

Development of an interprofessional teaching session in prescribing

Dr Elaine Walsh, Department of GP, UCC

Dr Laura Sahm, School of Pharmacy, UCC

A TRADITION OF
INDEPENDENT
THINKING



UCC

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Background

- Prescribing error is common among newly qualified doctors with the potential to negatively impact patient safety [1]
- Undergraduate medical education has been criticised for failing to adequately prepare doctors for the task of prescribing in clinical practice [2]

1. Lewis PJ, Ashcroft DM, Dornan T, Taylor D, Wass V, Tully MP. Exploring the causes of junior doctors' prescribing mistakes: a qualitative study. *British journal of clinical pharmacology*. 2014;78(2):310-9.
2. Heaton A, Webb DJ, Maxwell SR. Undergraduate preparation for prescribing: the views of 2413 UK medical students and recent graduates. *British journal of clinical pharmacology*. 2008;66(1):128-34.

Study

Aim:

To elicit the views of junior doctors on the challenges experienced when prescribing and to use the results to inform undergraduate curriculum.

Study

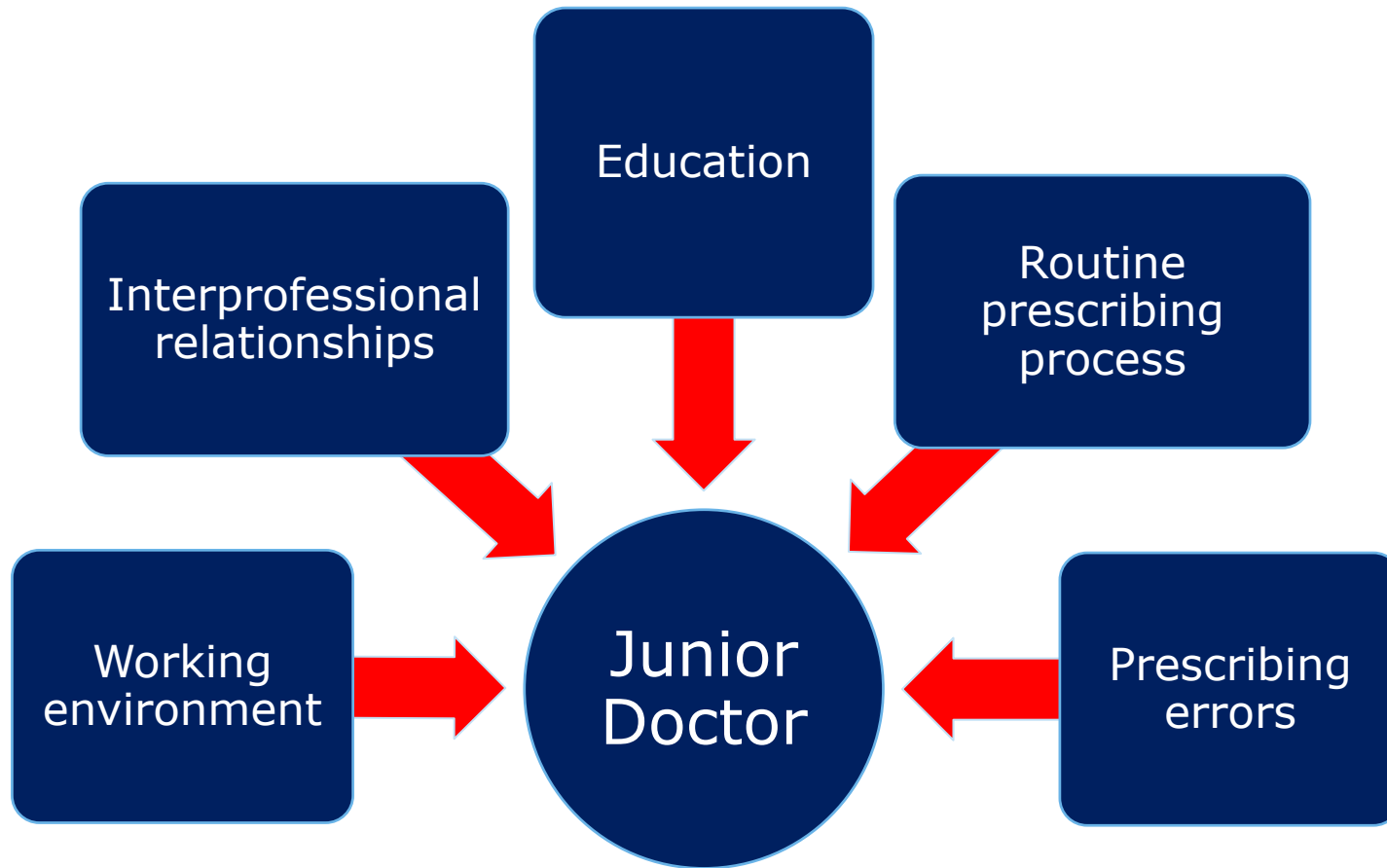
Methods:

