The Responsive Regulator: Adapting Scopes to Public Need

Deb Elias RN MN
Pamela Gunn Matson RN BN MN

Outline

- History of RN Prescribing
- Purpose of RN Prescribing
- Scope of Practice
- Regulatory Framework
- Evaluation
- What’s the Difference?
- Stakeholders

History

"Study the past, if you would divine the future"
- Confucius
History - Way, way back...

- CDN RNs were carrying medications with them on home visits* (1930s)
- Why?
  - Competent assessments
  - Rural or urgent situations
  - Lack of efficient services


History - More recently...

- England
  - 1992 - first legislation. Narrow list of drugs by protocol
  - 2006 - any drug for any condition within individual scope of competence including some controlled drugs
  - 2009 - narcotic and controlled drugs

History - More recently...

- Ireland
  - 1998 - recommendations made in national report
  - 2006 - legislation introduced
  - 2007 - legislation proclaimed
Purpose of RN Prescribing

So what?
- Support full utilization of health care providers by recognizing scope of practice
- To address areas determined as having an unmet need
- Increase access and capacity

Scope of Practice: Who?
- Focus on RN practice in two areas:
  - Public Health
  - Primary Care
- A continuation of work they are doing but with enhanced authority

Scope of Practice: What?
- Practice focused on:
  1) Sexually transmitted and blood borne infections (STBBI) and
  - Reproductive health
  - Health promotion and prevention
2) Travel health
• Travel Health Nursing is the specialty nursing practice that provides for and delivers health care services to the travelling public, using knowledge from nursing, social and public health sciences (ATHNA).
• Health promotion and disease prevention

Currently manage clients with STBBIs/Reproductive health and Travel health needs:
- Assessment: Ordering and receiving reports of diagnostics
- Analysis: Diagnosis
- Plan of care: interventions such as prescribing
- Evaluation and modification: Consulting and referring

Legislation will require the inclusion of:
- Order/Receiving Diagnostic & Screening Tests
- Diagnosis
- Prescribing/Dispensing
Scope of Practice: Where?

Urban

Rural

Remote

Scope of Practice: When?

Regulated Health Professions Act - Proclamation 2014

Regulatory Framework - Outline

- Competencies
- Standards of Practice
- Education
- Registration
- Audit
Regulatory Framework: Competencies

- Competencies for RN Prescribers:
  - Describe the integrated knowledge, skills, judgment and attributes that guide registered nurse prescribers.
  - Serve as a guide for curriculum development for course(s) of instruction.

Regulatory Framework: Competencies

Competencies cont’d:

- Inform the public and employer of the knowledge, skills, judgment and attributes necessary in order to meet practice expectations of registered nurse prescribers.

- G:\Practice & Standards\Certified Prescriber\RN(CP) Competencies Final June 2011.pdf

Regulatory Framework: Competencies

1) Assessment and Diagnosis of Client Health/Illness Status
2) Pharmacotherapeutics and other Therapeutic Interventions in Client Care Management
3) Professional Responsibilities and Accountabilities
Regulatory Framework: Standards of Practice

- Describe the expectations the public can have of an RN prescriber
- A benchmark used to measure RN prescriber practice

G:\Practice & Standards\Certified Prescriber\Standards of Practice for RN (CP) Blue Banner.pdf

Regulatory Framework: Standards

- Standards of Practice for RN Prescribers
  - Standard I: Specific Knowledge, Skill and Judgment
  - Standard II: Consultation and Collaboration
  - Standard III: Prescribing Drugs
  - Standard IV: Responsibility and Accountability

Regulatory Framework: Standards

- Standard I: Specific Knowledge, Skill and Judgment
  - Focuses on:
    - Thorough history and physical
    - Ordering appropriate diagnostics
    - Critical thinking/analysis of situation
    - Client centered plan of care
    - Evidence-informed practice
Regulatory Framework: Standards

- Standard II: Consultation and Collaboration
  - Focuses on:
    - Role of RN prescriber
    - Collaborative relationships
    - Consultation

- Standard III: Prescribing Drugs
  - Focuses on:
    - Accurate completion of prescription
    - Ethical prescribing practice
    - Education and follow-up

- Standard IV: Responsibility and Accountability
  - Focuses on:
    - Responsible and appropriate prescribing practices
    - Documentation
    - Prescribing within scope of practice
Regulatory Framework: Education

- Education
  - Completion of education program via modules
  - Not courses but online modules: to improve accessibility
  - Foundation modules:
    - Ethical Professional Practice
    - Prescribing

- Streams:
  1) STBBI/Reproductive Health
  2) Travel Health
- Do not have to complete both
- Will depend on practice setting

Regulatory Framework: Registration

- New designation versus notation?
- Referral from employer
- Notation on online register (Nurse Check) that may prescribe in area(s) of:
  - STBBI/Reproductive health or
  - Travel health
Regulatory Framework: Registration

- Information accessible to the public and stakeholders (e.g. pharmacists, employers)

Regulatory Framework: Audit

- Practice audits
- Drug Programs Information Network (DPIN)

Evaluation of RN Prescribers

- Evaluation plan
  - Process evaluation - referral mechanism to education; registration process
  - Outcome evaluation - audits, stakeholder feedback, RN prescriber feedback
  - Stats on numbers of RN prescribers, sites/practice settings
What’s the Difference?

- ...between a nurse practitioner and a nurse prescriber?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RN Prescribers</th>
<th>Nurse Practitioners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RN - with notation on register</td>
<td>Nurse practitioners - RN(EP) or RN, NP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prescriber role of the RN has a more specific scope of practice/target population; applies to those areas identified as having an unmet need.</td>
<td>Practice in a wide variety of settings and possess a broader scope of practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter of support from employer/driven by client needs</td>
<td>Education driven by individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescriptive authority for clearly defined health and wellness concerns/diagnoses.</td>
<td>Prescriptive authority for NPs currently expanding: broad range of diagnoses.</td>
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</tbody>
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Stakeholders

- Canadian Oxford Dictionary ("runaway bestseller" in 1998) defines stakeholder as:
  - person with an interest or concern in something...
Stakeholders

- Government
- RNS
- Other health care providers –
  - Pharmacists
  - Physicians
- Educators
- Employers
- Health authorities

Employer Supports

- Webpage – for RN prescribers.
  - Resources
  - Legislation
  - Updates etc.
- Practice Directions
- Consultation with employers continues...

Q & Eh?

It's QUESTION TIME!!
College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba

- Pamela Gunn Matson RN
  - Consultant, Nursing Practice
  - (204) 784-6465
  - pmatson@crnm.mb.ca
- Deb Elias RN
  - Director, Practice and Standards
  - (204) 784-5182
  - delias@crnm.mb.ca