



# Extending the prescribing framework to registered nurses

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# Growing international phenomenon

- Authorisation of RNs to prescribe medicines in
  - UK
  - NZ
  - Netherlands
  - South Africa
  - Spain
- Improves access to medicines
  - Communicable
  - Non-communicable
- Supported by WHO





# Prescribing models

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- Independent
  - responsible for the initial assessment of patients, diagnostic and prescribing decisions, the writing of prescriptions, and ongoing monitoring.
- Dependent or supplementary
  - work in a collaborative partnership with an independent prescriber, and prescribe after the initial assessment and diagnosis have been carried out.

# Group protocols/Standing orders

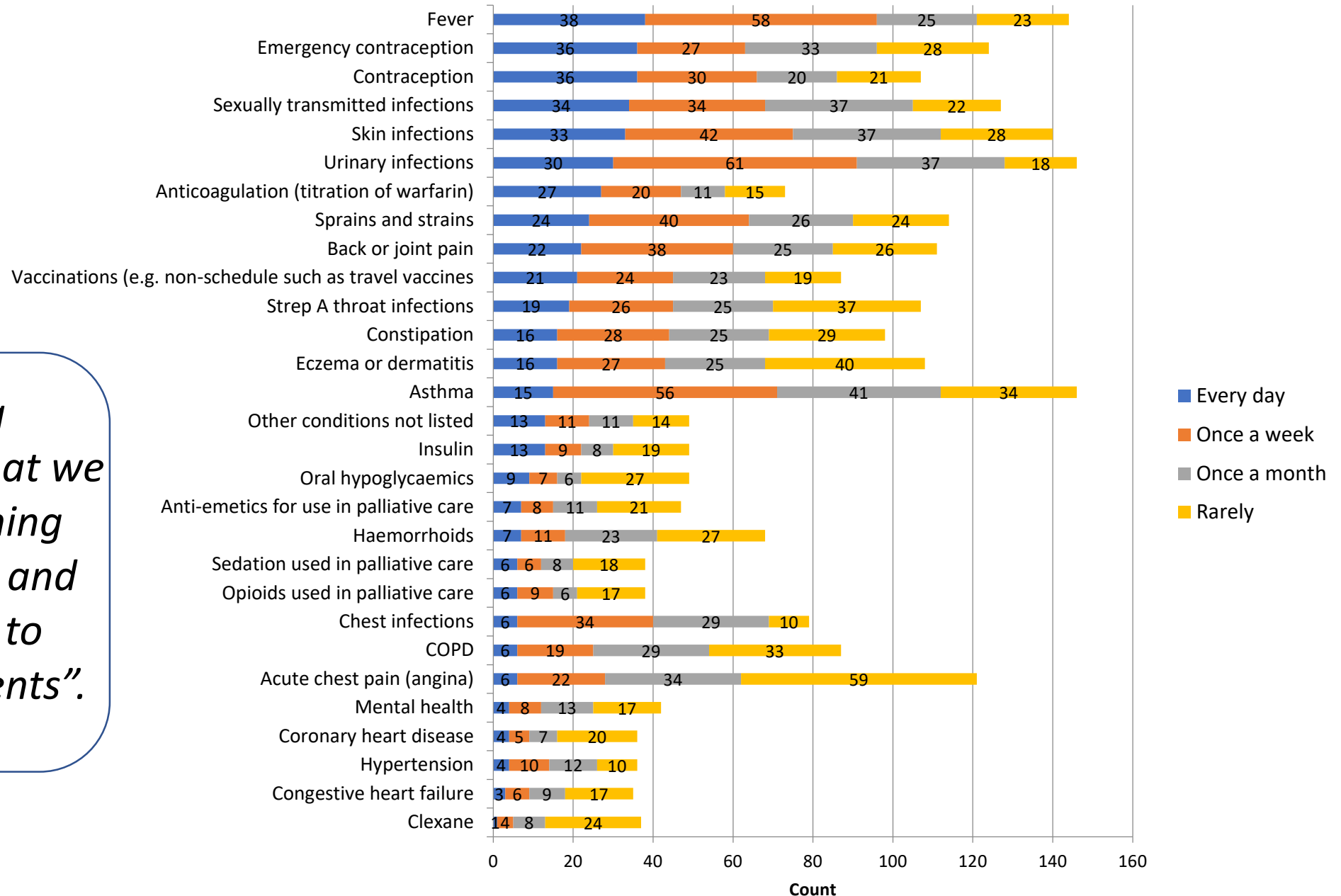


- A predetermined protocol for the supply and/or administration of medicines to patients with particular conditions in the absence of a prescriber
- No specific training necessary unless stipulated
- Countersigning required

