

# MedsIndex



## Media Discussion Points

- As the most accessible health professionals, community pharmacists are ideally placed to provide more specialised healthcare services to ease the burden on our doctors and hospitals.
- The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has an ongoing research and development program which looks at ways of improving the health of Australians through the delivery of specialist pharmacy services.
- Research has found that a *MedsIndex* Report will assist people to take an active role in the management of their medicines and reduce the number of adverse-drug events. This in turn improves their quality of life.
- *MedsIndex* is a new service available exclusively through community pharmacists and it gives patients an indication of their ability to comply with the dosage directions given by their doctor. Compliance is a term commonly used with reference to a patient's ability to stick to the dosage regimen of their medicines. A simple score allows patients to clearly identify how they are performing in relation to this compliance.
- Any healthcare professional will be able to refer patients to their local community pharmacy for this service, where the pharmacist will assess whether a *MedsIndex* Report will be of benefit to them. A patient does not need to be referred for this service; if you think a *MedsIndex* may be of use, ask your local pharmacist for advice. If a *MedsIndex* Report is going to be beneficial for you, the pharmacist will sit down with you and work out your medicine regimen and which ones can have a *MedsIndex* report generated.
- The pharmacist may also need to liaise with your doctor.
- There may be a fee for this service, which is not claimable through Medicare and won't count towards your Safety Net. This charge is imposed by the pharmacy to contribute to the costs associated with the service.

