

Do Medical Students Understand Prescribing?

Concern is raised that medical students are not given adequate training to allow them to safely prescribe drugs. Professor Sir Mike Rawlins, professor of pharmacology at Newcastle University, who is also chairman of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has claimed that many adverse drug reactions could be avoided if doctors had better training regarding drugs and prescribing. He says that changes to undergraduate training has led to less emphasis being put on developing the necessary knowledge and skills to prescribe safely.

Sir Graeme Catto, President of the General Medical Council (GMC) strongly challenges these comments and in fact claims that over the last 5 years, the time spent studying drugs and prescribing in Professor Rawlins' university have increased.

[Link to report by BBC.](#)