

Conference attended

HC-UK event Clinical Pharmacology Update for Nurse Prescribers

26th June 2025

I have been a registered nurse since 1986 and an independent prescriber since 2019.

I was fortunate to be able to attend this event (virtually) as the BACCN and HealthCare Conferences UK have a reciprocal agreement that enables BACCN members to attend free of charge. I would encourage all BACCN members to visit the website to see which sessions you can benefit from and take up the opportunity.

As a prescriber I must stay current with my prescribing practice by meeting the standards set by the NMC, including completing continuing professional development (CPD) and staying updated on relevant guidance. This ensures safe and effective prescribing. This event was around pharmacology which is an area that many prescribers at times can struggle with – and so was a very useful update.

There were 7 sessions in total

- 1) Lousie Cope – Pharmacist who gave an in-depth update on pharmacology. I found particularly useful the practical application session in making prescribing decisions.
- 2) Lousie Hilton – looked at drug interactions in terms of understanding them and in particular reminded me of resources that can and should be used in prescribing. Focused on our scope of prescribing. Reminded us about herbal medicines and food and drinks that can interfere with prescribed medications. Pharmacodynamics and Pharmacokinetics nice update and reminder
- 3) Andrew Tweedle – is a palliative care doctor and presented two thought provoking case studies in relation to medications, managing symptoms and EOL. Although not a subject area I prescribe in the session was useful.
- 4) Aleksandra Howell – session on barriers and facilitators to prescribing. Focus on high-risk drugs – a number of which I prescribe frequently such as potassium, calcium, anticoagulants. Key message was “Stay vigilant”, read patient safety alerts, report any issues and concerns
- 5) Kirsty Fishburn – another area that I do not practice in – mental health. But this session made me think about those patients that I prescribe for who maybe having mental health medications.
- 6) Sarah Young – session pre-recorded and again on barriers and facilitators to prescribing.
- 7) Clifford Lisk – doctor acute medicine who gave a great session on frailty, polypharmacy and prescribing. My take away message was deprescribing perhaps more important

My key take-away messages were:

- Read regularly the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Competency Framework for All Prescribers
<https://www.rpharms.com/portals/0/rps%20document%20library/open%20access/professional%20standards/prescribing%20competency%20framework/prescribing-competency-framework.pdf>
- Not to be afraid to discuss / reflect on good and not so good prescribing practise
- Ensure BNF on my devices is up to date
- Use all the technology and resources available to me in my prescribing practice
- Maintain my audit of medications prescribed

Thanks to BACCN and HC-UK for enabling me to attend.