

Pharmacist home visit benefits

A PHARMACIST home visit pilot program in Minnesota has seen a reduction in hospital readmissions, according to a report from *HealthPartners*.

The medication management program which started in 2014 saw Pharmacists visit seriously and chronically ill patients who take multiple medications per day.

Among the patients receiving this service only 6% were readmitted to hospital within 30-days - less than half of the readmission rate (16%) among patients who did not to receive the visits.

Pharmacists said common problems they identified during the visits were medications being taken at too high a dose or not being taken as prescribed.

For the report [CLICK HERE](#).

Pharmacy reforms call

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has called upon the Australian government for a range of reforms designed to deliver cost-effective sustainable healthcare solutions, in its Pre-Budget Submission 2016-17.

Integrating pharmacists into general practice clinics, better utilising the role of pharmacists in healthcare and introducing a national real-time recording and reporting system for medicines form the three major platforms of the PSA submission.

National president Joe Demarte said pharmacists are highly-qualified health professionals however their skills, knowledge and expertise often go under-recognised and under-utilised.

"The PSA is calling on the Federal Government to consider how existing health resources can be better coordinated and targeted within a collaborative primary healthcare model to improve health outcomes for all Australians," Demarte said.

"As a result, the PSA has recommended having pharmacists co-located in general practice clinics to deliver a range of interventions and achieve improved health outcomes and quality use of

medicines."

This latter model is supported by medical leaders and the Australian Medical Association (see [page 2](#)), he reminded.

"We welcome support from the medical profession and urge the Government to consider the implementation of this model of practice as an election-year Budget priority in its reform of the primary care system," Demarte said.

Among other reforms proposed, the PSA highlighted the need for continued development and innovation of the pharmacy workforce through funding training opportunities in non-traditional settings and the provision of eHealth incentives.

"Investment by the Government in such initiatives would be offset by reductions in chronic disease expenditure and reduced hospitalisations for the population of Australians beset by the poorest health outcomes."

The PSA also called for better use of digital health and innovation in the health sector to deliver integrated care with urgent consideration of a national real-time reporting and recording system to reduce harms and deaths associated with poor coordination of care and inappropriate prescribing of medicines.

"Pharmacists are critical to the Government's efforts to achieve sustainable, efficient and quality healthcare," Demarte summarised.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the PSA proposals.

MA seeks stability

MEDICINES Australia, the peak research-based pharmaceutical industry organisation, has called for a stable and predictable PBS policy environment in its submission to the 2016-17 Fed Gov Budget.

By helping maintain universal access to medicines, incentivising manufacturers to undertake long-term innovative medicines research and development, the government will further enhance prevention, treatment and cure of illness and disease, the document argued.

[CLICK HERE](#) for MA's submission.

Drug name updates

WITH different countries adopting different name standards for the same medicinal molecule, Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has alerted healthcare professionals that some drug names in Australia are obsolete.

The TGA has said it intends to update some medicine ingredient names used in Australia to align with names used internationally.

Similar harmonisation activities have previously occurred in the UK (2003) and NZ (2008).

Using a four-year transition period for these changes, from Apr 2016 to Apr 2020, the TGA says the changes will be more easily adopted by the medical community and errors avoided, with both names required to be used on labelling for a further three years to 2023 - eg., 'lidocaine (lignocaine)'.

The TGA has posted a list of affected medicines - [CLICK HERE](#).

Phcy hospital roles

PHARMACIST involvement in hospital discharge transitions of care had a positive impact on decreasing composite inpatient readmissions and ED visits, according to a study published in the *Journal of Hospital Medicine*.

The Chicago based paper was the result of a prospective, randomised, single-period longitudinal study using data gathered around 278 patients (141 controls and 137 in the study group) from Nov 2012 to Jun 2013 at an urban, tertiary, academic medical center.

The authors concluded that patients with moderately complex medication regimens benefited from a continuity of care involving a pharmacy team during transitions in care.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the study.

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ROCKET study valid

THE European Medicines Agency has concluded that a defect with the international normalised ratio (INR) device used in the ROCKET study does not interfere with or reduce the validity of its conclusions on the overall safety or benefit-risk balance of Bayer's Xarelto (rivaroxaban) - **CLICK HERE**.

Guild Update

APP 2016

THE Australian Pharmacy professional (APP) conference is the most significant event on the Australian pharmacy calendar. There are certainly other very worthy events, but there is only one APP.