## Frequency of standing order use for different conditions

- Extensive use of standing orders in PHC
- High degree of diagnostic certainty

*“Nurse prescribing would validate what we do, add extra training and competencies and allow safer access to medication for clients”.*



# New Zealand

- Successful evaluation of the DNS prescribing project in 2011
- Nursing Council invited by the Minister to consult on extending prescribing rights to suitably qualified RNs
- Two level proposal:
  - Community health
  - Primary health and specialty teams





# New Zealand regulation

- Medicines (Designated Prescriber-Registered Nurses) Regulations 2016 and Misuse of Drugs Regulations
  - suitably qualified RNs can prescribe
  - specified prescription medicines and controlled drugs



## Primary care and specialty teams

- PG Diploma
  - Pathophysiology
  - Pharmacology
  - Assessment and diagnostic reasoning
  - RN Prescribing practicum
- RN prescribing competencies
- Limited medicines schedule
- 12 months supervision

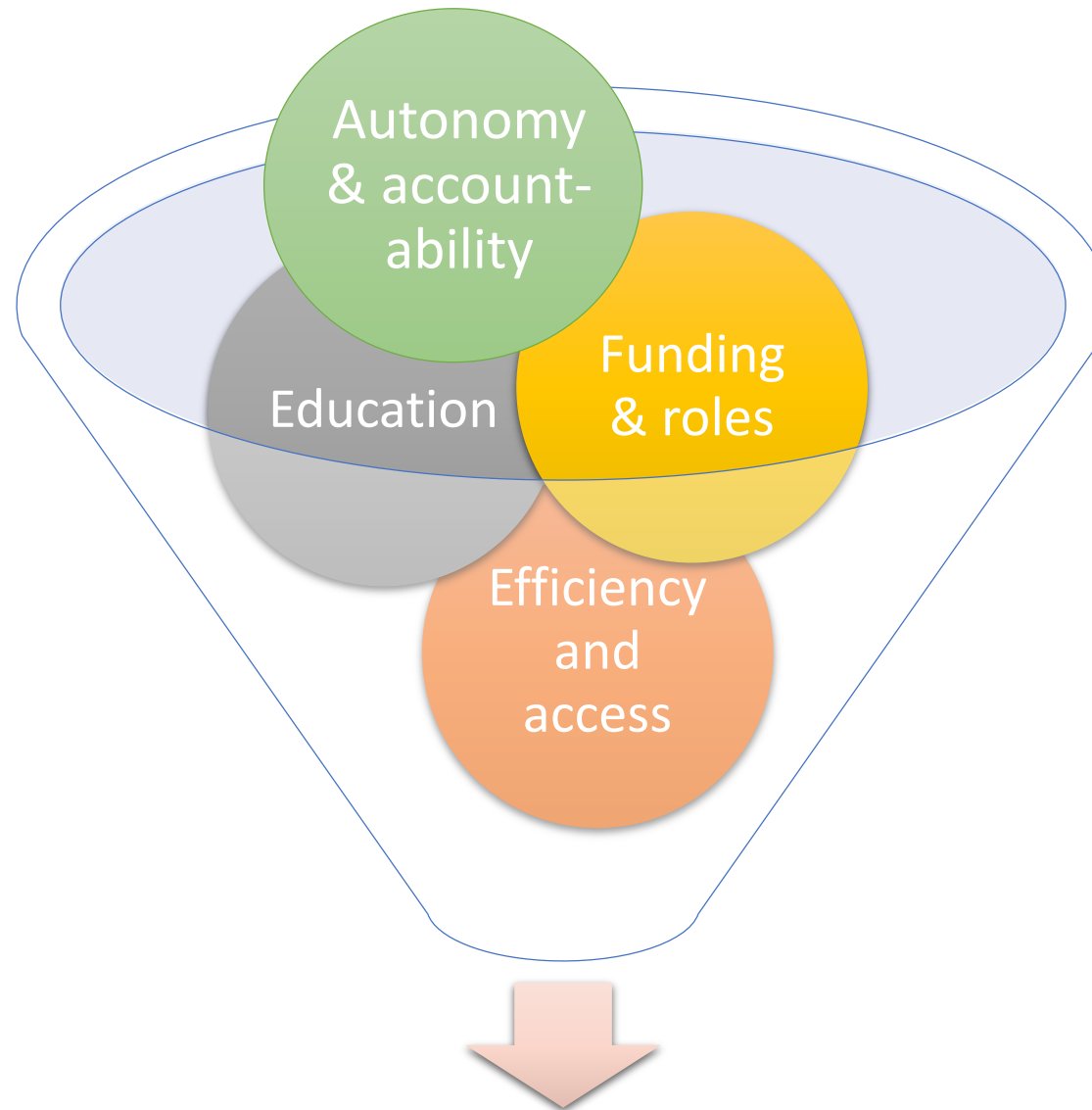
➡ *E.g. diabetes, CHF, respiratory, palliative, PHC*

