

Medical students' confidence and preparedness to prescribe

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WHY?

Providing further education on the skill of prescription writing before graduation *may reduce prescribing and medication errors* made by junior doctors.

What we know

- The ability to apply learnings to the practical skill of writing a prescription can be a challenging experience if the prescriber's knowledge is incomplete or inaccurate.
- Medical students still lack preparedness and confidence to write a medication prescription.

Aims

1. Understand **Australian and New Zealand (NZ)** final-year medical students' **confidence and preparedness** to write a **discharge or outpatient** prescription
2. Identify education **modalities**, the **educator(s)** professional background, and the ideal **time** during the medical degree curriculum to provide education on prescription writing.

Method

- Quantitative analytical cross-sectional study design
- Online structured survey data collection method (REDCap®)
- Distributed by email to final-year medical students across Australian and NZ medical schools
- Open June – December of 2022
- Ethics approvals granted

Results

- 174 final-year medical students: Australia (n=123) and NZ (n=51)
- Self-perceived lack of confidence and preparedness to handwrite or electronically write an outpatient or discharge medication prescription
- 28 QLD participants
 - 18 were aware of "the regulation"
 - 1 could name the *Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021*
- **Educator:** Pharmacists (p<0.0001)
- **Year to receive education:** Final-year (p<0.0001)
- **Education modality:** Placement (82.2%), workshops/hands-on experiences (79.3%), and tutorials (67.8%)

Conclusion

Education is required on the skill of how to write a prescription.

Develop a pre-post, longitudinal study:

- **WHO?** Pharmacist as the lead educators
- **WHEN?** During final year of medical education
- **HOW?** Using a mixed-methods education model

How confident are you to teach medical students how to write a medication prescription?

