

Meeting with Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP)

Wednesday 22nd December 4pm via webex

RANZCP attendees

- Associate Prof Vinay Lakra, President¹
- Dr Sue Mackersey, Chair Practice, Policy and Partnerships Committee
- s47F
- s47F

Purpose of Meeting:

To get confirmation that the RANZCP is committed to:

- leading² the review into the prescription and use (on and off label) of antidepressant medication, and
- publishing updated Prescribing Guidelines for the use of antidepressant medication in children and young people.

Govt Intent

Undertake a review into mental health prescribing practices of General Practitioners (GP), other medical practitioners and clinicians. The review is to provide insight into current prescribing practices, including off-label prescribing to inform the development of Guidelines for the prescribing of antidepressants in children and youth. The development of new evidence-based Guidelines for the prescribing of antidepressants in youth and children will draw from the *existing Clinical Guidance on the Use of Antidepressant Medications in Children and Adolescents*, published in March 2005.

The Guidelines will promote safe and more appropriate prescribing practices and the use of other therapeutic interventions. The new clinical guidelines are to include the safe use of antidepressants in children and young adults to help address concerns about the potential over-prescription of medication in this cohort, and ensure practitioners are aware of other therapeutic interventions available.

This procurement directly responds to Action 10.2 of the Productivity Commission (PC) Inquiry into Mental Health which states, "the prescribing of mental health medications should be based on informed consumer choice and follow evidence-based guidelines". The procurement will also respond to the National Suicide Prevention Adviser's Final Advice which suggests "a comprehensive review and analysis of the rate at which antidepressant medications are being dispensed to young adults is needed to inform future actions".

Communications with RANZCP

- Letter from Prof Skerrett (TGA) of 7 Oct 2020. **(Attachment A)**
 - advising review of antidepressant prescribing practices in paediatric and adolescent people and requested the RANZCP to work with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Royal Australian College of Physicians (RACP) to review 2005 clinical guidance (guidelines) on the use of antidepressant medications in children and adolescents. In addition, it is expected the updated guidelines will reflect current evidence and best practice and provide additional guidance on dosage and dose titration, for use particularly in the primary care setting.
- Letter from RANZCP to TGA of 18 Dec 2020. **(Attachment B)**
 - Advising that updated RANZCP published Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) for Mood Disorders was due to be released early 2021³ and content is likely to support the review, and
 - requesting advice if funding was available to undertake the review.
- Email from s22 to s47F (RANZCP) request a meeting to discuss their letter of 18 Dec2020

¹ Elected May 2021. Appointment ends May2023

² Lead review with Royal Australian College of Physicians (RACP) and Royal Australian College General Practitioners (RANCGP)

³ GPG Mood Disorders published and released 21 Jan 2021

- Meeting with RANZCP 4 Feb 2021
 - discuss RANZCP letter and received advice from Ms Forster that the RANZCP would develop a proposal for the Department's consideration.

s22

Attachments

A – Letter from TGA to RANZCP of 7 Oct 2020 (D21-5554930)

B – Letter from RANZCP to TGA of 18 Dec 2020 (D21-5528025)

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Prescribing Guidelines procurement

In conclusion to the meeting with RANZCP on 23 Dec 21, the College indicated that they are not able to carry out this procurement in its entirety. The RANZCP expressed their desire to be a key stakeholder with an organisation that is contracted to consult and draft guidelines and seek input from the respective Colleges as stakeholders in the outcome.

Budget Measure

This procurement is to undertake a review into mental health prescribing practices of General Practitioners (GP), other medical practitioners and clinicians. The review is to provide insight into current prescribing practices, including off-label prescribing to inform the development of Guidelines for the prescribing of antidepressants in children and youth. The development of new evidence-based Guidelines for the prescribing of antidepressants in youth and children will draw from the *existing Clinical Guidance on the Use of Antidepressant Medications in Children and Adolescents*, published in March 2005.

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Split procurement into 2 components

1. Data capture for GP prescribing behaviours.
 - a. Analysis of prescribing behaviours data in conjunction with other data received from s22 team.
2. Consultation and drafting of prescribing guidelines

Procurement 1.

Limited Tender to panel members of the Evaluation & Review panel:

s47E(a)

Procurement 2.

Limited Tender to panel member of the Evaluation & Review panel:

s47E(a)

Limited Tender to non-panel member:

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