

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which of the following has influenced an emphasis on primary care education in medical schools?
 - a. Changes in Medicare reimbursement methods recommended in 1992
 - b. Competition from nonphysicians desiring to meet primary care shortages
 - c. The need for monopolistic control in the marketplace of primary outpatient care
 - d. The recognition that nonphysicians have variable success providing primary care

ANS: A

The Physician Payment Review Commission in 1992 directly increased financial reimbursement to clinicians who provide primary care. Coupled with a shortage of primary care providers, this incentive led medical schools to place greater emphasis on preparing primary care physicians. Competition from nonphysicians increased coincidentally as professionals from other disciplines stepped up to meet the needs. Nonphysicians have had increasing success at providing primary care and have been shown to be safe and effective.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Remembering (Knowledge)

REF: 2

2. Which of the following statements is true about the prescribing practices of physicians?
 - a. Older physicians tend to prescribe more appropriate medications than younger physicians.
 - b. Antibiotic medications remain in the top five classifications of medications prescribed.
 - c. Most physicians rely on a “therapeutic armamentarium” that consists of less than 100 drug preparations per physician.
 - d. The dominant form of drug information used by primary care physicians continues to be that provided by pharmaceutical companies.

ANS: D

Even though most physicians claim to place little weight on drug advertisements, pharmaceutical representatives, and patient preference and state that they rely on academic sources for drug information, a study showed that commercial rather than scientific sources of drug information dominated their drug information materials. Younger physicians tend to prescribe fewer and more appropriate drugs. Antibiotics have dropped out of the top five classifications of drugs prescribed. Most physicians have a therapeutic armamentarium of about 144 drugs.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Remembering (Knowledge)

REF: 3

3. As primary care nurse practitioners (NPs) continue to develop their role as prescribers of medications, it will be important to:
 - a. attain the same level of expertise as physicians who currently prescribe medications.
 - b. learn from the experiences of physicians and develop expertise based on evidence-based practice.
 - c. maintain collaborative and supervisory relationships with physicians who will oversee prescribing practices.
 - d. develop relationships with pharmaceutical representatives to learn about new medications as they are developed.

ANS: B

As nonphysicians develop the roles associated with prescriptive authority, it will be important to learn from the past experiences of physicians and to develop prescribing practices based on evidence-based medicine. It is hoped that all prescribers, including physicians and nurse practitioners, will strive to do better than in the past. NPs should work toward prescriptive authority and for practice that is not supervised by another professional. Pharmaceutical representatives provide information that carries some bias. Academic sources are better.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Applying (Application)

REF: 4