



Primary Care Essentials

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

A quick reference guide for allied
health professionals in primary care



Matt Dixon and Danny Bartlett

Series Editor: Georgette Eaton

Medicines Management:

A quick reference guide for allied health professionals in primary care

This is an interesting and accessible book set out logically by body system, making it a great desktop reference for busy primary care practitioners. The clear sections using standardised headings and symbols guide the reader through points to think about when prescribing, including health promotions opportunities and balancing of risk in clinical decision making. A book by clinicians for clinicians.

**Helen Chilvers,
Senior Lecturer/Programme Leader,
MSc Advanced Clinical Practice,
University of Lincoln.**

This book offers a clear, accessible, and practical guide to medicines management with a strong emphasis on safe prescribing, clinical reasoning and real-world application in primary care. Its structured approach, use of case-based learning and focus on key principles such as pharmacology, legislation and patient safety make it a valuable resource for clinicians developing confidence in prescribing practice. The text is relevant to a multidisciplinary workforce and is well aligned with the demands of primary care.

As an academic supporting professionals undertaking non-medical prescribing programmes, I would highly recommend this text as an essential companion for learning and clinical practice.

**Gemma Stidolph,
Senior Lecturer,
MSc Advanced Clinical Practitioner,
University of Sunderland.**

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The Primary Care Essentials series brings together a selection of subject-specific books which reflect the curriculum for work in primary care. These books are written specifically for the wide range of clinicians and associated professionals involved in the primary care setting and offer accessible, visual and evidence-based guidance on specific topics you may come across as part of your role.

Bringing together a multi-professional team of authors, these quick-reference resources are specifically written to support non-specialists and are ideal for double checking your knowledge whenever you need to. Whether you are a nurse, physician associate, midwife, paramedic, physiotherapist, pharmacist, or social prescriber, it provides all the essential information you need in one place, so you can feel more confident navigating your way around the breadth and complexities of the primary care role.

Other titles which might be of interest:

Independent Prescribing for Paramedics

Edited by Amanda Blaber and Andy Timlett

Essential Pharmacology in Paramedic Practice

By Carl Webster, Rachel Pogson

The Social Prescribing Link Worker Model

By Christiana Melam MBE

Sexual Health and Contraception

By Alyesha Proctor and Hettie Lean

Dermatology

By Sixty8 Medical

Primary Care for Paramedics

Edited by Georgette Eaton, Alyesha Proctor and Joseph St Leger-Francis

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About the Authors

Matt Dixon, MSc PGCert BSc (Hons) FdSc MCPara, has been a paramedic since 2011. Initially working on ambulances in the South West, he later moved into specialist and advanced roles across a variety of settings including general practice, the ambulance service and academia. He was among the first paramedics to become a prescriber in the UK and has published on this subject as well as contributing to prescribing texts. He has a research interest in the phenomena and experience of portfolio careers among paramedics and is currently undertaking a PhD with the University of the West of England examining this topic.

Danny Bartlett, MRPharmS PGCert IP, is the Clinical Lead at the Kent, Surrey & Sussex Primary Care School within NHS England, following over a decade in the profession. He qualified as a pharmacist in 2014, beginning his career in community pharmacy before transitioning into general practice, where he spent over five years delivering patient-centred care and medicines optimisation.

Passionate about workforce development and interprofessional education, Danny has led numerous innovative initiatives to expand clinical competence and supervision across primary care. He is also a Senior Lecturer at the University of Brighton, teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of pharmacist prescribing. As the DPP Quality Assurance Lead, he's helped raise national standards for supervision and training.

Danny has a long-standing interest in cardiovascular and metabolic disease education, and has spearheaded workforce upskilling through structured placements, national coaching and leadership of multidisciplinary training programmes. A firm believer in collaboration, Danny champions a unified, cross-professional approach to education, development and retention within the primary care workforce.

In addition to his clinical and academic work, Danny is an elected member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's English Pharmacy Board, where he contributes to policy and advocacy for the profession. His commitment to improving care through education and innovation underpins everything he does.

How This Book Works

This book is part of the Primary Care Essentials series, which aims to target the increased range of clinicians now working in primary care. Each chapter contains signposting to resources including relevant research, guidelines for practice, suggestions for further reading and case studies to aid reflection. The following symbols are used to highlight specific practice points.



Ethical considerations.



Safeguarding responsibilities.



Risk mitigation and management in decision making.



Health promotion.



Important points to remember.



Cross-references. Directions to other pages in the book which may be useful.



Further reading is provided for subjects for which it may be useful to read further. The title of the publication is given with a citation. The full reference can be found in the further reading list.

Introduction

This book is aimed at the healthcare professional who is new to primary care, to aid the transition from their previous role towards workloads more common in general practice. For example, a paramedic with a strong background in urgent and emergency care may be less familiar with the long-term management of chronic conditions, the use of medications to support them and the wider principles of safe prescribing and pharmacology. This book is designed to guide you through that transition, helping you develop confidence and competence as you begin your journey in primary care and non-medical prescribing. It provides a basic foundation in prescribing practice and serves as a quick reference guide to common medications, classes of medication and guidelines encountered in general practice.

With increasing workloads, a growing and ageing population, and a surge in long-term conditions all identified by the Darzi Report (2024), there has been a national drive to expand provision of primary care and reprioritise primary prevention in the United Kingdom. A significant part of this involves the introduction of new roles and new professions into an increasingly diverse workforce: This includes local recruitment to individual surgeries but also national programmes such as the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) (NHS England, 2024). The ARRS is an initiative from NHS England which complements the existing cadre of locally employed clinicians from backgrounds including nursing, physiotherapy and paramedicine who work alongside general practitioners in the delivery of primary care. It provides central funding to assist general practice in recruiting from a range of allied health professions including, but not limited to, clinical pharmacists; physiotherapists; paramedics; podiatrists; dieticians and mental health practitioners. These roles are all patient facing and will have daily interaction with patients and their healthcare and pharmacological needs. Many of these professions, amongst others, are legally able to become non-medical prescribers (dieticians are limited to supplementary prescribing and eligibility for mental health practitioners depends on their base profession). Non-medical prescribing allows those legally entitled professions to contribute to patient access to medication and increases their ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary team within general practice.