Scottish General Practice Nurses Handbook for General Practice

Introduction

In Scotland there are around 2,100 general practice nurses (GPNs) working across remote, rural, urban and deepend practices. This role encompasses highly skilled, trained generalist specialists who work with local community populations from the cradle to the grave. The service needs of people living in the community vary widely and none more so than when they require health and social care which necessitates expert skill, understanding and knowledge.

The aim of this handbook is to provide a practical and useful guide to the specific continuing professional development (CPD) and resource needs of GPNs. It brings together a significant wealth of knowledge and expertise in one book, not as a manual which would become outdated within a very short period of time, but as a resource centre that is easily accessible and readable electronically via our Continuing Professional Development for General Practice Nurses Communities of Practice site on The Knowledge Network.

This handbook is primarily a resource for GPNs and advanced nurse practitioners (ANPs) who are frontline operators in general practice. It will be aimed primarily at Scottish nurses but will be useful to GPNs and ANPs throughout the UK. this rapidly changing healthcare environment our aim is to capture the principles and concepts of disease management, rather than specific guidance for ongoing management.

The themes captured in this book are areas that nurses in general practice will encounter throughout their career such as the concepts of long term conditions; patient safety; behaviour change models required when dealing with alcohol; weight; smoking; healthy diet, exercise; managing conflict; advanced practice; the concepts and application of independent non-medical prescribing; closing the gap between general practice and national priorities.

We recommend using this handbook as a comprehensive guide on how to access current information that is immediately applicable to general practice and community nursing. It can be read as individual chapters or as a complete book. Each chapter includes a tool to aid reflective practice making it a very useful resource for ongoing CPD requirements and revalidation.

We welcome any feedback for future updates and editions.