



**PHAM-1119**

# Medication Review in Practice

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# Table of Contents

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Section 1: Introduction .....	3
Section 2: Getting up to Speed .....	11
Section 3: Models of Care .....	15
Section 4: Polypharmacy and Medication Review.....	41
Section 5: Systematic care planning in the context of medication review.....	47
Section 6: Assignments .....	98
Acknowledgements.....	100

# Section 1: Introduction

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Welcome to this course which is part of the Medicines Management MSc programme. It is a compulsory course for the Diploma in Medicines Management; however, you may be accessing it as a short course.

The prescribing of medication is by far the most frequent medical intervention. However, medicine-related problems are also frequent and can include adverse drug reactions and treatment failures which may lead to more contacts with health care practitioners, admission to hospital or in the worst case scenario, death. Many medicine-related problems can be attributed to inadequate monitoring and follow up, failure to stop or adjust medication when the patient's condition changes, or provision of inadequate information to the patient on why medicines are needed and how they should be taken or used. Increasingly, there is evidence that medication review is a valuable service that can help people not only to achieve the best possible health outcomes, but also to maintain their independence and avoid admission to residential care or hospital.

This course will help you to develop your skills and knowledge around the provision of a range of medication review services, and the impact they can have on improving a patient's health outcomes and quality of life. It will help you to make sure patients are receiving appropriate evidence based care and that they are not taking medicines unnecessarily. Sometimes stopping a medicine will offer more benefits than starting one!

The course starts with a short section called 'Getting up to Speed'. This is because healthcare practitioners with different backgrounds are accessing the module and to get the best from the materials provided it is important all users have the same basic understanding of some key principles underpinning medication review. The short quiz will help you to assess whether or not you need to go through the resources provided in this section before you move onto the course itself.

The text in each section includes portfolio activities and learning activities to supplement the reading supplied. The purpose of each activity is outlined briefly to help you to see how it will support your learning. There are also some reflective questions interspersed between sections of text, usually centred on the extracts you are asked to read. Please refer to your programme user handbook for advice on how to complete these activities in order to maximise your learning experience. Further support can be provided if required by your personal tutor.

I hope you will find this course stimulating and thought provoking. It will challenge you to consider how to design and implement effective medication review services that can be used to improve patient care in your own practice.

## **What next after completing this course?**

If you are undertaking this course as part of the Master programme, then we hope that you, with the help of your tutor if necessary, have decided which courses best support your practice and career choices. If you are completing this as a stand-alone course we hope that you will consider doing other postgraduate study with us. There are a number of short courses available to health care professionals through the Medway School of Pharmacy. Students can select short courses from a menu of topics which will help them fulfil their developing clinical role. Many will be delivered by distance learning, offering students the flexibility to work through the topic at their own pace. At the end of each course the student will be required to submit an assessment which will often be based around cases studies.

Successful completion of each course will lead to the health care professional being awarded a given number of academic credits. These credits can be accrued and can ultimately be used to attain a University qualification.

More information on the Medway School of Pharmacy postgraduate courses can be obtained by emailing [pharmacy@medway.ac.uk](mailto:pharmacy@medway.ac.uk) or by contacting the School office on 01634 883150. Alternatively, contact the Postgraduate Administrator, Louise Dawson, who will be able to help or put you in touch with an academic member of the programme team ([l.dawson@kent.ac.uk](mailto:l.dawson@kent.ac.uk)).

All the staff at the Medway School of Pharmacy hope that you enjoy this postgraduate course and that we will have the opportunity to welcome you back to study other modules in the future.

All quoted web links were accessed in early January 2015. At that time the website [www.npc.co.uk](http://www.npc.co.uk) was still live; however it has since been archived and the material can be found at: <http://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20140627111233/http://www.npc.nhs.uk/>

As some of the material is still useful, some links to this website have been preserved.

Linda Dodds  
Course Coordinator  
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