A PATHWAY TO EXPLORING AND IMPLEMENTING PHARMACIST PRESCRIBING IN LOCAL AUSTRALIAN PRACTICE

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AIMS: To describe studies undertaken in the local Australian practice setting to explore the potential utility of pharmacist prescribing.

METHODS: A review of studies undertaken locally (i.e., Sydney metropolitan area, including the Northern Sydney Central Coast Health Service) over the period 2005–2010 was undertaken.

RESULTS: A series of local studies using mixed quantitative and qualitative methods, has evaluated:

- Perspectives of Australian pharmacists on pharmacist prescribing
- Views of hospital pharmacists on the utility of pharmacist prescribing
- Identifying opportunities for pharmacist prescribing in specialist clinical contexts (e.g., anticoagulation)
- Perspectives of Australian GPs on pharmacist prescribing
- Evaluation of pharmacist prescribing in a hospital-based Pre-Admission Clinic
- Evaluating the potential for community pharmacist prescribing in the primary care management of asthma

Collectively, the studies highlight that there is support for pharmacist prescribing in local practice, both community and hospital, in contexts pertaining to: specialist management of patients where dedicated services are required for ongoing patient care (e.g., anticoagulation, respiratory diseases, chronic diseases); settings (e.g., rural) which currently suffer from medical staff shortages where prescribing functions could be delegated to pharmacists; continuity of care being disjointed (e.g., access to long-term repeat medications). Studies have shown that pharmacists are conservative in their approach to prescribing, demonstrating a ‘healthy respect’ for the associated responsibilities and risks alongside the necessary capacity and capability.

CONCLUSION: This collection of local studies demonstrates a staged pathway to exploring the potential for pharmacist prescribing in Australian practice, and highlights both perspectives and considerations for future implementation.

6. BY Cao, C Chow, P Elliott, R MacPherson, J Crane, B Bajorek. Preparing to Implement a Pharmacist Prescribing Service in the Pre-Admission Clinic (PAC), 2009.
8. T.Hanna, B.Bajorek, K.LeMay, C.Kok, C.Armour. A Script For Success: Pharmacist Prescribing to Optimise Asthma Management in Community Practice

Preferred Mode of Presentation: POSTER or ORAL (no preference)