



UNIVERSITY | MEDICAL
of NICOSIA | SCHOOL

MED-605
Therapeutics and Prescribing
Course Handbook

2024-25

Year 6
Doctor of Medicine (MD) Programme

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Course Handbook introduction by the Chair of Clinical Education

Dear Student,

Your course handbook is an invaluable resource. Reading it before starting your placement will make a huge difference to your learning experience. You will find outlines of the course, the objectives of your learning, the assessment requirements, learning resource suggestions, contact numbers and reporting structures.

You can use the learning outcomes and objective list to guide you through your learning of the subject and even to discuss with your tutors. The requirements, whether these are workplace - based assessments or tutorials, will allow smooth running of your clinical block and avoid unnecessary last-minute hardship.

The medical school has a course lead in place, with knowledge of the specific block, including its learning, revision, and assessment. And the department of clinical education ensures smooth running and delivery of the clinical training, through a number of Curriculum Leads (one for each main specialty) who work with the course leads and the local teams at the placement, to ensure the curriculum is delivered as planned.

The nature of clinical learning is such that, whilst your experiences will be comparable, it is not possible to have identical clinical exposure across all students; a case of disease X may be available today, whereas when the next student comes along it may be disease Y. It is desirable that we see all cases as far as possible but your handbook with its checklist of conditions and objectives will allow you to not fall behind and fill any gaps that may appear during your clinical exposure, and help guide your preparation for assessments.

If there are academic or administrative problems, if you need help and if you need to report anything back to your medical school, the reporting structures ensure that you should not feel even for one minute that you do not have someone to go to when needed. Please contact the team if you need any help, we are all here with our contact details available if you need us.

Please ensure that you are present and available for learning, opportunities will come when you least expect them, the amount we can learn from patients is huge and endless and therefore sitting with, talking to and examining patients is one of your strongest tools.

I hope you gain a lot of knowledge and clinical experience.

Enjoy the next few weeks!

Professor Joseph Joseph
Chair of Clinical Education

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1. Introduction

This Handbook has been written to supply the information about MED-605 Therapeutic and Prescribing Course. This Course is structured to extend knowledge about therapeutics and prescribing. Good prescribing skills are essential for doctors from the beginning of their careers and this course provides an opportunity to further develop those skills. Good and safe prescribing is all about practice and experience. The motto of the course is “Don’t practice until you get it right, practice until you can’t get it wrong”.

Enjoy this course!

2. MED-605 Therapeutics and Prescribing

Course Title	Therapeutics and Prescribing						
Course Code	MED-605						
Course Type	Required						
Level	Undergraduate						
Year / Semester	Year 6/ Semester 12 (Spring)						
Teacher's Name	Course Lead: Prof Aleksandar Jovanovic						
ECTS	4	Lectures / week	4	Laboratories / week	0	Clinical Practice	36
Course Purpose and Objectives	<p>Prescribing is a vital skill for all newly qualified doctors. From Day 1 of their House Officer jobs, students will prescribe drugs, and review existing prescriptions. It is essential that they are competent to undertake this role. Unfortunately, newly qualified doctors are prone to medication errors. Prescribing probably has more potential to bring about benefit and harm for patients than any other duty undertaken by a doctor in the early phase of their career.</p> <p>The objectives of this course are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prepare students to be able to prescribe drugs safely upon completion of their course. • To ensure students can calculate drug doses accurately. • To ensure students can write prescriptions and fill out drug charts accurately. • To ensure students can inject drugs, at the correct dose, intramuscularly, subcutaneously and intravenously. 						
Learning Outcomes	<p>After the completion of the course, the students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate effective history taking with relation to prescribed drugs, over-the-counter medication, complementary and alternative therapies, illicit drug use and allergies 2. Correctly prescribe oxygen, "As Required" medication, fluids and blood products, under supervision 3. Demonstrate the correct use of an in-patient prescription chart and correctly complete an insulin chart for diabetics and an anticoagulation chart for patients on warfarin 						

