



University of Ballarat

Dispensing and Monitoring of Schedule 4 and Schedule 8 (with dependency properties) Drugs

Summary of Project

Background

Illicit diversion and misuse of prescription Schedule 4 and Schedule 8 (S4 & S8) drugs which have dependency properties has been recognised as a significant problem in Australia and overseas. The level of prescribing, dispensing and consumption of these drug schedules in Australia is increasing.

Project Purpose

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing wish to develop dispensing and counselling protocols, including development of an appropriate fee for unit dose medication to patients who may be at risk from drugs with dependency properties (Schedule 4 & Schedule 8). This project seeks to develop a best-practice model and trial and evaluate this model with a number of community pharmacies.

Project Team

The project team has considerable expertise. The team includes:

- Project Management and research from the Collaborative Centre for eHealth, University of Ballarat
- Evaluation from the School of Information Technology and Mathematical Sciences, University of Ballarat
- Expert pharmacy advice from the Professor Gregory Peterson, University of Tasmania
- Expert pharmacists from the Ballarat region.
- Expert medical advice from General Practitioners in the Ballarat region.

Methodology

Stage One

Literature review, scope of medicines to be monitored

A literature and remuneration review of existing dispensing and monitoring of S4 & S8 drugs is necessary to provide the information and analysis required to develop the best practice model. Research will be undertaken on the available data in the areas of dispensing and monitoring of S4 & S8 drugs both in Australia and overseas.



The review methodology will include interviews with Ballarat-based GP's, interviews with Ballarat-based community pharmacists and a web-based survey of community pharmacists and GP's from around Australia.

Stage Two

Draft Model and Implementation Plan

The project team will utilise the research information gathered during the first stage of this project to assist in formulating the draft model. The draft model of best practice will be formulated by a group of community pharmacists from Ballarat, Professor Greg Peterson and a General Practitioner. There will be three local and four interstate pharmacies engaged in the project who will trial the model for six months, during which time they will collect data for the evaluation phase.

A fundamental assumption is that a dispensing and monitoring best practice model for S4 & S8 drugs should be based primarily on the requirements and behaviours of consumers, for whom the model is intended to deliver significant benefits. An understanding of these requirements and behaviours is therefore considered essential in the design of the model.

Evaluation and Assessment

Evaluation and assessment will be undertaken in consultation with the project manager and the expert pharmacist group. This will involve:

- Identifying data required for evaluation and assessment, devising data collecting protocols, and designing and distributing recording forms.
- Collating and analysing data.
- Formulating the assessment and recommendations.

For further information contact Mr. Chris Lynton-Moll, Collaborative Centre of eHealth at c.lynton-moll@ballarat.edu.au