Pharmacotherapeutics in Prescribing

This masters level module has been developed to meet the training requirements for access and supply rights under exemptions order (Prescription Only Medicine (POM) Certification). It further provides education and training for Allied Health Professionals in the theory and practice of patient group directives (as per current eligibility) relevant to the needs of the patient and health service. The Department of Health has requested and actively supports the provision of this programme, which has been identified as specific to the future requirements of Allied Health Professionals and needs of the modernised workforce.

Benefits to patients are improved, access to medicines, greater convenience and choice leading to improvement in patient care, better use of Allied Health Professionals and Medics’ time, clarification of professional responsibilities leading to improved communications, the provision of a holistic and autonomous service by non-medical professionals, greater concordance and improved understanding by patients of their pharmacological management.

Semester 1: 7-11 September and 11-13 November 2015
Credits: - 30 credit points at level 7 - (masters level)
Module/Course Co-ordinator: Dr Ciara Hughes, cm.hughes@ulster.ac.uk
Module Code – PHM801 CRN-6001
Programme outline

This 30 credit point module runs for one semester. The module may be taken as standalone or as the first of two compulsory modules that comprise the Postgraduate Certificate in Medicine’s Management programme.

Attendance is required for eight days divided into two blocks of teaching (one block of 5 days and one block of 3 days). No further attendance is required; all further support is provided using the web.

Completion of all elements of assessment of the module Pharmacotherapeutics in Prescribing provides the training elements required for Allied Health Professionals working under patient group directives and exemptions order, and will qualify the applicant for the professional entry of Prescriptions only Medicine Certification on the Health Professions Council register, where eligible. Clinical Practice: In addition to attendance for teaching, a minimum of thirty hours attendance in clinical practice with a medical mentor is compulsory. Medical mentors must agree to the role of mentor and should be identified prior to commencing on the course by the applicant. Mentors must be involved/ work within the same field of practice as the applicant and be actively prescribing at an independent level.

Professional body accreditation

The course is subject to the regulations of the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and also carries the professional awards of Prescription Only Medicines (POM) Certification where eligible

Introduction

This part-time, web dependant programme has been developed with the aim of preparing suitably qualified Allied Health Professionals for the extended role of Prescribing under exemption order and / or patient group directives. Direct benefits to the patient are improvement in patient care, clarification of professional responsibilities leading to improved communications, the provision of a holistic and autonomous service by non-medical professionals, greater concordance and improved understanding by patients of their pharmacological management. Benefits to the health professional undertaking a prescribing role are an increased sense of satisfaction and status, and increased confidence through greater knowledge and experience of drug therapy and prescribing mechanisms.

Who should attend?

The programme is for experienced Allied Health Professionals working in specialist fields of practice for whom prescribing under exemptions order and/ or patient group directives will be a useful tool in delivering more effective care for patients.

Course content

Teaching Block 1: Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics; Principles/ Practice of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring; Exemptions Orders; Patient Group Directives; Supplementary Prescribing versus Independent Prescribing- differences and how are they applicable to clinical practice; The Workings and Intricacies of the British National Formulary as a Vital Clinical Resource; Drug interactions- why they occur, the difference between interactions and adverse reactions and the use of the yellow card system for the reporting of adverse drug reactions;

Teaching Block 2: Issues Surrounding Paediatric Prescribing and Prescribing in the Elderly Population - dose calculation methodologies, metabolic differences/ effects, physiological change in the elderly that lead to administration, distribution, metabolism and/ or excretion issues (e.g. fat levels, renal and hepatic disease); Drug Licensing - the processes through which drugs are developed and tested to ensure safety prior to approval, marketing and use; Introduction to Prescribing Practice; Different Models of Consultation and Gaining Concordance with Patients

Assessment

Examination based on multiple choice and short answers questions. Case study submission is required at the end of the module on completion of clinical practice elements to include a record of clinical practice and a short reflective account.

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