

# Media release

Friday 20 March 2020

## Call for pharmacists to join hospital relief register ahead of COVID-19 staffing impact

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) have announced the opening of the [COVID-19 Hospital Pharmacy Relief Register](#) to assist with the safe movement of frontline pharmacy staff as the evolving novel coronavirus pandemic increases pressure on hospitals across the country.

With the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases doubling roughly every four days – the register will see SHPA coordinate availability and requests related to emergency relief staffing across the country.

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says ensuring the safety of all hospital pharmacists and their colleagues is essential to minimising local transmissions and community harm caused by COVID-19.

‘In these unprecedented times, with the upward trajectory of confirmed cases uncertain, our hospitals need to be as agile and responsive as possible.

‘This means preparing for sudden staffing shortages if pharmacists need to remove themselves from the hospital setting, and we invite all pharmacists not presently working in a hospital setting to sign up to SHPA’s [COVID-19 Hospital Pharmacy Relief Register](#) if they are able to provide emergency staffing relief.

Ms Michaels says the register will help connect sites experiencing shortages with nearby practitioners who are available to help.

‘Through the [COVID-19 Hospital Pharmacy Relief Register](#) we will collate requests for more “boots on the ground” and help seek appropriately skilled pharmacists to assist.

‘There could potentially be a number of departments requiring additional support and we encourage all eligible pharmacists – from across all current roles and practice settings, including academia – to consider registering.

‘Your support could be vital.’

– ends –

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### About SHPA

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national, professional, for-purpose organisation for leading pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working across Australia’s health system, advocating for their pivotal role improving the safety and quality of medicines use. Embedded in multidisciplinary medical teams and equipped with exceptional medicines management expertise, SHPA

members are progressive advocates for clinical excellence, committed to evidence-based practice and passionate about patient care.

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