

INDEPENDENT PRESCRIBING

Does it enhance a clinical research nurse role?

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Independent Prescribing has become a well established aspect of advanced clinical practice for healthcare professionals in the United Kingdom for over 2 decades.

Defined as 'Prescribing by a practitioner (e.g doctor, dentist, nurse, pharmacist, physiotherapist) responsible and accountable for the assessment of patients with undiagnosed or diagnosed conditions and for decisions about the clinical management required, including prescribing' (WAG 2017)

Specific Advantages for the Role of the Clinical Research Nurse

- Easier to streamline the recruitment process since the nurse with the skill set for independent prescribing can potentially facilitate the whole recruitment process.
- Allows competency through skills to check and ensure eligibility, provide informed consent as well as prescribe the medication.
- Negates the issue of the availability of medical staff having time away from their clinical duties and undertaking extra research training.
- Reduces delegated doctor's workload and could save time for both the doctor and the patient.
- Potential to manage more demands on services to increase patient recruitment.
- Ensures quality of care through continuity of the autonomous practitioner.
- Allows enhanced communication with patients as skills allow a greater understanding of the investigational medications .
- The nurse has both the pharmacology and pharmacokinetic knowledge to address the patient's concerns regarding medications and the potential side-effects in-depth.
- Provides a holistic approach throughout the whole research experience which improves the patient experience.
- By applying these autonomous skills, this ensures a more effective recruitment process which enhances job satisfaction for the clinical research role.
- Prescribing medication is a small part of the whole process but the benefits are evident.
- Overall, having these skills and applying them to the research role has an extremely positive impact in practice and ultimately patient care.

Bhanbhro et al. 2011, Hall J., Cantrill J. and Noyce P. 2003 , Lewis-Evans A. and Jester R. 2004, Bhanbhro et al., 2011

Potential Challenges

- Extra roles and responsibilities / time constraints / increased workload
- Fear of litigation
- Lack of access to training and continuous professional development
- Inadequate organisational support from managers and colleagues
- Lack of suitable mentor and clinical support
- Seen as a cost saving exercise for the NHS
- Limited use of skill for trials as potentially medications out of scope of practice

(Graham-Clarke 2018)

So the benefits are ...



Prescribing practice is governed by both ethical and legal principles.

Underpins Good Clinical Practice (GCP)

Examples of studies where Independent Prescribing has been utilised within the Cardiff & Vale Research Delivery Team:—

1. HEAL COVID (HElping Alleviate the Longer-term consequences of COVID-19: a national platform trial)
2. RECOVERY (Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy)
3. TACTIC-R (multiArm therapeutiC sTudy in pre-Icu patients admitted with COVID-19-Repurposed drugs)
4. ALMITRINE Bismeslyte in COVID-19

So do you think this would benefit you and your clinical research team?