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Demonstrate use of the British National Formulary (or similar) to support prescribing 5. Explain the issues surrounding prescribing of unlicensed medicines 6. Define concordance, adherence and compliance concerning drug therapy 7. Demonstrate how to prescribe for a patient 8. Demonstrate effective prescription of controlled drugs and explain the special considerations required when prescribing this drug group 9. Calculate drug dosages based on patient weight or eGFR/creatinine clearance 10. Calculate the strength of an infusion based on the required rate of drug administration 11. Give subcutaneous, intramuscular, and intravenous injections 12. Mix and inject drugs into an intravenous infusion bag and prepare and give drugs by infusion pump 13. Prepare and give nebulised drugs 14. In general for each condition studied, list the main drugs (if any) that relieve symptoms, produce a cure or improve prognosis, or reduce the risk of recurrence. 15. Recognise that drug prescribing may be affected by a patient's condition e.g. presence of liver or kidney disease, pregnancy, breastfeeding, being very young or very old 16. Explain how you would time blood sampling to determine whether drugs are at a) therapeutic and b) toxic plasma concentrations and describe what actions you would take in response to the results 17. List body fluids other than blood that can be assayed for drug concentrations and explain the clinical and forensic applications of these tests 18. Describe the classification of adverse drug reactions and give examples 19. Describe the emergency assessment and resuscitation of a patient following an overdose 20. Describe the symptoms and signs following overdose with aspirin, paracetamol, opiates, carbon monoxide, tricyclic antidepressants, benzodiazepine 21. Describe the specific management including antidotes of each drug listed 22. Describe the role of desensitization therapy in the management of allergy to insect stings (bee, wasp) and pollen (grass, trees) 23. Describe the role of Research Ethics Committees, Drugs and Therapeutics Committees and the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE)
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Prerequisites	None	Required	None
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Course Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribing and writing a prescription • Drug dose calculation • Intramuscular, subcutaneous and intravenous injections • Regulations around dispensing drugs • Dealing with adverse drug reactions 																				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dealing with drug overdose • National Formularies • Drugs bringing about a cure, an improved prognosis and a reduction in recurrence • Illicit drugs • Allergic reactions to drugs and how to deal with them • Dealing with drug-related emergencies • The role of national bodies such as NICE 																				
Teaching Methodology	The course is delivered by clinical placements, lectures, tutorials, case studies and theatre attendance.																				
Bibliography	<p>Required Textbooks/Reading:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Authors</th> <th>Title</th> <th>Publisher</th> <th>Year</th> <th>ISBN</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Joint Formulary Committee</td> <td>BNF and BNF for Children Edition: LBNF 83, BNFC 2021-2022</td> <td>BMJ Group and Pharmaceutical Press.</td> <td>Current year</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence</td> <td>NICE guidelines</td> <td>Last one</td> <td>Current year</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brunton, Laurence L.</td> <td>Goodman & Gilman's the pharmacological basis of therapeutics, 14th ed.</td> <td>McGraw-Hill</td> <td>2023</td> <td>9781264258079</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>E-book resources for Clinical Placements Support Resources: https://libguides.unic.ac.cy/placementresources</p>	Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN	Joint Formulary Committee	BNF and BNF for Children Edition: LBNF 83, BNFC 2021-2022	BMJ Group and Pharmaceutical Press.	Current year		National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence	NICE guidelines	Last one	Current year		Brunton, Laurence L.	Goodman & Gilman's the pharmacological basis of therapeutics, 14 th ed.	McGraw-Hill	2023	9781264258079
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Assessment	Final year written exam and final year OSCE. The written assessment will be by Single Best Answer MCQs and Short Answer Questions.																				
Language	English																				

3. MED-605 Therapeutics and Prescribing Course Requirements

Please take note of the following assessments that students will need to complete and submit via **'MyProgress Health'**, no later than one week after the completion of the MED-605 Therapeutic and Prescribing course.

