



Medication Protocol Update

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Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) Guidance

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



Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland NMBI

- NMBI – the statutory body for nurses and midwives in Ireland - supports the development of medication protocols for nurses and midwives using a nationally recognised template based on international evidence and best practice
 - p37 - *Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on Medication Management (ABA July 2007)*



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 2007, (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.



Rationale

- 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.



What is a Medication Protocol?

- An Bord Altranais defines medication protocols as “written directions that allow for the supply and administration of a named medicinal product by a registered nurse or midwife in identified clinical situations”.
- A medication protocol involves the authorisation of the nurse/ midwife to supply and administer a medication to groups of patients in an defined situation meeting specific criteria and who may not be individually identified before presentation for treatment”.



Medication Protocol

- 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.



Developing a Medication Protocol

- Must be developed based on evidence of best practice and supported locally by a multidisciplinary team (i.e. doctors, nurses / midwives, pharmacists, and practice managers)
- The NMBI template must be followed
- There must be an understanding by all healthcare personnel of the importance of having a robust document as the nurse/midwife working under a MP is accepting full responsibility and accountability for the decision to supply and administer the medication
- The clinical indemnifier must be notified of the intention to use MPs



Using a Medication Protocol

- An RN/RM must be competent, educated and have authority to use MPs
- It is recommended that RN/RMs attend Anaphylaxis Training and also complete the eLearning Medication Management Programme online. Unit 6 is devoted to medication protocols and is available at <http://www.nursingboard.ie/en/elearning.aspx>



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.



Vaccines

- Each vaccine is a POM (prescription only medication)
- SI 540 / 2003 - Only doctors, dentists and vets can prescribe
- Amended 2007 to include nurses and midwives who have completed the required educational programme and are registered with NMBI



Vaccines

- As each vaccine requires a prescription, the nurse or midwife must ensure there is an individual prescription before administering the vaccine
- Or s/he can decide, with the agreement of the GP, to supply and administer the vaccines working under a Medication Protocol (MP)



Vaccinations in General Practice

- Vaccines given in primary care are prescribed individually by a GP / RNP or administered under medication protocols agreed at practice level. An individually named prescription is not required for the supply and administration of medication when a medication protocol is in effect.
- Practice nurses working under medication protocols will be accountable for their own clinical practice and should be familiar with and adherent to the practices as set out in the guidelines.



Vaccinations in General Practice

- Each vaccine requires a MP. Therefore to administer the Primary Schedule there would be five MPs in place: 6:1, PCV, Men C, MMR, Hib
- The MPs are for guidance and governance. They can become a resource rather than a document that has to be read thoroughly before each administration
- Arrangements should be in place in each practice for the audit of Medication Protocol usage



Medication Protocols

- All clients meeting the exclusion criteria of a medication protocol must be referred to the GP for an individual medical assessment
- If the GP decides that the client can receive the vaccinations, then the nurse / midwife can administer the vaccines provided there is an individual prescription written as s/he is no longer working under a MP



Scope of Practice

Each nurse and midwife must work within his/her own Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice as defined by NMBI

- Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework (ABA, 2000)



Sources of Information /websites

- NMBI guidance documents available on www.nursingboard.ie
- National Immunisation Office www.immunisation.ie
- National Implementation Advisory Committee www.niac.ie
- Health Products Regulatory Authority – formerly the Irish Medicines Board – www.hpra.ie
- Department of Health and Children www.dohc.ie/issues/s
- Health Service Executive (HSE) Health Protection Surveillance Centre www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/
- Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) www.icgp.ie/flu
- World Health Organisation (WHO) www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/
- European Medicines Agency www.emea.europa.eu