Pharmacy Technician’s in the District Nursing Service

An insight into our role

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Senior Pharmacy Technician
• Visit housebound patients in Islington & Haringey.
• Eight day teams and two twilight teams and an overnight nursing team
• made up of nurses with wide range of nursing skills and knowledge.
• work closely with GPs, social workers, hospitals, community matrons, continuing care nurses and voluntary agencies.
• some nurses are qualified nurse prescribers and will use their expertise and professional judgement to prescribe wound care products and simple medications
Our role

- administering medication
- medication risk assessment
- promoting self management
- assisting DN teams with medication queries
- liaise with GP’s to ensure correct therapy and appropriate to patients condition
- medicines reconciliation and transcribing
- patient observations (BSL, BP, HR, RR)
- Health promotion
- Preventing waste and overprescribing
- competency assessing HCA’s administering medication.
• administering medication
  – Recently also trained to administer Intravenous medication (via PICC line)

  – MAR chart
    • 5 rights of medication administration
      – the right patient
      – the right drug
      – the right dose
      – the right route
      – the right time

• We use these checks as a preventative action.
- Assessing new patients suitability for self management
- Obtaining consent from patients to self manage
  - Providing necessary training and support
  - Develop care plan to ensure patients needs are met
  - Work with other HCP’s to ensure patient remains independent.
  - Discharge from caseload once patient suitable to self manage.
  - Refer to self management programmes
Liaise with GP to ensure appropriate therapy

- Polypharmacy
  - The prescribing of more drugs than is clinically justified
- Medication reviews
  - Reviewing medication and discussing any recommendations with GP
    - eg changing medications to once daily to aid concordance
  - Reviewing form of medications

Risk of adverse drug reactions

Chance of satisfactory compliance
Medication reconciliation and transcribing

- Transcribing of MAR (Medication Administration Record) charts
- Only able to transcribe from one ‘direction to supply’ to another
Patient observations (BP, BSL, HR, RR)

- Checking pulse rate for drugs such as digoxin.
- Ability to check observations in event of unwell patient, and providing suitable clinical handover to GP.
  - Blood pressure
  - Blood sugar levels
  - Heart rate
  - Respiratory rate
Health promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health. It moves beyond a focus on individual behaviour towards a wide range of social and environmental interventions.

Common examples:

– Smoking cessation
  • Signposting to NRT, and Quit smoking services

– Self managing medication
  • Better understanding of condition and how to manage
  • Better understanding of medication and its uses

– Healthy eating
  • Help to improve blood glucose management in diabetes
Preventing waste and overprescribing

• Liaise with GP’s and local pharmacies to ensure no bulk stocks of medication kept, and only medication currently in use provided.

• Improving medication adherence address two of the four key areas of the QIPP agenda
  • improving quality of care
  • preventing increased health care utilisation from medicine related problems, including lack of efficacy.

• 2010 report from DoH:
  – estimates wasted medicines cost the NHS £150m
  – 5-8% of hospital admissions caused by medication (approx. 4% preventable)
• Medication reviews
  – Reviewing medication and discussing any recommendations with GP
    • eg changing medications to once daily to aid concordance
  – Reviewing form of medications
• Communicate effectively within team
  – Manage pharmacy/medicines queries from patients and team members
• Health promotion
  – Smoking cessation
  – Self managing medication
  – Healthy eating
Project Work

• Dressing Pilot
  – Implementation and overseeing of project
  – Aim to improve patient care by service providing dressings
  – Getting the right dressings at the right time to improve wound healing time

• Safety Needles to prevent needlestick injuries
  – BD Autoshield
  – Novo fine auto cover
Starting the role

- Comprehensive internal training
  - Competency assessments
  - Training courses
  - DN liaison pharmacist
  - Professional development nurses
  - Supportive multi-disciplinary team

- Knowing when to refer
  - Understand remit of role
  - Understand when to refer