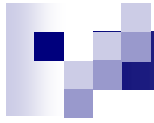




# The Use of Medication Protocols

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- What are Medication Protocols?
- Development of Medication Protocols
- Using Medication Protocols
- Current situation



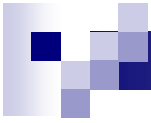
# An Bord Altranais Guidance

- *The Code of Professional Conduct for Each Nurse and Midwife (April 2000)*
- *Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework (April 2000)*
- *Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on Medication Management (July 2007)*



# Immunisation and vaccination

- Immunisation and vaccination programmes are an accepted mechanism in public health for the prevention and eradication of infectious diseases
- Nurses and midwives are key health professionals involved in providing immunisations to the patient/service-user and communities in the promotion of public health and prevention of infectious diseases
- Examples include childhood immunisation programmes, seasonal vaccinations, occupational health vaccinations and travel vaccinations.



- An Bord Altranais supports the development of medication protocols for nurses and midwives using a nationally recognised template based on international evidence and best practice.



# What are Medication Protocols?

- Medication protocols are written directions that allow for the supply and administration of a **named medicinal product** by a nurse or midwife in identified clinical situations.
- Using a Medication Protocol involves the authorisation of the RN/RM to supply and administer a medication to groups of patients/service users in a defined situation **meeting specific criteria** and who may **not** be individually identified before presentation for treatment.



# Medication protocols

- An individually named prescription is **NOT** required for the supply and administration of medication when a medication protocol is in effect.
- Its use should be considered in the context of the clinical situation, safety assurance for the patient/service-user and acceptance of accountability by the healthcare professional involved.



# Rational

- medication protocols can support efficient timely delivery of quality healthcare and optimally utilise the skills of healthcare professionals. However, the use of a medication protocol should be reserved for situations where it offers an advantage for the patient/service-user and where it is consistent with appropriate professional relationships.





## Legislative basis for Medication protocols

- The legislative basis for medication protocols for the supply and administration of medication is the Medicinal Products Regulations of 1996 and subsequently 2003, (Prescription and Control of Supply), which provides authority for 'hospitals' to utilise medication protocols in order to meet patient/service-user need for medication management.



# Medication protocols

- In operationalising a protocol, a nurse/midwife who is authorised to supply, is also responsible for administration of the medication.
- This activity cannot be **delegated**.



# Developing Medication Protocols

- must be developed based on evidence of best practice and supported locally by a multidisciplinary team (i.e. senior doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, and healthcare managers).



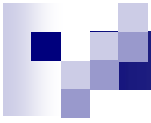
## Provisions should be made to enable :

- nurses, midwives and members of the multidisciplinary healthcare team to devise and implement medication protocols where there is a service need;
- this can be achieved by a multidisciplinary approach using the **Medication Protocol Framework** to write up the protocol for each medication to be supplied and administered by RNs/RMs.



## And .....

- specific exclusion and inclusion criteria should be stated and a review date for evaluation of the protocol should be included
- particular standards, such as identifying who is responsible and competent to implement the protocol should be articulated



## Provisions should be made to:

- ensure that the education and training is available to disseminate information to nurses/midwives and all members of the healthcare team involved in the use of protocols
- these key provisions should be in place in advance to facilitate and direct nurses and midwives in safe practices for the supply and administration of medication utilising a written medication protocol.



# Medication protocols

- The responsibility for developing and quality-assuring medication protocols rests with health service providers.
- It is important that local policies are devised to support the development and implementation of any medication protocols for patient/service-user care.



## Medication protocols

- a review and audit process should be in place to evaluate the use of medication protocols as part of quality care provision and risk management
- the Medication Protocol Framework has been developed from a project supported by An Bord Altranais and the National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery





# Setting a standard of vaccine delivery in general practice

- Nurses and midwives involved in immunisation programmes and/or working under a Medication Protocol should maintain their competency and current knowledge with all aspects of this practice.
- This encompasses:
  - Obtaining consent
  - Vaccine handling and delivery
  - Storage and stock control
  - Proper technique of administration
  - Recognition and intervention with side effects, adverse events and/or complications post immunisation.



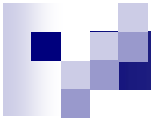
# Using Medication Protocols

- A RN/RM must be competent, educated and have authority to use Medication Protocols
  - Educational workshops
  - Basic Life Support
  - Adhere to good documentation practice
  - It is recommended to attend Anaphylaxis Training and also to complete the eLearning Medication Management Programme online from [www.nursingboard.ie](http://www.nursingboard.ie)



## Current situation

- Group meeting with representation from the NIO, HSE, ICGP, PDCs
- Considering the development and use of Medication Protocols by PNs in general practice
- Educational workshops and dissemination



# Change

- In bringing about change, it is recognised that change itself is not easy - it can be stressful and sometimes difficult to understand in the beginning.
- However, if change brings about improvements in how we as RNs /RMs advance the practice of Nursing/ Midwifery and deliver an effective and efficient service, then all our efforts will be worth it .



## Sources of Information /websites

- An Bord Altranais guidance documents available on <http://www.nursingboard.ie/en/homepage.aspx>
- HSE National Immunisation Office <http://www.immunisation.ie/en/>
- Irish Medicines Board [http:// www.imb.ie](http://www.imb.ie)
- Department of Health and Children: <http://www.dohc.ie/>
- HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre <http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/default.aspx/>
- Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) <http://www.icgp.ie/>
- World Health Organization (WHO) <http://www.who.int/en/>
- European Medicines Agency [http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/home/Home\\_Page.jsp&mid](http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/home/Home_Page.jsp&mid)