Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing Toolkit

Drugs and Therapeutics Committee

Changing practice to support service delivery
Context

This document provides guidance on best practice for Drugs and Therapeutics (D&T) Committees/Review Groups to support them in their role relating to the implementation of nurse and midwife medicinal product prescribing. Drugs and Therapeutics Committees have an oversight function in their role of assurance for appropriate patient drug therapy and outcomes. This supports the promotion of optimal patient care. It is the responsibility of the health service provider to ensure clinical governance structures are in place in relation to prescribing for all prescribers, including Registered Nurse Prescribers (RNPs). This should include a written policy in relation to nurse and midwife medicinal product prescribing. Nurse midwife medicinal product prescribing should be introduced following an identified service need or gap in service.

Drugs and Therapeutics Committee/Review Group

It is strongly recommended that each health service provider has a D&T Committee in place, or has access to one. In the absence of a D&T Committee, a Review Group may be established with specific terms of reference for nurse and midwife medicinal product prescribing. This Committee/Review Group must include at a minimum representation from senior nursing and midwifery personnel (Director of Nursing/Midwifery/PHN; Nurse Practice Development Coordinator), senior medical personnel (GP/Consultant), and senior pharmacy personnel.

Terms of Reference for D&T Committee/Review Group in respect of nurse and midwife medicinal product prescribing

• Review and advise on the medicinal product listing of the Collaborative Practice Agreement\(^1\) (CPA) and provide feedback to the candidate/RNP and Director of Nursing/Midwifery/Public Health Nursing/Service Manager.

• Ensure the medicinal product is:
  • Written in generic format where possible
  • Authorised by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA), or in the case of a centrally authorised medicinal product, by the European Medicines Agency.

• Review and advise on any additions and/or amendments to the medicinal product listing proposed by the RNP.

• Agree where appropriate to communicate electronically to support timely registration of the candidate nurse and midwife prescriber. This enables review in the absence or deferral of face to face meetings.

• Where appropriate, the D&T Committee/Review Group may receive and/or review audit reports of the RNP’s prescribing practices.

• If the medicinal product is prescribed for off label use, the D&T Committee/Review Group must review and approve the supporting documentation submitted by the candidate/RNP.

\(^1\) The CPA is a document that is drawn up by the candidate/registered nurse prescriber, collaborating medical practitioner/s and the employer outlining the parameters of the registered nurse prescriber’s prescriptive authority (i.e. his/her scope of practice). This includes the list of medicinal products the RNP has authority to prescribe. The principles of professional accountability, responsibility, competence and clinical governance underpin the CPA. The CPA is approved by the Director of Nursing/Midwifery/Public Health Nursing/Service Manager (Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland, 2016).
Collaborative Practice Agreement

- The Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA) should be developed and agreed by the candidate nurse and midwife prescriber or RNP in collaboration with the collaborating medical practitioner/s, and senior nursing and midwifery management.

- The CPA outlines the parameters of the RNP’s prescribing authority. The principles of professional accountability, responsibility, competence and clinical governance underpin the CPA.

- The list of medicinal products (generic name where possible) as outlined in the CPA should be reviewed and discussed with pharmacist/pharmacy department personnel prior to submitting to D&T Committee/Review Group.

- The Director of Nursing/Midwifery/Public Health Nursing/Service Manager supports the candidate to submit the CPA to the D&T Committee/Review Group within three months of successful completion of the relevant nurse and midwife medicinal product prescribing education programme.

- The completed and agreed CPA is signed and approved by the Director of Nursing/Midwifery/Public Health Nursing/Service Manager on behalf of the health service provider.

Supporting Documentation

- Department of Health (1993) Circular 8/93. The Establishment or Re-Activation of Hospital Therapeutics Committee and Related Matters. Dublin: Department of Health


This document was developed using a tripartheid approach between the Department of Health (Medicines Unit and Chief Nursing Office), the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland and the Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director, Health Service Executive.