Non-medical Prescribing
Information for patients
What is non-medical prescribing?
These days, it’s not just doctors who prescribe medications. Non-medical prescribing is when a qualified prescriber, who is not a doctor, gives you a prescription. A non-medical prescriber may be a nurse, midwife or pharmacist. In the future other health professionals such as optometrists may qualify as non-medical prescribers.

How does non-medical prescribing affect me?
You will not experience any changes to the immediate care you receive. The only difference is that the nurse will write your prescription rather than one of the doctors. This may speed up your consultation time (because you won’t have to wait for the doctor to write a prescription) and improve your overall experience.

What can I expect from my nurse?
You can expect the same level of care that you always had. However, you may find that some aspects of the consultation will be more thorough (detailed) and that the nurse asks you more questions than she has done previously, especially about the medicines you take. For example, the nurse prescriber will take a current medical history including details of your current medications, a history of the condition you are suffering from and any treatment or medications you have received so far. The nurse will ask you about any herbal or over-the-counter drugs which you take on a regular basis. She will also check if you are allergic to any medications. It is important she does this so that any medicines she gives you will not react with anything you are currently taking.

The nurse will be able to give you all the information you need about the medicine she prescribes for you. This information will include how long to take the medicine, when to take it and any potential side-effects. The nurse may also offer you advice on how to make lifestyle changes, which may help your condition.
How do nurses qualify to prescribe?

All nurses who attend a non-medical prescribing course do so at a university accredited by the Nursing and Midwifery Council. In Oxford this is Oxford Brookes University.

Once a Nurse has completed and passed the course, they must register their qualification with their governing body. For nurses, this is the Nursing and Midwifery council.

All nurses and midwives have a duty under their code of conduct to remain competent and up to date with their skills and knowledge. Employers also have a duty to ensure that nurse prescribers keep up to date.

What else should I know?

Any prescribing decision you and your nurse make should be the result of shared discussion and agreement. You should always feel free to ask any questions at all that you may have.

Occasionally it will be necessary to discuss the prescribing decision with a doctor. However, the nurse will continue to provide the follow-up care. Please note however, that if you wish to see a doctor for follow up, or at any other time, then this can be arranged.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like further information about non-medical prescribing, then please contact the following:

- The nurse’s employer (Sister Bernadette Mitchell)
- The Nursing and Midwifery council (NMC)
- Our Patient Advice and Liaison Services (PALS) (01865 743324)
You can also try:

- Citizen’s Advice Bureau (CAB)
- Independent Complaints Advocacy Services (ICAS)

If you need to make a complaint about a nurse prescriber, any of the institutions above will be able to provide information to help you.

If you need specific information about aural care prescriptions then Elizabeth Lawson, Nurse Prescriber for the Aural Care Service, can be contacted on the following Numbers:

Tel: 01865 231202 or Tel: 01865 231182

Alternatively you can email her at: Elizabeth.Lawson@orh.nhs.uk

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call 01865 221473 or email PALSJR@orh.nhs.uk