



Consultation on draft guidance for pharmacist prescribers

Speaking notes for presentation

We have provided these notes for organisations to use when using the 'consultation on draft guidance for pharmacist prescribers' presentation in the resources for organisations toolkit.

Slide 1

- The GPhC are consulting on draft guidance for pharmacist prescribers which sets out the key areas pharmacist prescribers should consider when prescribing to ensure safe and effective care. This consultation is open until 21 June 2019.

Slide 2 - Context

- Since 2016 the number of independent prescribers on the GPhC register has gone up by over 4,000 which is more than double.
- While national pharmacy strategies vary across the countries in Great Britain, there is a consistent recognition that employing pharmacist prescribers across healthcare settings makes the best use of pharmacists' prescribing knowledge and skills, and complements the skills of other members of the healthcare team.
- The public's expectations about health services are continuing to change.

Slide 3 – How the draft guidance was developed

- Research carried out over the past three years
- Information received through a prescribers' survey (2016)
- Information from fitness to practice cases
- Previous discussion papers, including on making sure patients and the public obtain medicines and other pharmacy services safely online (2018)
- Consultation on education and training standards for pharmacist prescribers (2018)

Slide 4 - Key areas covered in guidance

- The guidance sets out the key areas that relate to the provision of safe and effective prescribing. Pharmacist prescribers should consider these areas when prescribing, to ensure safe and effective care. These are:
 1. taking responsibility for prescribing safely
 2. keeping up to date and prescribing within your level of competence

3. working in partnership with other healthcare professionals and people seeking care
 4. prescribing in certain circumstances
 5. prescribing non-surgical cosmetic medicinal products
 6. remote prescribing
 7. safeguards for the remote prescribing of certain categories of medicines
 8. raising concerns
- Section 9 in the guidance deals with information for pharmacy owners and employers of pharmacist prescribers.

Slide 5 – Safe and effective practice

- The guidance includes some key questions that pharmacist prescribers should ask themselves when thinking about how they can ensure and demonstrate that they have provided person-centred care.

Slide 6 – Prescribing safely

- The draft guidance sets out what pharmacist prescribers should do to make sure they are prescribing safely.
- Having all the relevant medical information about a person and their medicines is vital to ensure safe prescribing. This may be obtained by communicating with the person's regular prescriber or by having access to the person's medical records.
- The GPhC are seeking views on circumstances where a pharmacist prescriber has to decide if they can prescribe safely. For example, when you do not have access to a person's medical records or the person does not have a regular prescriber (such as a GP).

Slide 7 – Prescribing and supplying

- The draft guidance proposes that pharmacist prescribers should usually keep the initial prescribing separate from the supply of medicines prescribed to protect the person's safety.
- The draft guidance describes certain circumstances where it may be necessary to prescribe and supply - for example, when a person needs the medicines urgently.
- And certain circumstances when a pharmacist prescriber may prescribe and supply on a regular basis – for example, when administering travel vaccines.
- The GPhC are seeking views on whether there are other circumstances where a pharmacist prescriber should be able to prescribe and supply.

Slide 8 – Safeguards for remote prescribing of certain categories of medicines

- The draft guidance outlines certain categories of medicines which are not suitable to be prescribed remotely unless further safeguards have been put in place.
- The GPhC have proposed safeguards including having a robust process for checking identity and asking for consent to contact the person's regular prescriber.
- They are seeking views on additional safeguards for remote prescribing of certain categories of medicines.

For information, the categories of medicines include:

- Antimicrobials (antibiotics)
- Medicines liable to abuse, overuse or misuse, or where there is a risk of addiction and ongoing monitoring is important such as opiates
- Medicines that require ongoing monitoring or management, such as those used to treat diabetes, asthma, epilepsy and mental health conditions.
- Non-surgical cosmetic medicinal products

For information, the safeguards set out in the guidance are:

- If a pharmacist prescriber decides to prescribe remotely or work with an online prescribing service, the above categories of medicines should be prescribed only if the prescriber:
 - has robust processes in place to check identities, to make sure the medicines prescribed go to the right person
 - has asked the person for the contact details of their regular prescriber, such as their GP, and for their consent to contact them about the prescription
 - will proactively share all relevant information about the prescription with other health professionals involved in the care of the person (for example their GP)
 - has systems in place so that the pharmacy team can clearly document the prescriber's decision to issue a prescription, if the person does not have a regular prescriber such as a GP or when there is no consent to share information
 - is working within national prescribing guidelines for the UK and good practice guidance

Slide 9 – Take part in the consultation

- The consultation will be open until 21 June and you are encouraged to respond to the consultation via the GPhC website.

- The feedback received through the consultation will be considered by the GPhC Council in Autumn 2019.

Slide 10 – Find out more

- Find out more about the GPhC on their website and on social media.