You must also cross-reference the above with the Year 6 PVB assessment domain handbook, which takes precedence to any other handbook.

Required PVB Assessments

1x CPPC
4x Presentations
Daily Attendance Logbook (submitted via 'MyProgress Health' by uploading the attendance weekly sheets)
1 x Learning Outcomes Record (LOR)
Evidence of completing online student feedback survey

Floating WPBA and On-line Feedback Survey

Submit the above forms together with any floating WPBAs completed during the MED-605 Therapeutic and Prescribing course. You also need to ensure that you have completed the online feedback survey and upload evidence of this via **'MyProgress Health'**, by the deadline.

Logbook

The logbook should be completed on a daily basis and submitted at the end of your course/ clinical rotation by uploaded on **'MyProgress Health'**.

Attachment sign-off process

PLEASE NOTE: It is your responsibility to ensure that your tutor completes your Clinical Practice Portfolio Certificate (CPPC) as well as WPBA forms for you.


You should follow these steps:

- You should contact your Clinical Lead in advance to agree a mutually convenient date to conduct the completion and sign-off of the **CLINICAL PLACEMENT & PROFESSIONALISM CERTIFICATE (CPPC)** using the final week of your attachment. It may take around 15-20 minutes so please bear that in mind when arranging a suitable time slot. You should check in advance if the Clinical Lead will be absent at any time towards the end of the attachment.
- Your CPPC must be completed by the relevant tutor/lead clinician no later than one week after the completion of the attachment (recommended to be completed by the last day of the clinical attachment). Your tutor will be able to access all the WPBAs you have completed on your device during the attachment, as well as your logbooks and other evidence of your attendance.

- If you have not been told who will be signing you off you should contact your local administrator for guidance.
- Attend the meeting with your clinical tutor and bring your device to present all required WPBA forms and logbooks, as well as any other evidence of your attendance.
- It is your responsibility to ensure that the CPPC certificate and all WPBA forms are properly completed prior to their submission. In addition, you are required to use your logbooks to record activities and attendance and ask for a signature from your supervisor prior to submitting these.

