

Joint Event

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## Gather to upgrade the Practice of Nursing in Human Well-being: The Case for Nurse Prescribing

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To present the quantitative findings from a study on nurse and midwife prescribing behaviors in Ireland. Since May 2007, registered nurses and midwives in Ireland who have successfully obtained a level 8 prescribing qualification and have met the relevant requirements can register with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) to become nurse or midwife prescribers.

This paper reports on the quantitative findings from an online survey open to all Registered Nurse Practitioners in Ireland who prescribe medications as part of their role. A total of, n=117 nurse prescribers and n=12 midwife prescribers participated in the study. The most commonly prescribed medications reported by nurse prescribers are analgesics and anti-infective medications, while for midwives the most commonly prescribed medications by midwives are blood and electrolyte medications. All respondents reported a high level of confidence in their own prescribing activities and most participants reported that prescribing scheduled mediations enabled them to work to their full scope of practice. A majority of nurses and midwives reported feeling professionally satisfied, clear headed, efficient, trusted, safe, fulfilled, empowered, and calm when prescribing medications. There were no statistically significant differences between nurses or midwives, although the number of midwives particularly is very small. Registered Nurses and Midwife prescribers improve patient outcomes through promoting access to medications through their quality use of medicines.

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