



Implementation review of the Pharmacy Trials Program Information Bulletin - February 2019

PURPOSE

Under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA), \$50 million is being provided to the Pharmacy Trials Program (PTP) to trial new and expanded community pharmacy programs which seek to improve the clinical outcomes for consumers and/or extend the role of pharmacists in the delivery of primary health care services. The Australian Government Department of Health (the Department) have engaged Healthcare Management Advisors (HMA) to review the implementation of the PTP. This information bulletin provides a brief background to the PTP, HMA's approach to undertaking the project and key contacts for the review.

BACKGROUND

The PTP aims to improve patient outcomes by expanding the range and types of services provided by pharmacists / pharmacies. A critical component of the PTP is the increased scope for pharmacists to provide primary care services including screening for chronic disease and working outside of traditional pharmacy settings. The alternative models of care explored through the trials under the PTP are intended to:

- use an integrated care approach to improve health outcomes for consumers or patients
- support innovation in pharmacy
- develop activities or programs that could be rolled out nationally
- undergo continued improvement through an iterative process with opportunities for consultation, and
- provide opportunities for the expansion or improvement of existing 6CPA programs and services.

The PTP has been conducted under three tranches.

- Tranche 1 topics:
 - pharmacy based screening and referral for diabetes;
 - improved medication management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through pharmacist advice and culturally appropriate services; and
 - improved continuity in the management of patients' medications when they are discharged from hospital.
- Tranche 2 priorities:
 - community pharmacist outreach to residential aged care facilities;
 - medicines management and medicines reconciliation services;
 - disease management for appropriate conditions; and
 - screening and referral by pharmacists for cardiovascular risk.
- Tranche 3 trials are further targeted grant opportunities.

Further detail on the PTP and funded trials is available on at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pharmacy-trial-programme>.

A summary of the funded trials is provided in Appendix A.

REVIEW OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the implementation review are to:

- inform and assess the appropriateness of the PTP including identifying the alignment between the program response (administrative activities and outputs) and the intended outcomes,
- identify early insights into implementation, including lessons learnt, potential design issues and opportunities for program improvement, and
- provide recommendations and/or options on possible enhancements or improvements to the design and implementation of the PTP.

The review objectives have been used to define the scope of the review as follows:

- **Appropriateness:** the continued relevance and priority of program objectives and alignment of program activities, outputs and intended outcomes.
- **Effectiveness:** whether the program implementation has facilitated achievement of intended outcomes.
- **Efficiency:** whether there are better ways to achieve the intended outcomes.

The three key review questions are:

- (1) Is the program the appropriate response for the program's objectives?
- (2) How well is the PTP being delivered and working as expected?
- (3) What alternative models could be considered to pursue future opportunities for new and expanded community pharmacy programs services?

PROJECT APPROACH AND TIMING

Review of the PTP commenced in February 2019 and is due for completion in June 2019. The review will be conducted over seven project stages as follows:

- **Stage 1:** Project initiation to define scope and methodology (February 2019)
- **Stage 2:** Development of implementation review plan including preliminary review of documentation and preliminary consultation with key stakeholders (February 2019)
- **Stage 3:** Situation analysis including further documentation and literature review (March 2019)
- **Stage 4:** Stakeholder consultation with a broader field of stakeholders including PTP grant recipients (April 2019)
- **Stage 5:** Online survey of pharmacists to seek views on approaches to innovation (April 2019)
- **Stage 6:** Data analysis and triangulation to identify the key themes and develop recommendations (May 2019)
- **Stage 7:** Final report of review findings (June 2019).

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, please contact:

HMA for queries about review methodology,
stakeholder consultations and the pharmacist survey

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Department of Health for information about the
review objectives or general queries on the PTP

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APPENDIX A SUMMARY OF PTP GRANT RECIPIENTS

Source: Commonwealth Department of Health (2018) 'Pharmacy Trial Program'

Tranche	Title	Lead organisation	Trial locations	Status
1	<i>Improved Medication Management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Feasibility Study</i>	The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (The Guild)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland • New South Wales • Northern Territory 	In progress
1	Pharmacy Diabetes Screening Trial	The Guild	National	Complete
2	Reducing Medicine Induced Deterioration and Adverse Reactions Trial	University of South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Australia • Tasmania 	In progress
2	Integrating Practice Pharmacists into Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services Trial	Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria • Queensland • Northern Territory 	In progress
2	Getting Asthma Under Control Trial	Woolcock Institute of Medical Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New South Wales • Western Australia • Tasmania 	In progress
2	Early Detection and Management of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Risk Factors and Chronic Disease Markers in Community Pharmacy	Black Swan Health	Perth	In progress
3	Chronic Pain MedsCheck Trial	The Guild and PSA	National	In progress