

Funding Model Options for Dispensing of Pharmacotherapies for Opioid Dependence in Community Pharmacy

Healthcare Management Advisors (HMA) was awarded the contract for *Development, Implementation and Evaluation of Funding Model Options for Dispensing of Pharmacotherapies for Opioid Dependence in Community Pharmacy*. The project commenced in November 2004. The broad scope of the project is to:

- develop options for a best practice funding model for the subsidisation of pharmacotherapy dispensing costs within the community pharmacy setting to achieve optimal outcomes for the clients; and
- trial and evaluate these options in a range of pharmacies, assessing efficiency and effectiveness, including impacts on health outcomes.

This project will provide an important opportunity to obtain quantitative and qualitative data to better understand the costs of service provision, resource utilisation, and satisfaction of providing opioid substitution pharmacotherapies, from the perspective of both community pharmacy providers and consumers. The project will collect a wide range of data to investigate the health, social and economic benefits of best practice funding model options for the provision of methadone and buprenorphine. These models will be trialed and evaluated from the perspective of community pharmacists' roles in the provision of these treatments and the cost effectiveness of different approaches.

The project methodology involves the following stages:

- collection of baseline data from 12 randomly selected community pharmacies, located in metropolitan and country regions, in three states. These data will enable a comprehensive costing of the pharmacotherapy services provided. The baseline data collection will also allow for significant consumer involvement;
- three best practice funding options will be developed, based on the findings from a literature survey and the baseline data collection;
- the funding options will then be trialed at nine community pharmacy sites over a three month period. The trials will test the efficiency and effectiveness of the best practice models, including assessing the impact on service providers and client outcomes.

HMA will undertake prime responsibility for project management, collection of baseline data, costing the pharmacotherapies provided by community pharmacies, and evaluating the health, social and economic benefits of the trialed models. Wayne Kinrade, the Director of HMA's Melbourne office, will head the team.

Professor Roger Nation and Associate Professor Michael Dooley from the Victorian College of Pharmacy will provide the HMA with technical advice on clinical pharmacy issues.

If you would like further information or have any questions regarding the project, please contact Wayne Kinrade (waynekinrade@hma.com.au or ph 03 8415 0935).