

# Nurse Prescribing

Get it Right - RIGHT SKILLS

The legislation allowing independent nurse prescribing was introduced in Wales in January 2007. Wales needs investment to roll out prescribing skills and knowledge to the nursing workforce. The most important impact of nurse prescribing is improved services and better access to services offered to patients and clients. The patient has improved access to and advice about their medicines. It also enables more effective use of the time and skill of doctors, pharmacists and nurses making NHS services more effective.

Research shows that the majority of nurses who prescribe have at least ten years nursing experience before starting their prescribing training. Before they can even access a course, nurses have to be able to demonstrate that they have sufficient assessment and diagnostic skills in the specialist area they will prescribe in. The All Wales curriculum is highly regarded across the UK because of its emphasis on calculation, and has since been implemented as a UK standard, and is included in the NMC guidelines and standards. There is however, difficulty for many practice nurses in accessing this training. England and Scotland have both facilitated distance learning for these courses.

updated 2009

Independent prescribing has been established in England since 2000 (7 years before Wales). There are currently approximately 10000 independent nurse prescribers in England as oppose to 250 in Wales.

It is important that progress in 'rolling out' independent prescribing is monitored across Wales and across primary and acute sectors.



## KEY POLICY ACTIONS

- Nurses should be supported to become Independent Prescribers.
- Uptake and use of independent prescribing should be monitored across Wales and prioritised in the areas of primary and community care, emergency care and mental health.