

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

B.Bajorek

Faculty of Pharmacy, The University of Sydney; Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney NSW Australia.

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 prescribing¹
- Views of hospital pharmacists on the utility of pharmacist prescribing²
- Identifying opportunities for pharmacist prescribing in specialist clinical contexts (e.g., anticoagulation)^{3,4}
- Perspectives of Australian GPs on pharmacist prescribing⁵
- Evaluation of pharmacist prescribing in a hospital-based Pre-Admission Clinic^{6,7}
- Evaluating the potential for community pharmacist prescribing in the primary care management of asthma⁸

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.

1. OC Kay, BV Bajorek, JE Brien. Pharmacist prescribing activities: an electronic survey on the opinions of Australian pharmacists. *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*, 2006; 36(3):199-203.
2. C.Hanes, BV Bajorek. Pharmacist Prescribing: Views of Australian Hospital Pharmacists. *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*, 35:178-180, 2005.
3. A Khoo, BV Bajorek. Extended roles for pharmacists in warfarin therapy: identifying opportunities for pharmacist prescribing. *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*, 2006; 36(3): 190-193.
4. N. Nguyen, B.Bajorek. Pharmacist prescribing in warfarin therapy: exploring its clinical utility in the hospital setting. *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*, 2008; 38(1):35-39.
5. D.Vracar, B.Bajorek. Australian General Practitioners' Views on Pharmacist Prescribing. *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*, 2008; 38(2):-96-102.
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.
7. R.Bakshi, C Chow, P Elliott, R MacPherson, J Crane, B Bajorek. Evaluation of 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)