



Research and Development Program

– Facilitating Pharmacy Innovation



The tax payer funded Community Pharmacy Agreements have an allocation of funds for Research and Development Programs (R&D Programs) and this is a major source of funding for pharmacy practice research in Australia. The aim of the R&D Program is to identify research and development priority areas in community pharmacy service provision and to fund projects with the greatest potential to deliver services with positive health outcomes for patients and economic impacts for the health system.

The R&D Program is focused on building the capacity of community pharmacy and pharmacists in maintaining and improving the health outcomes of Australians through evidence based best practice. The translation of R&D projects in the community pharmacy practice and or policy is a key focus of the Agreement R&D Program.

Four priority areas for community pharmacy research have been identified as a part of the current Fourth Agreement R&D Program. These are:

- Continuity of Care (linkages in the health system)
- Chronic Disease Management
- Primary Care Services
- Workforce Development and Capacity Building (capacity relating to pharmacy staff)

In line with these priority areas, all Fourth Agreement R&D Program projects must also encompass the following themes as a part of the research: Quality Use of Medicines, Collaboration, Consumer Focus and Application (i.e. the ability to implement into practice).

The Fourth Agreement R&D Program is facilitating pharmacy innovation through current projects such as:

- the Pharmacy Workforce Planning Study;
- Consumer Medicines Information (CMI) Effectiveness;
- The role of community pharmacy in post hospital management of patients initiated on warfarin;
- A national funding model for pharmacotherapy treatment and opioid dependence in community pharmacy;
- Palliative Care
- Managing mental illness and promoting and sustaining recovery: the role of community pharmacy;
- Improving medication compliance;
- Documenting clinical interventions in pharmacy;
- Increasing community pharmacy involvement in the prevention of cardiovascular disease.

This valuable research is assisting to ensure that Community Pharmacy practice in Australia continues to lead the world. Through the encouraged pharmacy innovation patients will receive improved and expanded services from their local community pharmacy. Information on these and other R&D projects can be found at <http://www.guild.org.au/research/>



Research on dose administration aids lead to payment for this service in the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement

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