As in past years, APP 2016 promises to be a well-organised, vibrant, educational and informative experience, providing prime opportunities for professional and social networking, plus the biggest pharmacy trade exhibition you're ever likely to see.

The array of international and local speakers promises to provide something of interest for everyone. From the kick-off with the Industry Symposium, to the presentation of the Guild Pharmacy of the Year Awards, and a wide range of clinical, professional and business topics covered in dozens of "Clinical Bites" sessions and workshops outside the main conference hall.

Over the years, APP has been a favoured location for Guild Members to meet and exchange ideas, experiences and fellowship. It is a place where the changes and milestones in the previous 12 months can be addressed and discussed in a way that many community pharmacy owners and staff find illuminating, helpful and enjoyable. Make sure you register soon for this premier event.

Pharmacists in clinics

COSTS to the health system associated with overprescribing, medication misuse, adverse drug events (ADEs), and preventable hospital admissions can be mitigated by employing pharmacists in primary care clinics, according to the pre-budget submission from the Australian Medical Association (AMA).

The submission referenced a study by Picton and Wright (2013) which estimated that rates of patient non-compliance with their medications are as high as 33%, and said the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) estimates there are 230,000 medication related admissions to hospitals annually, costing an estimated \$1.2b.

"Evidence suggests that where pharmacists are integrated within general practices there is greater capacity for interdisciplinary teamwork and the improvement of patient care," the submission argues.

Further, the document said that working in collaboration with GPs in a general practice provides the ideal setting for pharmacists to utilise their skills to ensure the

quality use of medicines and the reduction of ADEs in patients.

It also highlighted that where there is an integrated pharmacist conducting HMRs, the timeliness, uptake and completion rate is increased with pharmacists also playing a critical role in reducing medication errors in GP clinics.

The AMA submission also calls upon the Turnbull government to allow all children to catch up for free on vaccination programs in which they may be behind.

No mention is made of the cost of additional visits to the doctor.

CLICK HERE to access the AMA submission.

NICE consultation

THE UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is seeking input from healthcare professionals relating to evidence-based indicators in three therapeutic areas.

Identifying and managing atrial fibrillation, ensuring diabetics receive appropriate care and improving public health 'one patient at a time' are all under review - **CLICK HERE** for details.

Win with flo

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Flo are giving readers each day the chance to win a Flo Pumper Pack.

Flo Baby and Flo Kids Saline Nasal sprays help clear congested, snuffy or snotty noses to help your child breathe more easily. Flo Baby and Flo Kids sprays are gentle enough to be used daily and are natural and preservative-free. The handy thing about Flo Baby/Kids sprays are that they can be used at any angle, which means you can clear your child's nose quickly and easily in any position that is comfortable for them. For more information **WATCH THIS** or **CLICK HERE**.



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To win, be the first from **QLD** to send the correct answer to the below question to **comp@pharmacydaily.com.au**

What is particularly handy about administering Flo Kids and Flo Baby sprays?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Peta Cottrell from Link Healthcare.

DISPENSARY CORNER

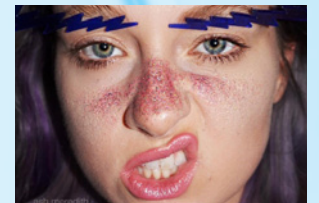
FLASHES foil freckles.

What cosmetic will your team next be selling front-of-shop?

As long ago as seven days, rainbow makeup was the latest thing to cover teenage face-spoiling freckles - that is just sooo last week now with the arrival of glitter as the very latest option to turn blemishes into beauty.

Described by *Cosmopolitan* as right up there with glow-in-the-dark hair (yes, really!), "sparkly rainbow freckles" (pictured) are trending strongly on YouTube, with thousands of uploads and even a tutorial using liquid lipsticks.

Don't start me on the eyebrows!



ROGER the ripped roo (pictured below) is not to be messed with!

The muscly marsupial has become the star attraction of the Kangaroo Sanctuary in Alice Springs.

He rose to fame after a photo of him crushing a metal bucket in his huge arms went viral last year.

People are speculating that Roger has been pumping iron and getting on the protein shakes - but his carer told *Buzzfeed* Roger needs his naturally formed muscles to be "an excellent kickboxer and wrestler".

