

Prescribing in Primary Care in the Prison Service

Complexities and Considerations

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Aims

- Explain the clinical and physical environment of prescribing in HMP Ford
- Discuss The complexities of medication management in the prison setting
- Explore the additional considerations of prescribing and meeting patient expectations
- Discuss tradeable and popular medications

HMP Ford



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Primary Care Services at HMP Ford

- HMP Ford is a Category D resettlement Prison, accommodating 540 male offenders over the age of 21.
- HMP Ford is designed to support offenders to reintegrate into society, take responsibility for their own life and well being
- Many of the offenders have been in prison for a very long time.
- The healthcare service operates as a primary care GP service provided by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- No on-site pharmacy, all medication is acquired from community pharmacy and the acute trust (higher category prisons have their own pharmacy)
- We help offenders to manage minor illnesses, minor injuries and long term conditions.
- We have a dedicated drug and alcohol recovery team providing opiate substitute and psycho social support

Offenders Responsibilities for their Medications

- All medications are held in possession – with the exception of opiate substitute meds
- Medication can be held in weekly or monthly quantities
- On arrival at the prison offenders sign a contract to say that they will comply with the standards of medication ordering, supply and storage
- Each individual is responsible for requesting repeat prescriptions in a timely appropriate manner and collecting them from the dispensary
- Each individual is responsible for the safe keeping and storage of their medication

Considerations and Complexities

- Aging population – polypharmacy, co-morbidities, declining cognitive functions
- Poor literacy and cognitive function – average reading age =10
- Language barriers
- Drug Seeking behaviours – presenting with very convincing symptoms
- Interactions with illicit substances particularly when prescribing opiate substitutes
- Patient expectations i.e. – cosmetic products – tradeable medications – antibiotics.
- Facilities for secure storage within the accommodation
- Bullying and trading.
- Balancing clinical need with security

Barriers to Prescribing

- Medications we cannot prescribe within an Category D Prison –
- Benzodiazapines, controlled medications- these cannot be held in possession. Within category A, B and C establishments these can be administered under supervision
- Medication we prescribe with caution – pregabalin and gabapentin
- Pregabalin is the principle drug of choice for trading.
- Some preparations i.e aerosols or topical medications with caustic properties

Pain Management

- Acute Pain
- Chronic Pain
- Neuropathic Pain
- Prison Pain Formulary
- <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/12/Prsn-pain-mngmnt-formlry-pub.pdf>
- Making the case for an exception to the formulary

Managing complexities

- Agreed formularies – Specialist Pharmacy Group to support and develop best practice across criminal justice services.
- Local formularies
- Robust medicines management governance
- Managing patient expectations through educations and consistent prescribing
- Supporting staff who are being challenged
- Working with the prison service to minimise trading and manage bullying.
- Much easier to monitor and manage effect of medication
- All prison healthcare providers use the same electronic patient record system, allowing full record of all prescribing and interventions.

Summary

- Prescribing is challenging!
- Prescribing in prison is influenced and sometimes limited by the environment but needs will be met.
- Patient expectations put can pressure on clinicians to prescribe inappropriately
- Patient expectations need to be managed through good education and support for clinicians

Useful Links

- <http://antibioticguardian.com/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/european-antibiotic-awareness-day-resources> Useful resources for staff and patients
- <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/12/Prsn-pain-mngmnt-formlry-pub.pdf> Prison Pain Management Formulary
- https://www2.rcn.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/248725/003307.pdf RCN Guidance on Nursing in The Criminal Justice Setting
- <http://www.bnssgformulary.nhs.uk/includes/documents/Prescribing%20in%20Prison.pdf> RCGP Guidance on prescribing in prisons