



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Department of Health

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19th August 1997

Dear Colleague

NURSE PRESCRIBING IN SCOTLAND

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of developments with the nurse prescribing initiative, and to ask Health Board General Managers to bring the initiative to the attention of all community pharmacists.

Two hundred and fifty appropriately qualified nurses are undertaking nurse prescribing training. Those who are successful will begin prescribing practice on 1 September 1997. These nurses are employed in 5 Health Board areas: Ayrshire and Arran, Greater Glasgow, Grampian, Lothian and Tayside.

The operational and administrative arrangements for nurse prescribing were contained in NHS MEL(1996)52. The only significant change is that the nurses will be issued with a separate Nurse Prescribers' Formulary; this publication contains the items listed in the Nurse Prescribers' Formulary Appendix of the British National Formulary (BNF).

Nurse Prescribing Guidance has been issued to those Health Boards that will be included in the nurse prescribing scheme from 1 September 1997.

Action

As a prescription signed by a nurse may be presented outside the 5 participating Health Board areas, all Health Boards are asked to bring the nurse prescribing initiative to the attention of community pharmacists.

Yours sincerely

Agnes Robson

AGNES ROBSON
Director of Primary Care

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