**Sample Abstract for HSRPP 2020**

**Pharmacist and nurse prescribers in primary care: what is perceived to be effective supervision?**

*Introduction***:** Primary care nurse and pharmacy independent prescribers (IP) are at the forefront of the increasing demand on primary healthcare services in the UK. Supervision and support for nurse and pharmacy (IP) are critical in supporting safe and effective practice. Varied levels of support have been identified across the UK health settings. Without effective support, patient care could be compromised. Studies have identified that there are various levels of support across the UK health settings[1] but are the areas with identified ‘support in place’ effective? There is a gap in the literature at to what 'effective support' is from the perspective of the nurse and pharmacy independent prescribers receiving the support.

*Aim***:** To explore the views of primary care nurse and pharmacy independent prescribers of what is required for successful, emotionally supportive supervision that builds confidence and competence for nurse and pharmacy independent prescribers in primary care.

*Methods***:** Semi-structured interviews were conducted with independent prescribing primary care nurses and pharmacists working in all 7 health boards in Wales. Purposive sampling was used, all participants who met the criteria were recruited. A topic guide, covering previous experience of supervision, perceptions of appropriate supervision and how supervision supports expanding their areas of clinical practice was used to guide the interviews. A recruitment email with the details of the study was sent out to potential participants from the prescribing leads from each health board. Consent was obtained from all participants. Interviews were audio-recorded and conducted in English. Interviews were transcribed verbatim and analysed using thematic analysis. [2]

*Results***:** Interviews were conducted with 8 nurse and 7 pharmacist independent prescribers and lasted between 20 and 45 minutes. Nine themes emerged from the data: current supervision arrangements, effect of support on prescribing, ideals of supervision, identification of confidence and competence, influence of others on own prescribing, multidisciplinary support, perception of governance around independent prescribing, perceptions of prescribing risk and what prescribing means to the independent prescriber. The most common theme focuses on “the effect of support on prescribing”. Within this theme, participants described the effects of support (and the lack of) on their prescribing practice. The participants indicated that when they felt supported, they were more inclined to broaden their scope of practice and prescribe more confidently *“I personally wouldn’t feel confident and competent to initiate medicines, but I would with the right support”*. When not supported, it would limit or stop their prescribing *“when we do minor ailments clinics I wasn’t supported, so I said I’m not doing it”.*

*Conclusions*: This is the first qualitative study to explore the perceptions of effective supervision of nurse and pharmacy IPs in primary care in Wales, with themes potentially relevant to all nurse and pharmacist prescribers across the UK. However, the research was constrained by the small number of interviews conducted which may limit its relevance more widely. Future work will involve creating a model of supervision based on the findings of this research, with the intention of formalising clinical supervision based on the supervisee’s preferences.

**References**

1. Courtenay M, Carey N, Stenner K. An overiew of non medical prescribing across one strategic health authority: A questionnaire survey. BMC Health Serv Res. 2012;12(1).

2. Braun V, Clarke V. Using thematic analysis in psychology. Qualitative Research in Psychology. 2006;3(2):77–101.