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The role of independent prescribers' pharmacists in primary and secondary care in the United Kingdom

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Clinical pharmacists, as members of multidisciplinary clinical teams, play a pivotal role within different specialties in UK hospitals and primary care setting. Their role extends from routine review of prescriptions, medicines information, formulary applications and drug history-taking through medicines reconciliation, assisting prescribers in prescribing decisions, optimizing drug therapy and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM), to facilitating patient discharge from hospitals and counselling patients on their medication prior to discharge. Recently a new role for appropriately qualified pharmacists has emerged where they can prescribe any medicine independently within their competency. This interesting development is expected to bring added benefits to interdisciplinary care teams, which will be illustrated through a real example during the presentation. The main aim of the independent prescribers' pharmacists are to improve patients' access to medication as well as patient's care without compromising safety and also enables a better use of healthcare professional skills and contribute to flexible team working within primary and secondary care services. This extended role could be applied in hospitals in the Middle East with positive impact on patient's care.

Biography

Faiza Meftah is the Lead Pharmacist for Surgery at Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in Cambridge, United Kingdom. She has completed her Master's degree in Pharmacy from the University of Nottingham, UK and Post-Graduate Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy from the University of East Anglia, UK. She has worked as a Clinical Pharmacist and is also an Independent Prescriber from the University of Anglia Ruskin, Cambridge, UK and runs clinics for patients prior to their cardio-thoracic surgeries at Papworth Hospital. She is also an Educational Supervisor for Pharmacy Technicians undertaking the Accredited Checking Course and an accredited Smoking Cessation Advisor. She is a Member of the General Pharmaceutical Council, The British Heart Foundation and an Active Member of the UK Clinical Pharmacists Association. She is one of the contributors of the National Handbook of the Peri-Operative Medicines first launched in 2016.

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