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MedPass – A Ticket to Dietitian Prescribing Oral Nutritional Supplements

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BACKGROUND

MedPass is the delivery of nutrient dense oral nutritional supplement (ONS), to support nutritional requirements of patients with high malnutrition risk. ONS was historically prescribed on the National Inpatient Medication Chart (NIMC) by medical prescribers on the recommendation of a dietitian. Prescription of MedPass by medical prescribers at Northern Health was not always actioned in line with dietitian recommendations, resulting in patients not receiving doses of MedPass as prescribed.

OBJECTIVE

In collaboration with the Pharmacy department, the dietitians explored extending their scope of practice to prescribe a small dose of MedPass on the NIMC to facilitate timely administration.

METHOD

A pharmacist-led credentialing program was developed, included indications for MedPass, competency in prescribing and appropriate charting regimens with consideration to glycaemic management and drug-nutrient interactions. Dietitians were required to undertake an interactive credentialing session with a senior pharmacist to practice and enable safe prescribing.

EVALUATION

Dietitians prescribed MedPass for five consecutive patients under the supervision of a clinical pharmacist. To obtain endorsement for independent prescription, a 100% accuracy rate was mandatory. Currently, seven dietitians have undertaken credentialing across multiple sites at our health service, with two dietitians successfully credentialed. There have been no reported prescribing related incidents. Dietitians will be required to undertake re-credentialing annually with a clinical pharmacist to ensure accuracy and recency of practice.

DISCUSSION

A positive collaborative relationship between the dietetic and pharmacy departments enabled successful implementation of a comprehensive pharmacist-led credentialing program, extending dietitians' scope of practice ensuring safe prescription of MedPass for our patients who are at high risk of malnutrition.