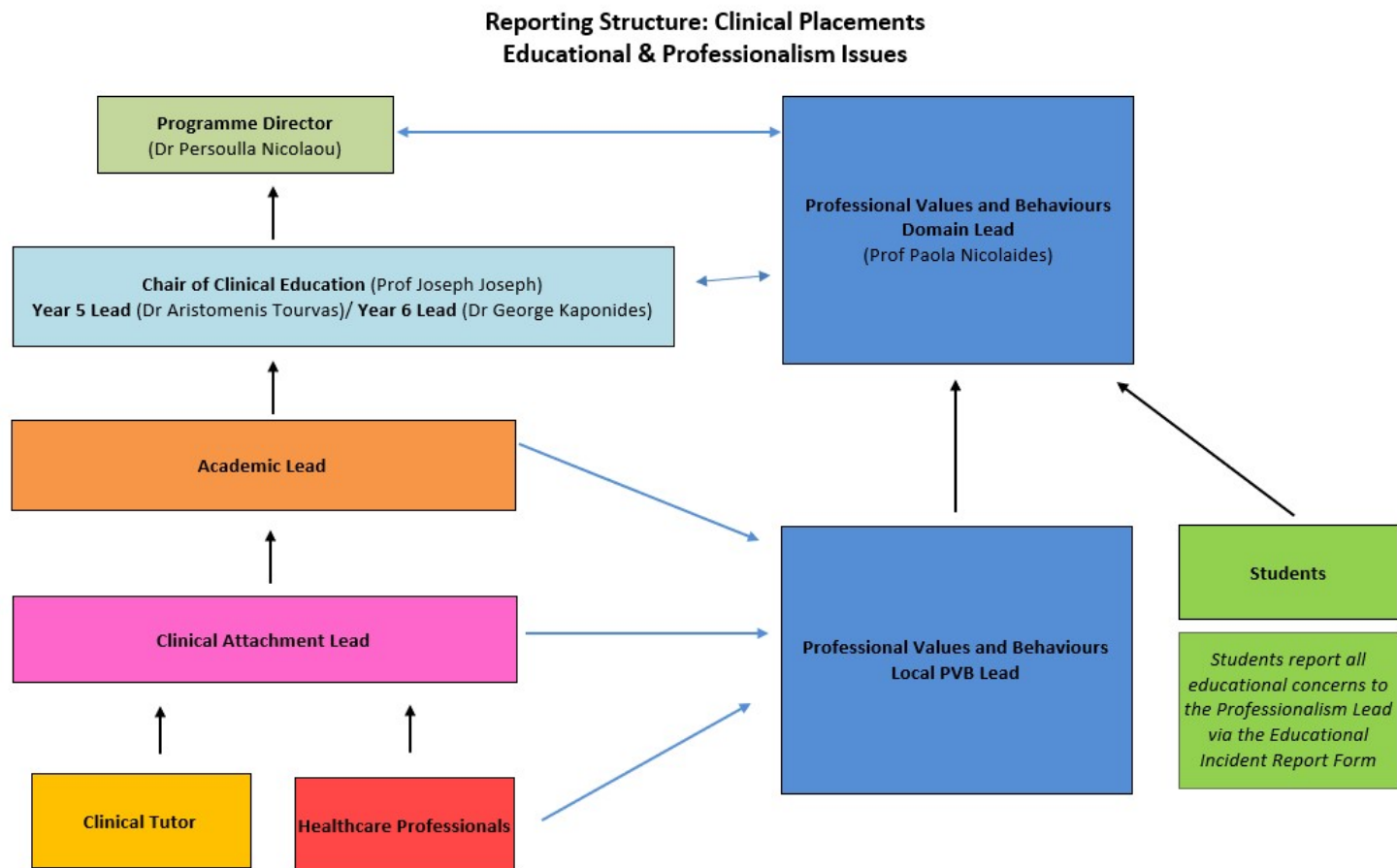
DON'T FORGET:

- You should use the diaries to record activities and attendance and ask for a signature from supervising Consultant or Registrar each week.
- You need to achieve submission of all assessment forms and attendance logbook/diaries via **'MyProgress Health'** within one week of completing an attachment. If you are using the *'Email for later'* function it is your responsibility to chase up the clinician and have your WPBAs completed and submitted by the deadline. **If you anticipate any delays please always inform the PVB administrator. No communication and late submissions are considered serious and recorded under Professional Behaviour of the PVB domain.**
- You must check that all section of WPBA forms have been completed appropriately and fully before you submit. Otherwise, your forms will not be accepted by the system.
- If you are marked with a 'Fail' on the CPPC form for any of the elements, the assessor must give specific detailed feedback explaining reasons for the grade. Feedback should be focused and specific. In such cases or in cases where you fail to complete the required number of WPBAs, you will normally be required to redo part or the whole of the course/clinical rotation (after discussion with your local PVB Domain Lead). **Once remediation is complete a new CPPC form needs to be completed and signed off by the Clinical Lead or the remediation supervisor or the remediation supervisor along with a new Logbook that shows remediation dates.**
- Check that your course/clinical rotation specific and floating WPBAs have been supervised and signed off by the correct assessor level. If you are unsure, please check before you undertake the WPBA to avoid your forms being rejected and having to return to your placement to repeat the WPBA with the correct assessor.
- Ensure you have completed the online feedback survey and upload evidence of this via **'MyProgress Health'**, by the submission deadline.

 **Note that late submissions will be recorded under PVB Professional Behaviour Element. Your clinical Site Administrator is here to help!**
If you are unclear or unsure about any aspect of the PVB Domain ask your Clinical Site Administrator.

 **In case of illness or absence**
Students must notify their Clinical Site Administrators via email, and their Clinical Tutor prior or on the day of absence.

4. Reporting Structures



**Reporting Structure: Clinical Attachments
Patient and Student Safety Issues**

