

Global research links pharmacist prescribers with better healthcare

Pharmacist prescribers have been linked to better access to healthcare services and improved patient outcomes, a new study has found.

According to a review of 65 studies from around the world, including the UK, Australia, the US and Canada, there is global evidence to support expanding community pharmacists' role to prescribing.

The authors of the study, published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, examined the views and experiences of stakeholders towards pharmacist prescribing. These included pharmacists, patients, doctors, nurses and the public.

Most reported positive experiences, particularly in relation to ease of patient access to healthcare services, improved patient outcomes, better use of pharmacists' skills and knowledge, improved pharmacist job satisfaction, and reduced doctor workload.

"There is an accumulation of global

evidence of the positive views and experiences of diverse stakeholder groups and their perceptions of facilitators and barriers to pharmacist prescribing," the authors wrote.

The study builds on evidence about the effectiveness and safety of pharmacist prescribing.

Any lack of support for pharmacist prescribing largely related to accountability for prescribing, limited pharmacist diagnosis skills, lack of access to patient clinical records, and issues concerning organisational and financial support.

Many countries are implementing regulations concerning pharmacist prescribing. Non-medical prescribing is most advanced in Scotland, where there is a push to make all patient-facing pharmacists independent prescribers by 2023.

The report said doctors who had worked alongside pharmacist prescribers and patients managed by pharmacists were "very supportive of their professionalism and skills."

The authors concluded that healthcare policies in other countries, such as the UK, support the wider expansion of pharmacist prescribing.

"The positive findings of this systematic review, together with previous reviews of effectiveness and safety, provide evidence to support such developments," they said.

"Furthermore, such review findings are important in those countries and settings starting to explore and develop models of pharmacist prescribing."

Boots Ireland in partnership with the Irish Cancer Society launch their annual Night Walk

Boots Ireland launched their annual Night Walks for Night Nurses campaign in association with the Irish Cancer Society. As part of the campaign, Boots Ireland is holding two public Night Walks, designed to raise both funds and awareness of the critical care provided by the Irish Cancer Society Night Nurses.

Boots is encouraging the public to take part in the Dublin and Cork Boots 5km Night Walks, which will be held on Friday 17th August starting at 7.30pm.

To show support for the service, Boots colleagues in 87 stores across the country take part in night walks during August, while the public is invited to take part in the Boots Dublin Night Walk in Marlay Park and in the Cork Night Walk at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, both on Friday 17th August.

Alongside the walks, Boots offer Honour Tags for sale in Boots stores nationwide for €2. Customers can purchase a tag in honour of someone who has survived or passed away from cancer. One metre will be walked in honour of that person and the tags are brought from each store across Ireland to their local night walk. The front of the tag allows for the name of the individual with space on the back for a personal message.

Bernadette Lavery, Managing Director, Boots Ireland says:



Bernadette Lavery, MD Boots Ireland

"Boots Ireland are proud to support this invaluable service for those who really need care. The service is funded entirely by donations, so we would invite the public to get involved by joining us in a Night Walk, or purchasing an honour tag in any Boots store nationwide."

Boots Ireland is in their sixth year of partnership with the Irish Cancer Society, with the aim of the partnership to increase awareness,

promote prevention and support people living with cancer across Ireland. To date Boots employees and customers have raised over €1.3 million to fund the Night Nursing service, equating to over 3,715 nights of nursing care for families around the country.

For further information about the Irish Cancer Society Night Nursing service or to donate to the Irish Cancer Society visit: www.cancer.ie

news brief

ONLINE TRENDS TRANSFORM PHARMACY

The online doctor company, VideoDoc, has teamed up with McCabes pharmacy, announcing plans to deliver medications at no cost to VideoDoc patients.

People will now be able to see an online doctor in their home, get a diagnosis, and have their medication delivered to them. The cost of delivery is included in the cost of the VideoDoc service.

Online doctors carry out consultation with patients via the website or via the app, and all are registered with the Irish Medical Council.

Patients can choose to have their medication delivered by McCabes, who offer a same day service in Dublin and next day delivery anywhere in Ireland, and there is no extra charge for the delivery.

Cormac Loughnane, superintendent pharmacist of McCabes pharmacy, said: "Our delivery service ensures that patients never run out of much needed medication."

MEDICAL TECH FIRM OPENS CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Medical technology firm Becton Dickinson has opened a new research facility at Plassey Technological Park in Limerick, adding 85 new jobs. The new global research facility is expected to drive the company's international growth and has been designated as a centre of excellence.

Becton Dickinson, who currently employ 1,300 people throughout Ireland in facilities across Drogheda, Dun Laoghaire and two sites in Limerick, has invested 21 million euros into its new research and development facility. Extensive renovation to a pre-used site has taken place in the Castleterry campus, which is close to the University of Limerick. Becton Dickinson will collaborate with local universities to develop new technical capabilities.

The facility will concentrate on product and software development, clinical research instrumentation and prototype development, primarily for its life science business.