



***So, what are the
activities and
characteristics of
prescribing
pharmacists***

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The plan



- Background
- Primary care prescribing pharmacists
 - The roles
 - The activities
 - The characteristics
- Where to from here?



Background



- 2012 – 14 pharmacists
 - 7 primary care
- 2017
 - 14 active prescribing pharmacists
 - 9 in primary care (and a 10th retired)
 - 8 undertaking the 2017 course
 - 3 in primary care



The roles



- Developing
- In general practice
 - Disease specific conditions
 - Diabetes, cardiovascular disease, gout, COPD
 - Complexity
 - Multiple medicines
 - Repeat prescribing
- Liaison
- Marae-based



The (unique) activities



- 4 pharmacists - 3 to 5 days activities
- Clinics
 - Medicines initiation, titration, discontinuation
 - Complex people – balancing / optimising multiple medicines; set targets
 - Benefit-risk assessments – antithrombotics
 - Reconciliation and follow up
 - **Education – shared decision making**



And more activities ...



- Repeat prescribing
 - 80% required further input / review
 - Recommendations for next visit
 - Invitation to clinic for medicines optimisation
 - Contact the person re: follow up
 - Monitoring
 - Correcting the prescription – prn / volumes



And more activities ...



- **Interruptions / resource**
 - Walk in patients
 - On the spot GP questions –
 - Benefit-risk quantification, risk mitigation, selection
 - Nurse joint clinics
 - Join in clinic, triage, questions
- **Assessments**
 - Spirometry, depression
- **Referrals / liaison**
- **Interprofessional teams - meetings**



Characteristics



- 9 (diverse) prescribing pharmacists ...
 - Ability to make rapid, definite decisions
 - Live with uncertainty, deal with unwanted effects, and keep learning
 - In-depth / comprehensive understanding of pharmacotherapy + the latest evidence
 - Life long learner
 - Person-focused
 - Empathy, understanding, listening, joint decision making, compassionate, culturally competent, patient advocate, humility
 - Communication skills – consultation, others
 - Assessment



Personality traits?



- Passionate, determined, persistent, resilient
- Adaptable, flexible, pragmatic
- Holistic, broad approach
- Leadership, independent, take the initiative
- Collaborative
- Outward looking
- Confident / self assured
- Problem solver, strong work ethic
- Experienced, able to facilitate



Where to from here



- Required more definition of roles – our *unique* contribution
 - Complexity vs complicated

General, well population (population health – generic, broad, superficial)	At risk population (risk factors, new medical conditions, generic, some disease-specific information)
Complicated Single disease state requiring a specialised knowledge and understanding – in-depth e.g. oncology, renal.	Complex The specialty of complexity These are the people with multiple comorbidities; The disease of drug-related morbidity and mortality



Conclusion



- In primary care
 - Complexity

- In secondary care – across boundaries?
 - Infectious disease
 - Pain management
 - Mental health
 - Immunology – precision medicine



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