

## Position statement

### Shaping the future for medication management review services for consumers at risk

Medication management reviews (MMRs) are an evidence-based clinical pharmacy service provided by pharmacists to address medicine-related problems. Appropriately targeted MMRs can improve the use of medicines in individual consumers, reduce adverse drug events, support better medication adherence and therefore reduce presentations to emergency departments and subsequent admissions to hospital.

#### Position

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) says that medication safety is a fundamental patient right and is not an optional extra. Every Australian has the right to receive effective medicines in the safest possible manner. This should apply equitably across all health settings for 'at risk' consumers, in a timely manner, on the basis of clinical need.

SHPA's position is that MMR services are an essential component of contemporary health care; they are a foundation service for the safe and effective use of medicines.

SHPA's position is that MMR services are best delivered within a collaborative interdisciplinary approach with local referral practices that best utilise the available health professional resources. Most often this will involve pharmacists and GPs working collaboratively, or in the case of post-discharge MMRs, the referral will be generated from hospital medical staff with essential liaison with the medical practitioners responsible for ongoing care, usually a GP.

SHPA's position is that models for MMR service delivery should be developed transparently with government and all medical, pharmacy and consumer stakeholder peak organisations. All stakeholders should be continually involved in decision making as new evidence becomes available and priorities change.

SHPA's position is that access to community-based MMRs should be equitable and not restricted by non-clinical constraints such as arbitrary limits or access based on place of delivery.

SHPA's position is that access must be equitable for consumers in rural and regional areas, as well as those from Indigenous communities and those in residential care facilities.

SHPA's position is that the governance, approval systems, payment and audit processes should be administered within the current Department of Human Services / Medicare structures that are consistent with other health professions.

SHPA does not support the representative body of pharmacy owners administering all facets of medication management review services (service delivery, program management, including approval processes, and payment of claims).

**Approved by SHPA Federal Council – 18 February 2014**

---

**The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia**