



Prescribe

e-Learning for Clinical Pharmacology & Prescribing

An interactive, e-learning resource based on the principles of basic and clinical pharmacology that underpin safe and effective prescribing



This document provides a brief summary of the Prescribe project, which is being developed by the British Pharmacological Society in collaboration with the Department of Health's e-Learning for Healthcare, for students of medicine and allied professions.

The purpose of Prescribe is to provide e-learning materials that will support students in developing a firm grounding in the principles of basic and clinical pharmacology that underpin safe and effective prescribing in the NHS. Prescribe will contain both interactive learning sessions and further information covering the pharmacology, clinical pharmacology and therapeutics that students might expect to encounter within a standard medical curriculum.



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There will be five main sections:

- Principles of Clinical Pharmacology. These sessions will introduce students to some of the important generic principles of clinical pharmacology that apply to all areas of therapeutics.
- Drugs. Knowledge of commonly used drugs (including mechanism of action, indications for use, appropriate route of administration, contraindications and adverse effects) that could support rational prescribing decisions and would be sufficient to provide appropriate information to patients.
- Therapeutics. Management of common acute and chronic therapeutic problems. These sessions will help students to gain an overall picture of how different drugs are used, either alone or in combination to treat common clinical problems.
- Prescribing Skills. A collection of knowledge-based sessions and self-assessments directed at common skills related to rational use of medicines.
- Prescribing Revision for Foundation Doctors. A series of sessions tackling common prescribing issues faced by first year doctors working in a hospital environment in rather greater depth than the undergraduate curriculum.

Also planned is an interactive student formulary, the opportunity to practise skills relevant to prescribing, self-assessment exercises, an e-library, a glossary and links to other resources. Prescribe is intended to complement existing teaching initiatives rather than replace them, and will be made available free of charge to students registered with UK universities and NHS-affiliated organisations.

Prescribe will provide learning content based on the British Pharmacological Society's curriculum for medical students (available at www.bps.ac.uk), with the aim of helping final year students to achieve the competences set out by the General Medical Council in the latest version of Tomorrow's Doctors (available at www.gmc.uk.org/static/documents/content/TomorrowsDoctors_2009.pdf).

These competences include the ability to establish an accurate drug history, plan appropriate therapy for common indications, write a safe and legal prescription, appraise critically the prescribing of others, calculate appropriate doses, provide patients with appropriate information, access reliable information about medicines, and detect and report adverse drug reactions.

It is anticipated that students will be able to register for Prescribe during the academic year 2010-2011. Further information is available at www.cpt-prescribe.org.uk