

# Non-Medical Prescribing

## 1 Why we need this Policy

### Definition:

#### Non-medical Independent Prescribing (IP)

The Department of Health's working definition of independent prescribing is 'prescribing by a practitioner (e.g. doctor, dentist, nurse, pharmacist) responsible and accountable for the assessment of patients with undiagnosed or diagnosed conditions and for decisions about the clinical management required, including prescribing.' Within medicines legislation the term used is 'appropriate practitioner.'

In partnership with the patient, independent prescribing is one element of the clinical management of a patient.

All Non-Medical Prescribing should ideally be carried out in the context of practice within a multidisciplinary team and with a single, accessible

Health care record.

This policy has been produced to support the development, governance arrangements and integration of non-medical prescribing throughout Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. It is government policy (Department of Health, 2006) to extend prescribing responsibilities to non-medical prescribers who have completed the required training



## 2 Benefits of Non-Medical Prescribing

In partnership with the patient, independent prescribing is one element of the clinical management of a patient

It requires an initial patient assessment, interpretation of that assessment, a decision on safe and appropriate therapy, and a process for ongoing monitoring

The independent prescriber is responsible and accountable for this element of the patient's care working closely with the Designated Medical Practitioner (DMP)

Prescribing should ideally be carried out in the context of practice within a multidisciplinary team and with a single, accessible healthcare record.



## 3 Non-Medical Prescribing Aims

The aims of non-medical independent prescribing are to:

- Improve patient care without compromising patient safety
- Make it easier for patients to get the medicines they need
- Increase patient choice in accessing medicines
- Make better use of the skills of health professionals and contribute to the introduction of more flexible team working



## 4 Non-Medical Prescribing in practice

Consent is vital and underpins the governance role of the Designated Medical Practitioner and Non-Medical Prescriber

The medical practitioner and non-medical prescriber must ensure that every attempt is made to gain informed consent and once given that this is sufficient, unless the individual rescinds it

The consent must be gained with patients fully understanding of what they are consenting to. The information must be presented in an accessible manner/format or language

If the individual subsequently loses the ability to give consent a best interest decision should be made by the non-medical prescriber and medical practitioner, with subsequent documentation, on whether prescribing by a non-medical prescriber should be continued or devolved back to the medical practitioner

The Trust operates a Non-medical Prescribers Forum which meets on a quarterly basis and is chaired by the Deputy Chief Nurse for Physical Health



## 5 Contact us

If you have any queries or are interested in becoming a Non-Medical Prescriber please contact the Trust Non-Medical Prescribing Lead via the email address below

Email: [Jayne.bruce@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:Jayne.bruce@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk)

The link to the Non-Medical Prescribing Policy can be located [here](#)

