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Role of Nurse Prescribing in Adult Cystic Fibrosis Service

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Abstract

Nurse prescribing is an expanded nursing role that is in place in the Republic of Ireland since 2007.

Nurse prescribing has multiple benefits. It allows the patient to have quicker and more effective access to medication. Allows nurses to better use their skills and enhances nursing care. Disease management including treatment and prevention of exacerbations, optimising and coordinating patient care are key aspects in a CNSp role. Prescribing allows CNSp's to further fulfil these aspects. The inclusion of nurse prescribers within teams promotes an environment whereby doctors and nurses can openly question and discuss prescribing decisions (Bradley, et al 2007).

The RNPs in the Cystic Fibrosis Unit in Beaumont Hospital are part of a multidisciplinary team that is a tightly-knit unit and works collaboratively to care for their patients. Each team member contributes their particular expertise to each individuals care. Working together as a team in prescribing will improve efficiency, reduce error rates and it will foster critical thinking and professional development.

An audit was completed over a seven week period and nurses prescribed 77% of all prescriptions in that time. There was a 0% error rate. Nurse prescribing contributes to individualised, quality-orientated and evidenced based to improve patient outcomes.