- Semi-structured, qualitative interviews with doctors in their first year post qualification.
- Data collection until no new themes emerged
- Thematic analysis

Results:

- 13 interviews (M=6, F=5)
- Mean duration of work experience 9 months (SD=0.9)
- Mean age 25 years (SD=2.14)

Themes



Education sub themes

1

- Curriculum content

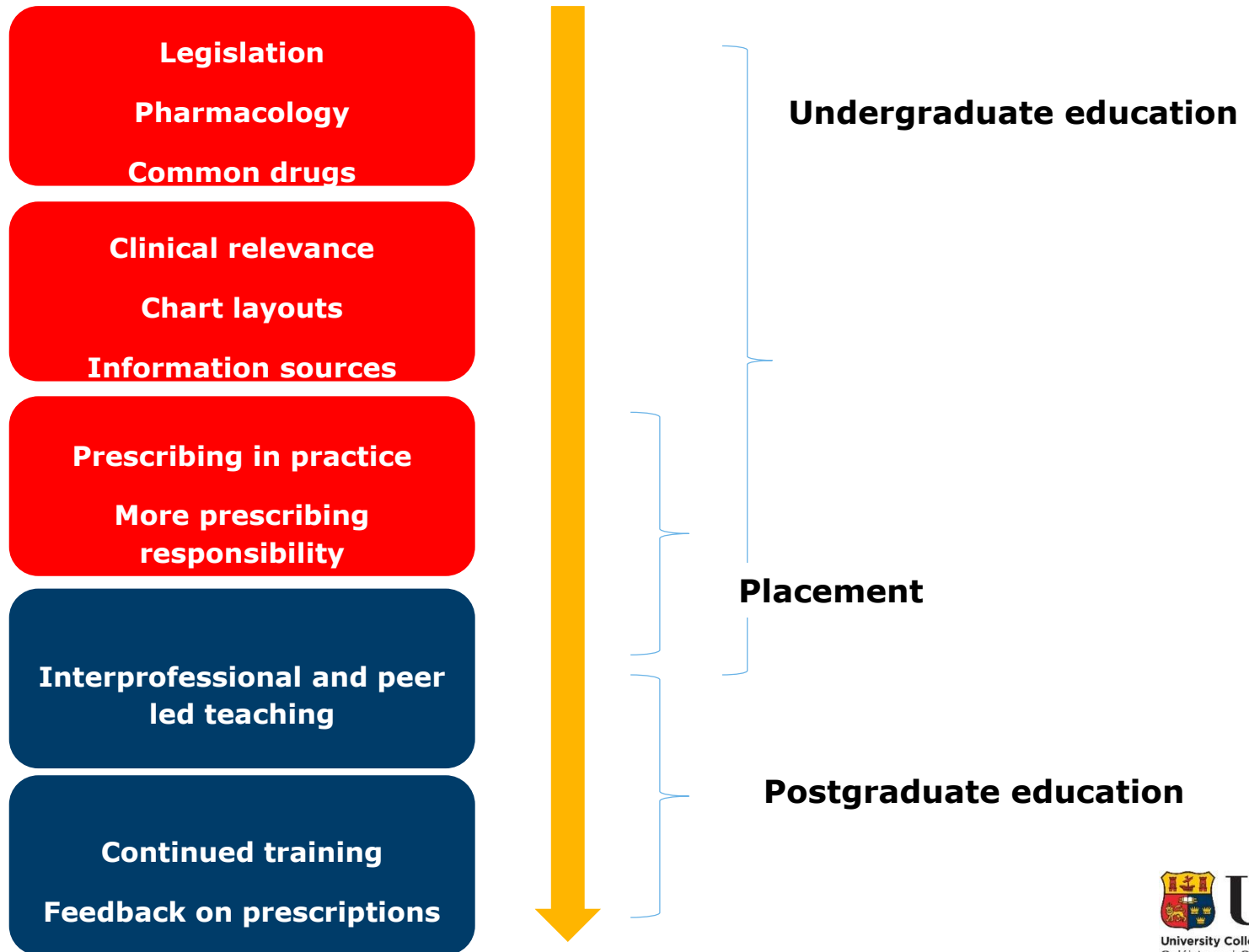
2

- Timing

3

- Delivery

Suggested improvements to teaching



Educational initiative

Aim:

To develop a teaching session in prescribing earlier in the undergraduate curriculum to directly address

- (i) issues identified by current prescribers
- (ii) recommendations made by current prescribers.

Teaching session

**3rd year Medical
and Pharmacy
students**

**Legislation
Common
sources of error**

Case 1

Case 2

Drug Kardex

Case 1 Mrs MK

- 79 year old female
- **PC:** 3/7 of nausea and epigastric pain
- **PMHx:**
 - Hypertension
 - Hypercholesterolaemia
 - Osteoarthritis
 - Osteoporosis
 - Cholecystectomy 1985

Case 1 Mrs MK

Medications:

- Calcichew D3 Forte T PO BD
- Losartan 100mg PO OD
- Alendronate 35mg PO Weekly
- Bisoprolol 7.5mg PO OD
- Diclofenac 75mg PO BD
- Rosuvastatin 10mg PO OD
- Lansoprazole 30mg PO OD
- Ixprim PO TDS PRN

Social History:

- Retired teacher, lives with her daughter
- Non smoker, No alcohol

Questions

1. Match the patient's medication to her past medical history
2. Could any of the listed medications be associated with her presenting complaint, if so which medications and why?
3. The patient has asked you to review her medications and would like to know:
 - What instructions should she follow when taking each medication?
 - What side-effects she might expect from each medication?
 - If she could stop taking any of her medications?
 - Would you recommend any changes to her medication?

Pilot work

- Session delivered to Pharmacy students (n=39) and Medical students (n=73)
- Feedback:
 - Positive from both groups
 - Interprofessional interaction well received
 - Group discussion beneficial
 - Mix of GP and hospital inpatient medication information useful

Illustrative Quotes

Great session!
Have more
sessions
throughout the
year

*They know a lot of
things that I don't
know esp. about
drugs & prescriptions
(also the dosage).*

*We both have a lot
to learn from each
other*

Planned evaluation

Pre teaching session:

- Rate confidence in identifying medication errors and writing a prescription (Likert scale)
- Complete Interdisciplinary Education Perception Scale

Post teaching session:

- Rate confidence in identifying medication errors and writing a prescription (Likert scale)
- Complete Interdisciplinary Education Perception Scale
- Rate usefulness of teaching session (Likert scale)
- Free text comments

Conclusion

- Development of a novel interprofessional educational initiative in response to issues identified by current prescribers may be of benefit to undergraduate medical and pharmacy students