## Community health

- A non-university certification
  - Period of supervised prescribing
- Competencies
- Trial ... Roll-out expected 2018
- More limited medicines schedule
- Eventually replace Standing Orders

➡ *Minor ailments and illnesses*





Change of culture



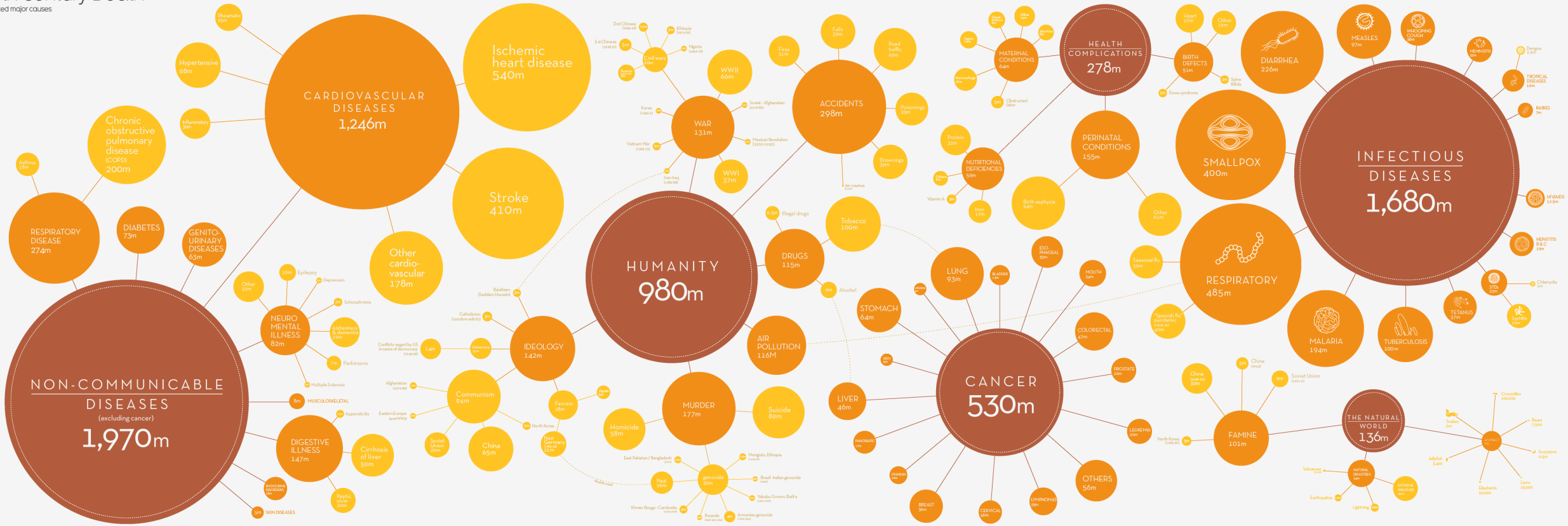
# Normalising RN prescribing

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- Clinical governance needed to support safe prescribing
  - Audit
  - Review
- Work place support vital
- Whole of team approach
- Public acceptance

*“As talk about nurses as prescribers continues, it serves to normalise the process and lead to more acceptance amongst medical and nursing colleagues and also the public”.*

20th Century Death  
selected major causes



This artwork was commissioned by the Wellcome Collection as a companion piece to the London exhibition 'Death: A Self-Portrait - The Richard Heart Collection' (November 2021).  
Sources: WHO Mortality Report 5, app, WHO Global Burden of Disease, OECD mortality stats, British Medical Journal, our maps. Some inevitable double-counting, broad estimation and post-pandemic figures.  
all data: bit.ly/20thdeath  
InformationIsBeautiful.net

Concept, design, research: David McCandless  
Lead research: William Quirk  
Art direction: Kathryn Akerley  
regression algorithms: Lauren Jones

Additional research: Ella Hollowood, Dan Hampton,  
Paul Doughty, White, Andrew Key  
Additional design: Tatyana Dubovina, Piers Zagari, Paulo Estriga  
date: bit.ly/20thdeath  
InformationIsBeautiful.net

Information is Beautiful  
<https://informationisbeautiful.net/visualizations/20th-century-death/>

The background of the slide features a dark, muted grey color. Overlaid on this are several sprigs of purple flowers, likely Salvia (Sage), which have small, dense, tubular blossoms arranged in elongated spikes. The leaves are green and lance-shaped. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the flowers and leaves against the dark background.

To finish...

Regulating independent RN  
prescribing through standardised  
education and competencies  
clarifies responsibilities and more  
safely and effectively streamlines  
the provision of medicines when  
they are needed.



# References

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