

Prescription

Dr. Maha El – Amami

Family medicine consultant

ERAPRIOP

- **E** —————> **Exploration**
- **R** —————> **Reassurance**
- **A** —————> **Advice**
- **P** —————> **prescription**
- **R** —————> **Referral**
- **I** —————> **Investigation**
- **O** —————> **observation**
- **P** —————> **Follow up (prevention)**

Decision making

A. Factors to be considered before issuing

a prescription:

- 1) Self-medication, what, for how long and with what effect.
- 2) Patient expectation (to be explored) and their autonomy (to be addressed as appropriate).

B. To prescribe or not?

Ask yourself the following questions:

1. what evidence is there that the natural history of this problem will be helped by medication?

2- what are my clinical aims of prescribing for this particular patient?

A. Therapeutic:

preventive

curative

symptomatic

b. Tactical:

To gain time when collecting more information

To maintain contact with the patient

As a trial of treatment

To relieve the doctor's anxiety

c. Both

3. Am I prescribing in response to pressure from the patient?

Have I thought about the possible long-term implications on patients subsequent behavior?

4- How well do I know the drugs I am prescribing?

a) What evidence is available regarding:

- comparative effectiveness?
- comparative hazards?
- comparative costs?

b) What are the contraindications to their use?

c) What interactions are to be avoided?

d) What factors influence optimum dosage and duration?

5- What factors are likely to affect the patient's compliance?

Human characteristics

Very young or very old patients or
psychiatric illness

Failure to understand nature or importance
of illness

Chronic illness

Failure of the doctor to identify the
reason of the patient visit

No perceived benefit

Drug side effects, complex therapy, too
many, too frequent, inappropriate route

Given misleading or inadequate
information

C. Decision to prescribe:

What information has been given to the patients about the drug (s)?

- 1- Why its prescribed (**N**ecessity), the importance of taking the drug
- 2- **E**ffect (expected) and benefits of the drug
- 3- **S**ide effect (likely possible) and what to do if they occur
- 4- **C**ost

5- History of **A**llergy to the drug

6- Instruction on **F**ollow up or renewal of the drug

7- **E**xplanation on how to take the drug, when, how often, for how long and by what route, possible interaction and precautions

NESCAFE

In prescribing any drug what evidence available regarding:

Necessity

Effectiveness

Side effects

Cost

Allergy

Follow up

Explanation

Acronym (STEPS)

S safety

T Tolerability

E Effectiveness

P price

S simplicity

Any Questions ?

