



International Network of Physiotherapy Regulatory Authorities

Facilitating international cooperation and collaboration

Webcast:

Prescribing medications by physiotherapists in the United Kingdom - October 3, 2013

Physiotherapists are now allowed to prescribe medications in the United Kingdom. It is important that regulators around the globe understand this change and its potential impact on the future of physiotherapy practice.

The presentation was given by Michael Guthrie from the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), who described the history, purpose and requirements related to this new legislation, as well as the proponents and opponents to the legislation and how it was passed as well as the ramifications for healthcare delivery in the UK.

Highlights:

Physiotherapists have been allowed to prescribe from a limited list of medications in the United Kingdom since 2005. The new legislation, which goes into effect in 2014, permits unlimited prescribing. In order to be recognized as prescribers, physiotherapists must meet defined requirements, such as working in a relevant field, completing an education program as well as a clinical placement under supervision of a physician and appear on the registry.

Expansion of scope of practice to include prescribing rights is not unique to the physiotherapy profession, rather this legislation is in keeping with national efforts in the UK to improve patient focused accessible health care services, to improve patient outcomes and contain cost.