

**Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation**  
**Submission #7; 9-Aug-2016; Dr FM Janse van Rensburg**

Dear sir

It is with concern that I note the increasing push for an expansion of the clinical role for community Pharmacists.

As General Practitioners we are increasingly restricting our involvement with Pharmaceutical companies in order to avoid a perceived bias this association would bring with it. These companies are limited as to how much can be spent on promoting new treatments to doctors lest the Doctors are unduly influenced by these sales tactics.

For the same reason it is near impossible for any doctor to dispense medication nor could a doctor own a pharmacy.

These rules are however not applicable to pharmacies. I was reminded about this recently when I walked into a small suburban shopping centre.

The Pharmacy is situated two doors away from a large well equipped GP clinic. One would therefore think that there would be no need to provide any clinical services at the Pharmacy.

Apparently not - outside the Pharmacy a billboard advertised a "CSIRO" supported weightloss program - with a consultant behind the counter and off course all the products required for sale.

A poorly shielded, semi-private desk and chair is the confidential area where questions and possibly an examination of some sort could be performed - and at a fee a sick certificate could be issued as advertised by another large bill board in the corridor.

One would however have to be careful as to who you might encounter in this consultation area given that a third bill board advertised the services of a Naturopath who had regular sessions at the Pharmacy - we certainly would not want to mix up the allopathic drugs behind the counter with the homeopathic drugs, magnets and other miracle cures this side of the counter. And please take care not to trip over the equipment that is being used for flu injections, melanoma diagnosis or assessing for sleep apnoea - all done by people with a few hours' worth of training

The hypocrisy of this situation is mind boggling - a medical professional with nine or ten years formal training is considered so untrustworthy that there are even rules as to what food he or so is served by a Pharmaceutical company and under no circumstances should he be allowed to dispense medication. On the other hand the shonky operation I describe above repeats itself in shopping centre after shopping centre and the authorities reward this type of behaviour by considering an increase in the clinical role of Pharmacists.

Surely the powers that be cannot be this naive?

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