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Literature search results

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Search details

Administration of medication by an unregistered workforce.

Resources searched

NHS Evidence; TRIP Database; Cochrane Library; CINAHL; EMBASE; MEDLINE; Google Advanced Search

**Database search terms:** administ*, (medicine* OR medication*), (unregistered OR non-registered), (unqualified OR non-qualified), ("health care support worker" OR "healthcare support worker" OR HCSW* OR "health support worker" OR "healthcare assistant" OR "social worker" OR "assistant practitioner")

**Evidence search string(s):**

"medicines management"

(medicine* OR medication*) AND administ* AND (unregistered OR non-registered OR unqualified OR non-qualified OR "health care support worker" OR "healthcare assistant")

"patient group directions"

Guidelines and Policy

**Department of Health**

The Cavendish Review: an independent review into healthcare assistants and support workers in the NHS and social care settings, 2013

p. 18

3.7.1 Partly as a consequence of nurses spending increasing time on organisational tasks, some HCAs are now doing a wide range of more advanced tasks traditionally undertaken by registered nurses. These include … preparing medication and administering it to patients…

**Health Protection Agency**
HCSWs administering the influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations can only do so under a Patient Specific Direction (PSD); they cannot legally administer them via a Patient Group Direction (PGD).

**NHS Professionals**
Guidelines for the administration of medicines, 2010
p. 6
2.1 Unregistered NHS Professional health care workers must not administer medicines. The only exception to this is where you have received suitable training (DoH 2005) and obtained written confirmation of competence from the Trust in which you are working.

**Nursing and Midwifery Council**
Standards for medicines management, 2010
p. 33-34
**Standard 19: Unregistered practitioners**
In delegating the administration of medicinal products to unregistered practitioners, it is the registrant who must apply the principles of administration of medicinal products as listed above. They may then delegate an unregistered practitioner to assist the patient in the ingestion or application of the medicinal product.

**Royal College of Nursing**
RCN position on HCSWs administering specific vaccinations, given as part of the routine national schedule, 2013

**Society of Radiographers**
The Supply, Administration and Prescribing of Medicines: guidance and advice for the radiography workforce, 2014
A Patient Specific Direction can also be used where a Patient Group Direction cannot be used, e.g. where the administration is carried out by a registered professional not covered by a Patient Group Direction or an unregistered healthcare professional, for example, assistant practitioner.

**Evidence-based reviews**
Nothing found

**Published research – Databases**
Medicines management.
**Author(s)** Griffiths, Matt
**Citation:** Nursing Standard, 03 July 2013, vol./is. 27/44(28-28), 00296570
**Publication Date:** 03 July 2013
**Abstract:** Healthcare assistants can administer vaccinations but registered staff must ensure their competence to do so first, advises Matt Griffiths.
**Source:** CINAHL
Available in fulltext from Nursing Standard at EBSCOhost
Available in print at Pilgrim Hospital Staff Library
Available in fulltext at Nursing Standard; Collection notes: On first login to a ProQuest journal you will need to select 'Athens (OpenAthens Federation)' from Select Region, and then 'NHS England' from Choose your Library.

**Safety first on medicines.**
Author(s) Bowskill, Dianne
Citation: Nursing Standard, 28 November 2012, vol./is. 27/13(70-71), 00296570
Publication Date: 28 November 2012
Abstract: Healthcare assistants asked to administer drugs must know their legal responsibilities, writes Dianne Bowskill.
Source: CINAHL
Available in fulltext from Nursing Standard at EBSCOhost
Available in print at Pilgrim Hospital Staff Library
Available in fulltext at Nursing Standard; Collection notes: On first login to a ProQuest journal you will need to select 'Athens (OpenAthens Federation)' from Select Region, and then 'NHS England' from Choose your Library.

Medication administration in the domiciliary care setting: Whose role?
Author(s) Bradford J.
Citation: British Journal of Community Nursing, November 2012, vol./is. 17/11(537-542), 1462-4753 (November 2012)
Publication Date: November 2012
Abstract: Unqualified social care workers are increasingly delegated the responsibility of both assisting with and administering medication in the domiciliary care setting. This article discusses the considerations required before the delegation of these roles by both commissioners and nurses. In particular, variations in training, policies and provision are explored with reference to the Care Quality Commission guidance and Nursing and Midwifery Council standards. The levels of support and their definitions are clarified for use in policy documents, and the effectiveness of devices used to support self-care are critiqued within a legal framework. The importance of joint working to provide a seamless medication management service are highlighted using reflections on examples from practice.
Source: EMBASE
Available in fulltext from British Journal of Community Nursing at EBSCOhost

Medicines management.
Author(s) Griffiths M
Citation: Nursing Standard, 23 September 2009, vol./is. 24/3(28-28), 00296570
Publication Date: 23 September 2009
Abstract: A nursing trainer asks Matt Griffiths if healthcare assistants should be administering drugs.
Source: CINAHL
Available in print at Lincoln County Hospital Professional Library
Available in fulltext from Nursing Standard at EBSCOhost
Available in fulltext at Nursing Standard; Collection notes: On first login to a ProQuest journal you will need to select 'Athens (OpenAthens Federation)' from Select Region, and then 'NHS England' from Choose your Library.

NHS Trust policies and procedures
Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Medicines Policy, 2011
p. 6
4.1.4 Social workers/Support workers/Health Care Assistants or other unregistered staff required to handle medicines to have training in medication issues as appropriate to their role.

p. 20
e) Where medication is administered by a non-registered member of staff e.g. a community support worker, it is the responsibility/accountability of the registered staff member who is directing the unregistered member of staff, to monitor an individual patient prescription and to draw to the attention of the unregistered
member of staff to specific known side-effects or risks associated with individual medicines.

p. 23
c) Unregistered Practitioners
Where a registered nurse is responsible for the delegation of any aspects of the administration of medicinal products they are accountable to ensure that the unregistered practitioner is competent to carry out the task. For the purpose of this policy this will include social workers and occupational therapists who are involved with handling medicines in any capacity.
The role of the unregistered practitioner (support worker, drug worker, health care assistant as well as social workers and occupational therapists who handle medicines as stated above) is diverse within the Trust and they may be required to assist in medicines management. Their role should be stated in a local standard operating procedure or, for individual service users, stated in the care plan. A local standard operating procedure for signing for the administration of medicines must be in place.
Training (including assessment of competency) appropriate to their role should be available and the support worker should have the support of clinical supervision by a registered health care professional, with consideration given for a joint visit from time to time as part of that supervision.

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
Administration of Medicines, 2011
p. 8
8.3.5 Administration of medicines by nonregistered nurses
A nonregistered nurse may assist the patient to apply a limited range of topically applied medicines. A registered nurse must check and sign the prescription, hand the product to the nonregistered nurse and be accountable for the delegation of the task.

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Medicines Management, 2012
p. 51
6.9.1 Healthcare support workers may only assist in the giving of medicines if the clinical area deems it appropriate and after they have completed the competency “Assisting in the giving of medications – Unregistered Practitioners”.

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust
Delegation of Administration of Medicines to Non-Registered Practitioners and Paid Carers by Community Nurses in Integrated Community Services, 2013

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
Administration of medication by non-registered practitioners to named patients in learning disability community support services, 2011

Protocol for the Administration of Medication by non-registered practitioners to named patients in learning disability community support services, 2011

Protocol for the Administration of Rescue Medication by non-registered practitioners to named patients, 2011