Innovations in Remote Learning; Electronic Prescribing and Medications Administration (EPMA) Systems in Nurse Education

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Background

NHS trusts across the UK are adopting Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration (EPMA) software, which reduce medication errors and free up staff time for other activities (NHS, 2019). The evidence suggests that initial take up, compliance and safe use of EPMA systems is dependent on the level of training of users (Chung et al., 2019; Mozaffar et al., 2017; Puaar et al., 2017). The introduction of training on EPMA for Liverpool John Moores' nursing students will promote the uptake of EPMA systems in local NHS trusts. Moreover, being skilled in EPMA should promote safe medicine administration ensuring nurses are fit for purpose on qualification (NMC, 2018).

Case Study

70 year old Male

PC - admitted with a 3/7 h/o shortness of breath, wheeze and hypoxia

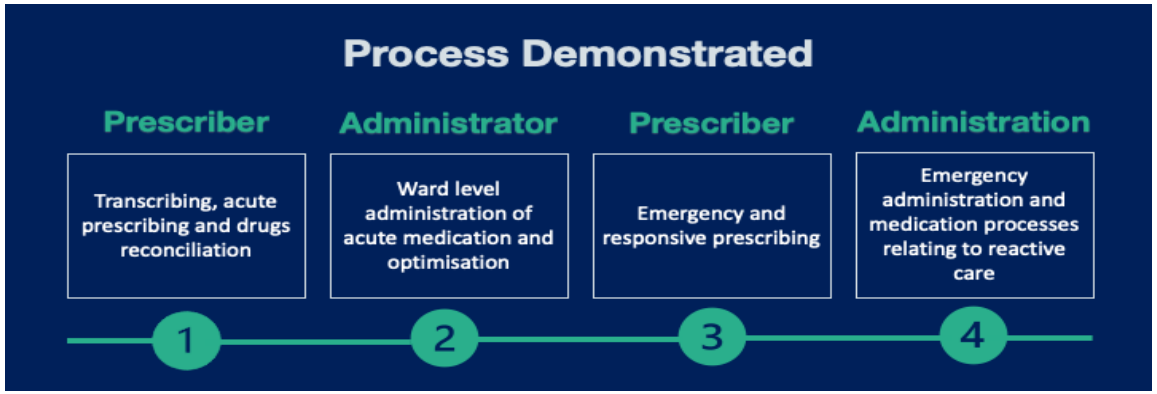
PMH - moderate COPD, Hypertension, arthritis, CKD stage 2

Diagnosis - exacerbation of COPD with AKI, requiring a hospital stay IVAB, O2 therapy.

No known drug allergies

Regular medications -

- Amlodipine 5mg PO - OD morning
- Tiotropium 18mcg inhalation OD morning
- Salbutamol 100mcg MDI inhalation 2 puffs PRN
- Paracetamol 1000mg PO QDS 08.00, 14.00, 18.00 22.00hrs



Benefits

- Simulation of practice with a standardised approach; this links into the LJMU simulation placement block
- Introduces students to EPMA building upon the competencies over the programme
- Enables an interprofessional and cross faculty method of teaching, fostering a team approach
- Student engagement can be captured and observed
- It can be delivered in a real time and asynchronous way, which supports a blended learning approach
- The software is useful for all student levels to promote a spiral curriculum
- Adaptable to infinite patient scenarios across the student learning spectrum
- Can accelerate the support of distance learning imposed due to the Covid pandemic

Implementation

Learners will be taught to both prescribe and administer medications in a virtual, real time, online demonstration. Learners access their own simulated patients on the EPMA system (Better Meds). They can practise prescribing and administering medications in a virtual, safe setting, facilitating remote experiential learning (Kolb, 1984). This approach will enable skills development for students and staff redeployed, returning to practice or working remotely. The EPMA software facilitates distance learning, ensuring that nurses continue to develop despite COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, educating the workforce in these challenging times.

Acknowledgements

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