Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing Toolkit

Drugs and Therapeutics Committee

Introduction

One of the requirements for health services introducing nurse and midwife medicinal product prescribing is access to a Drugs and Therapeutics (D&T) committee. The D&T Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving the Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA) medicinal product listing (attachment B of CPA) put forward to RNP/candidate prescriber. The Site Declaration Form requires confirmation that this list will be submitted by the candidate to the D&T committee within 3 months of completion of the relevant education programme.

It is not required for the D&T committee to review attachments A and C of the CPA. However, these attachments may be requested by some committees for clarity and context.

Review Group

It is strongly recommended that each health service provider establishes a D&T Committee. Where this is not possible, a review group may be established with specific terms of reference for the nurse and midwife medicinal product prescribing initiative. The responsibilities of this group or committee include the approval of the medications listed in Attachment B of the CPA. This committee must include representation from senior nursing and midwifery personnel, senior medical personnel, pharmacist, and/or other agreed representation.

Subgroup of Drugs and Therapeutics Committee

The chair or appointed head of the D&T committee in consultation with the Director of Nursing/Midwifery/Public Health Nursing (and any other key stakeholders/individuals identified by the health service provider) may delegate the responsibility for the review of the medications listing for the purposes of registration and renewal of the CPA. In the event of the establishment of a group of this nature, there should be an agreed written organisational policy by the health service provider for this delegation. This demonstrates evidence of clear governance and communication regarding nurse and midwife prescriptive authority within the organisation.

Points for consideration when developing Terms of Reference for D&T committees / Review Group/Subgroup of D&T committee in respect of nurse and midwife medicinal product prescribing:

• To discuss, review and approve the medicinal products listing proposed for the Collaborative Practice Agreement of each RNP.
• To ensure that this listing complies with all relevant statutory provisions, professional guidance and national and local policies. The medicinal product must be:
  • Authorised by the Irish Medicines Board
  • Authorised for an Unauthorised Indication (formerly “Off-Label”) (NOTE: RNPs are not authorised to prescribe an unauthorised medication).
  • Written in Generic format where possible
  • Within the scope of practice of the individual candidate/Registered Nurse Prescriber
• Advise where appropriate on any additional conditions to be applied to the RNP’s prescriptive authority
• Review and approve any changes to CPAs and lists of drugs. The CPA is renewed one year after registering as a RNP, and every two years thereafter.
• Review the report of the monitoring and audit of the RNPs prescribing practice where appropriate.