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Wednesday 24 February 2016

Re: Antimicrobial resistance delivery plan

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for sharing with us the public consultation on the Antimicrobial resistance delivery plan.

In this delivery plan the RCN believes it is important to highlight prescribing by non-medical healthcare professionals. Non-medical prescribing (NMP) was not mentioned in the UK Five Year Antimicrobial resistance Strategy 2013-18, which is disappointing given their increasing numbers.

Although there is scant evidence about the prescribing practices of the 900 NMPs in Wales, NMPs in England (large numbers of whom work in primary care and general practice) frequently prescribe medicines (including antibiotics) for infections. The evidence available suggests that nurses, unlike doctors, do not over prescribe antibiotics. They are less likely to be influenced by perceived patient pressure for an antibiotic, and employ strategies to educate patients and encourage self-management. It is the Royal College of Nursing Wales' view that we should make sure that non-medical prescribing is considered at each stage of the delivery plan.

The Royal College of Nursing Wales feels that there needs to be a spotlight on mentorship and supervision regarding prescribing practice. There is an acute and distinct lack of mentorship for nurse prescribers. Within primary care, during the academic process and then during clinical practice, this is defaulted to the nurse prescribers designated supervising medical practitioners (DSMP's). In terms of

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quality this is not always effective or valuable in terms of the experience. It would be far better if organisations such as Public Health Wales or Clusters for example, employed NMIP lead mentors. RCN Wales believes that this would deliver better quality in terms of supervision, governance and evidence-base.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

TINA DONNELLY CBE, TD, DL, CCMi
DIRECTOR, RCN WALES

Royal College of Nursing Wales

The RCN is the world's largest professional union of nurses, representing over 430,000 nurses, midwives, health visitors and nursing students, including over 25,000 members in Wales. The majority of RCN members work in the NHS with around a quarter working in the independent sector. The RCN works locally, nationally and internationally to promote standards of care and the interests of patients and nurses, and of nursing as a profession. The RCN is a UK-wide organisation, with its own National Boards for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The RCN is a major contributor to nursing practice, standards of care, and public policy as it affects health and nursing.

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