

Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement

Community Pharmacy Consultation Committee Communique, 11 November 2021

The third meeting of the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) Community Pharmacy Consultation Committee (CPCC) was held on 11 November 2021.

Key discussion

Members noted the additional funding pressures that continue for pharmacy programs in the second year of the 7CPA and acknowledged consultations that had occurred between the Department of Health and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (Guild) between July and October. The Guild acknowledged the collaborative approach taken by the Department in discussions on the 7CPA Pharmacy Programs funding.

The implementation on 1 July 2021 of the Indigenous Dose Administration Aids (IDAA) Program, the Indigenous Health Service Pharmacy Support (IHSPS) Program and reforms to the Closing the Gap (CTG) Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) co-payment measure were also acknowledged. In particular, members noted that the IDAA Program is growing rapidly and that a reduction in Dose Administration Aids (DAA) services had been anticipated but had not been seen.

Members discussed the 7CPA regional/rural and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pharmacy workforce programs and options for their continuation under the 7CPA, or as part of the greater health workforce strategy. Members noted that the Department is keen to ensure it is delivering the best programs with available funds with a goal of meeting defined current workforce needs and making the most of better linkages with health workforce programs and benefits in bringing the workforce programs together. Further feedback on these issues from the Guild will be considered by the Department in the new year.

Members noted that expansion of the Residential Medication Management Reviews (RMMR), Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) and Home Medicines Review (HMR) programs were implemented from January to April 2020, as part of the Government's response to the Interim Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, released in November 2019. The Government's \$17.7 billion response to the Royal Commission's Final Report announced in the 2020-21 Budget was also acknowledged. Members noted that the Department will provide advice about further consultations with regards to the Government's response to the Final Report in relation to medication management.

Members noted that the Department is planning to establish direct funding arrangements with Prescription Delivery Service (PDS) providers to facilitate pharmacists' receipt of electronic prescriptions and electronic copies of paper prescriptions. Members noted that on 10 September 2021, the Department released a Request for Information (RFI) to enable further consultation across the health sector to develop the direct funding model. The RFI closed on 14 October 2021.

In relation to pharmacists administering COVID-19 vaccines, members noted information about the remuneration for pharmacies and the vaccination booster dose program. The Guild advised that approximately 30 percent of pharmacies nationally that had enrolled in the COVID-19 vaccination program have registered for the booster dose program.

The CPCC intends to meet again in April 2022.

Background

The CPCC is one of two 7CPA governance committees, with members representing the Australian Government Department of Health and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The aims and objectives of the CPCC include but are not limited to:

- The formulation, monitoring and evaluation of key performance measures aligned to 7CPA outcomes;
- Providing a forum to discuss and support the 7CPA Pharmacy Programs' intent, design and guidelines; and
- Supporting adherence to the 7CPA and discussing options to address issues if compliance is not being achieved.

The CPCC is the primary consultation mechanism supporting the achievement of objectives under the 7CPA and will continue to build on work and programs from previous Community Pharmacy Agreements.

The Chair is rotated, with the third meeting being chaired by Mr David Laffan, Assistant Secretary, Pharmacy Branch, Department of Health.

Further information regarding the 7CPA is available at:

www.pbs.gov.au/info/general/seventh-community-pharmacy-agreement