**Briefing on the role of GPs mentoring DNs on V300 (Independent Prescribing) training**

The District Nursing service is skilling up its team leaders to be able to do advanced assessments and prescribe treatments for patients on their caseload, as part of their specialist District Nursing Team Leader qualification. This will benefit patients and colleagues as follows:

* Improved holistic approach for patients, increasing continuity of care and avoiding delays to diagnosis and treatment, thus reducing the risk of unnecessary hospital admission
* More autonomy for senior District Nurses, reducing demand on GP practices
* Improved career progression and retention of senior District Nurses
* More advanced skill set available within the integrated team in the new Primary Care Networks to meet population needs, especially around those who are frail

For DN trainees to undertake the V300 (Independent prescribing) qualification, they require a Practice Assessor (PA is a new term for mentor). They will need to spend 80 hours with various independent V300 prescribers and then enough time with the named PA to demonstrate their competency. Oxford Health understands that committing to be PA requires GPs to invest a significant amount of their time (detailed below). We are therefore offering a renumeration of £1,700 to each GP Practice Assessor, to help them to secure capacity to take on this role.

**What is the practice assessor expected to do?**

* Ensure that the student is exposed to practice situations through observation, whereby they gain knowledge and experience of diagnostic skills and prescribing practices
* Provide the student with the opportunity to participate in practice situations under supervision
* Provide the student with the opportunity to identify situations of prescribing practice and non-prescribing practice through real life situations
* Facilitate and participate in the process of clinical reflection, using mutually agreeable strategies, to facilitate the achievement of the Non-Medical Prescribing competencies
* Discuss each competency with the student and review the supporting evidence (e.g. evidence based literature and reflective journal entries)
* Sign and date each competency, identifying level of achievement as observed in practice

**Examples of how this works in practice:**

* Dedicated time and opportunities for the student to observe how the medical practitioner conducts a “consultation/interview” with patients and/or their carers, and the development of a subsequent management plan
* There should be opportunities to allow in depth discussion and analysis of clinical management using a random case analysis approach, when patient care and prescribing behaviour can be examined further
* There should be opportunities to analyse consultations using a range of models
* Critical thinking and reflection using the course competencies should aid teaching and learning
* There should be opportunities to write draft prescriptions and clinical management plans

**Commitment of the Practice Assessor**

The Practice Assessor is agreeing to support the student during the module which requires a minimum of 84 hours of supervised practice.  *This does not all need to be completed with the Practice Assessor, and students are advised to work with a range of Medical and Non-Medical Prescribers and the Community Pharmacist as part of their supervised practice.*

The Practice Assessor will need to assess the student against the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (2016) competency framework at the end of the module, so they will need to work closely with the student to achieve this includes a final report needing to be completed.

The V300 module starts in late January 2020 and students will start working with their Practice Assessor from early February.

At the start of the module, students will need to meet with their Practice Assessor and gain a shared understanding of the module, learning outcomes and prescribing competency framework.

The Practice Assessor needs to meet regularly with the student to discuss their progress.

If you are willing to offer to become a Practice Assessor for a District Nurse, or would like to discuss this further, please contact Gabbie Parham Senior Matron for District Nursing.

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Thank you