)
  - Streamline processes/ Review Framework (next meeting)

# Framework for RN prescribing HVDHB



Purpose: to support nurses, their prescribing mentors/collaborative teams and employers to work within a safe prescribing framework to deliver better access and improve healthcare outcomes.

- HVDHB/local requirements
- Clinical requirements (Employers and Clinical teams)
- RN Prescriber responsibilities
- Benefits of RN designated prescribers

# Challenges



- Primary vs Secondary (support)
- New to others (Pharmacists, lab)
- Confidence
- Professional development hours
- Changing policies (medically focused)
- Legislative interpretation
- Medicines list
- Remuneration



# Benefits



- Continuity of care
- Improving access
- Patients and Job satisfaction
- Less time wasted waiting for scripts
- Working at top of scope
- Increased confidence
- Increased autonomy
- Improved working relationships within department, DHB and Primary Care

# Further information



- Nursing Council of New Zealand – Nurse Prescribing.  
<http://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz/Nurses/Nurse-Prescribing>
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