

## Home Medicines Review (HMR)



The **Home Medicines Review (HMR)** service is available to people living at home, in the community setting, where their GP determines that a HMR is clinically necessary to ensure quality use of medicines or to address the consumer's needs. The HMR service is not available for in-patients of a hospital, day hospital facility or permanent residents in Commonwealth funded residential aged care facilities.

### Objectives

The objectives of HMR are to:

- achieve safe, effective, and appropriate use of medicines by detecting and addressing medicine-related problems that interfere with desired patient outcomes
- improve the patient's quality of life and health outcomes using a best practice approach, that involves cooperation between the general practitioner, pharmacist, other relevant health professionals and the patient (and where appropriate, their carer)
- improve the patient's, and health professional's knowledge and understanding about medicines
- facilitate cooperative working relationships between members of the health care team in the interests of patient health and wellbeing
- provide medication information to the patient and other health care providers involved in the patient's care

Between July 2010 and June 2015, the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA) includes funding of up to \$52.11 million for the Home Medicines Review program.

### 5CPA key changes

Under the 5CPA, a number of changes have been implemented to the HMR Program. Changes implemented on 1 October 2011 are aimed at:

- highlighting the importance of the patient's clinical needs at time of referral
- empowering the patient to choose the most appropriate pharmacist to interview them at home
- enabling the GP to refer to either the patient's preferred community pharmacy or an accredited pharmacist of the patient's choice.

The changes have a strong focus on patient choice, and an emphasis on patient health outcomes and continuity of care. A key aspect of these changes will be ensuring that patients are aware that they have a right to choose. The HMR Factsheet is available on [www.5cpa.com.au](http://www.5cpa.com.au)

To improve targeting of patients at high risk of medication misadventure, a hospital referral pathway is currently being explored. To inform the development of a HMR hospital referral pathway, a consultation process will be undertaken to provide an opportunity to learn from past and current experiences and seek coal-face input. It is anticipated that a consultation paper on hospital referrals for HMRs will be available for public submissions in the coming months.

### HMR Rural Loading Allowance

Since 1 October 2011, the Guild has been administering the HMR Rural Loading Allowance. This incentive has replaced the rural loading payment that was previously administered by Medicare.

The aim of the HMR Rural Loading Allowance is to improve access for patients residing in rural and remote areas to the HMR service by funding up to \$125 (ex GST) to contribute towards the travel costs incurred by the pharmacist to conduct the interview at the patient's home. Pharmacists who have travelled 200 kilometres or more as a round trip to provide the HMR service/s may be eligible for this payment. For the purpose of the Allowance, a patient must be located in a rural or remote location, which is defined as categories 2 – 6 in the Pharmacy Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia (PhARIA). The PhARIA index can be accessed at: <http://gisca.adelaide.edu.au/projects/pharia.html>

Information and resources are available for download at [www.5cpa.com.au](http://www.5cpa.com.au)

For general enquires email: [support@5cpa.com.au](mailto:support@5cpa.com.au) or phone **1300 555 262**

