Value in Prescribing Program: Biological Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs

Eighth Quarterly Performance Report

1 June 2021

DETAILS	
Project/activity name	Value in Prescribing (VIP) Program: Biological Disease Modifying Antirheumatic Drugs – 4-BKXFUOY
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Program Sponsor	s47F
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Reporting period	1 March 2021 to 31 May 2021

Independent, not-for-profit and evidence based, NPS enables better decisions about medicines and medical tests.

This program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.

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CONTENTS

Version	Date	Authors / contributors	Description
1.0	1/06/21	s47F	Version submitted to Department

1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

This **Eight Quarterly Performance Report** has been prepared for the Value in Prescribing (VIP) Program for Biological Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs (bDMARDs) (the Program). The reporting period is from 1 March 2021 to 30 May 2021.

1.1. Grant identification codes

Organisation ID: 3-MM59G

Agreement ID: 4-BKXFUOY

Schedule ID: 4-BKXFUP0

1.2. Purpose of the Grant

The purpose of the ViP Program bDMARDs Grant is to develop and deliver educational resources, tools and interventions to support:

- specialist prescribers to comply with national policies and/or guidelines in the confident and effective use of medicines other than bDMARDs where it is clinically appropriate, and in accordance with the available evidence. This includes ensuring prescribers understand Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) restrictions and that subsidised bDMARDs are only prescribed for PBS approved services
- the clinically appropriate use of the lowest priced bDMARDs by providing tools to alert specialist prescribers and pharmacists to the different price points across equally effective but different bDMARDs; and
- patients (consumers) better understand their treatment, and pharmacy dispensing of bDMARDs.

1.3. Outcomes

As per the Grant Agreement, the intended outcomes of the grant opportunity are to nationally:

- support best practice bDMARDs prescribing through increasing awareness and understanding amongst specialist health professionals (specialists and pharmacists) of alternate bDMARDs treatment options, PBS bDMARDs restrictions, and different price points for bDMARDs medicines
- improve health outcomes for patients, through access to better information to manage their health issues; and
- deliver efficiencies in the prescribing and dispensing of b/tsDMARDs subsidised under the PBS over the activity period.

1.4. Phases

The grant activity is to be delivered in four phases:

- Phase 1: Planning including needs analysis and evaluation plan (from 27 June to 31 December 2019)
- Phase 2: Design including development of solutions (from 1 January to 31 August 2020)
- Phase 3: Implementation and delivery (from 1 September 2020 to 30 September 2022)
- Phase 4: Evaluation (from 1 October 2022 to 30 March 2023)

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Ongoing monitoring activities are included in formative research activities (incorporated in the Activity Work Plan). They also include:

- Reviewing and summarising relevant published and grey literature to support program design and development as gaps and questions arise.
- Monitoring any DUSC and PBAC outcomes, for example new PBS indications for bDMARDs and biosimilars to consider potential impacts and opportunities for the program.
- Monitoring of the consequence of COVID-19 pandemic to treatment options and use of bDMARDs.

Evaluation activities are detailed in the Evaluation Framework. Specific activities conducted in this quarter included:

- Implementation of the baseline gastroenterology survey in April 2021, prior to the launch of the gastroenterology interventions. This was an online survey and was distributed to gastroenterologists via the Australasian Medical Publishing Company (AMPCo), the GESA newsletter and advertised on NPS MedicineWise social media. This survey aimed to measure baseline knowledge, confidence and practice associated with the gastroenterology key messages. The response rate was low however with only 25 gastroenterologists responding.
- A post-activity survey was developed and implemented for the PSA webinar on 'Rheumatoid arthritis – Addressing methotrexate myths and improving biosimilar understanding'. This webinar attracted 171 participants and 37 completed the post-activity survey for the live webinar.
- A post-activity survey was developed and implemented for the NPS MedicineWise webinar in May 2021 on 'IBD: diagnosis and management in primary care and beyond'. This webinar attracted 142 participants, with 129 watching for the majority of the live webinar. To date, 105 responses have been received for the post-webinar survey.
- Process and impact data from evaluation activities conducted to 30 April 2021 were collated and analysed for inclusion in the interim evaluation report, due 1 June 2021.

7. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

Phase 3 (Implementation/Delivery) is scheduled from 1 September 2020 to 30 September 2022.

The goals for Phase 3 include:

- continued active Consortium participation in governance and delivery of the program
- implementation of rheumatology interventions, products and resources
- completion of formative research reports as needed
- further intervention development to address non-rheumatology areas
- implementation of non-rheumatology interventions, products and resources
- revision of evaluation framework as needed.

Activities and outputs planned for the June 2021 to Nov 2021 period (i.e. the next 6 months) for Phase 3 include:

- implementation of remaining rheumatology and gastroenterology interventions
- development of additional agreed interventions, products, resources and activities (eg for non-rheumatology areas)
- implementation of interventions developed for dermatology
- stakeholder engagement activities and updated stakeholder engagement plan as needed
- communication activities implemented and updated communications plan as needed
- updates to the evaluation framework as required
- updated environmental scan
- further implementation of program website (non-rheumatology areas)
- development and maintenance of the marketing plan including updates to non-rheumatology areas.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

For details on the program financials refer to separate Excel file provided – **ViP bDMARDs - Expenditure Report FY20-21 (1-Jun-2021)**.

The following worksheets are included:

- Budget and Actuals FY 20-21: Total budget and expenditure for year to date (1 Jul 2020 to 31 May 2021)
- Consortium Budget FY 20-21: Detailed Consortium budget for FY 20-21
- Monthly Spend: Monthly income and expenditure
- Consortium monthly spend: Consortium budget allocation, instalments and monthly spend for year to date.