Interventions and transitions: Pivotal pharmacist value highlighted in June JPPR

New Australian research has strengthened the case for pharmacist-led influenza vaccination in hospital inpatients, while a long-term study showed increased uptake of Home Medicines Reviews among Australian veterans, as the latest issue of the Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research (JPPR) was released today.

The influenza research, published in the June issue of JPPR – the flagship journal of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA), free to SHPA members – explored pharmacists’ assessment of appropriateness and charting of influenza vaccination in Emergency Short Stay Unit (ESSU) and General Medicine Unit (GMU) patients in a partnered pharmacist charting model.

The researchers, led by Erica Tong and Professor Michael Dooley from the Alfred Hospital, found that among inpatients with partnered pharmacist charting who were eligible for vaccination, 60% had their vaccination charted, compared to zero inpatients who had their medication charted by a medical officer only.

The release of the research comes weeks after Ms Tong was honoured as the lead author of research that collected the prestigious MJA, MDA National Prize for Excellence in Medical Research.

Research into uptake of collaborative medicines reviews, by researchers from the Sansom Institute for Health Research at the University of South Australia, found positive effects derived from nationwide campaigns promoting Home Medicines Reviews (HMR) in 2004, 2006 and 2011.

Overall, the monthly HMR rate increased more than ten-fold from 2001 to 2012, from 0.2 per 1000 patients to 2.7 per 1000, according to data from the Veterans’ Medicines Advice and Therapeutics Education Services (Veterans’ MATES) program.

Also in the June issue, the Primary Care and Transitions of Care stream of SHPA’s Specialty Practice shone the JPPR’s Primary Care Focus on the need for action, to build on local and international research supporting the benefits of collaborative pharmacy practice in this pivotal space.

On behalf of its Leadership Committee, Deirdre Criddle, Chair of SHPA Primary Care and Transitions of Care says it’s time to prioritise hospital pharmacist-led models of care targeting timely post-discharge medication management services for high-risk patients.

‘The evidence is in, and the solutions are clear. We cannot continue to be passive bystanders when medication safety across transitions of care is consistently identified as a risk to patient safety.

‘Closing the loop on a hospital admission demands authentic collaboration between pharmacists across sectors; we are one profession after all.

‘Our vision is change the language from hospital discharge to medication management handover, especially for patients at high risk. Our mission is to have roles for pharmacists responsible for care across the continuum codified into the healthcare landscape.

‘Only then will we break down the walls that have fragmented patient care during transition between care settings for far too long.’
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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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