

Research & Development Program



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



Identifying priority research areas in community pharmacy service provision and funding projects with the greatest potential to deliver services with positive health outcomes for consumers and economic impact for the health system in general.

The stakeholder consultation process indicated that in order to avoid/discourage narrowly focused research and development, and ensure a connected approach between activities, the Fourth Agreement Research and Development Program required a framework.

A framework of themes and categories has been developed by the PPSAC Research and Development Steering Committee. The purpose of this framework is to assist achieving the program objective by outlining the basis upon which each research proposal will be assessed and prioritised. Each project will need to show which research category it fits in, and how it will encompass and achieve each theme.

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themes

Quality Use of Medicines	Collaboration	Consumer Focus	Application
<p>Quality Use of Medicines means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selecting management options wisely by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> considering the place of medicines in treating illness and maintaining health recognising that there may be better ways than medicine to manage many disorders Choosing suitable medicines, if a medicine is considered necessary, so that the best available option is selected by taking into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the individual the clinical condition risks and benefits dosage and length of treatment any coexisting conditions other therapies monitoring considerations costs for the individual, the community and the health system as a whole Using medicines safely and effectively to get the best possible results by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> monitoring outcomes minimising misuse, over-use and under-use improving people's ability to solve problems related to medication, such as negative effects or managing multiple medications <p>This applies equally to decisions about medication use by individuals and decisions that affect the health of the population.</p>	<p>Collaboration at all levels of the health system and at all stages of the research and development cycle (identifying priorities, setting questions, conducting research and interpreting the findings):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> including all health practitioners, pharmacists, researchers, Government and policy makers, and consumers including links between academics, educators and professionals encouraging connections within and across health sectors, particularly the acute care and community sectors building on prior research and development work recognising similar ideas in other health care sectors <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>While it is a requirement that all themes be addressed in research and development projects, it is accepted that the level of emphasis placed on each of the themes will vary depending on the project focus. The descriptions are provided for guidance only.</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to, and utilisation of, community pharmacy services by disadvantaged groups in the community (i.e. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, low socioeconomic status and rural and remote) Consideration of the impact on consumers at an individual level and a population health level Engagement of consumers in the research process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to apply and implement research into practice - for pharmacists and consumers Impact on the role of the pharmacist in the health care setting Strategies to remove barriers to enhance/enable implementation Improved standards of practice including best practice and guidelines Economic impact and sustainability for the health system, pharmacy profession and consumers

r&d categories

Research and Development projects undertaken must address one of the following categories (a project can address more than one category):

- Continuity of Care** - co-ordination of care received by a patient over time and across all facets of the health system and care settings.
- Chronic Disease Management** - risk factors, patient treatment, management and ongoing monitoring, effective self management in accordance with national health priority areas and associated national strategies.
- Primary Care Services** - promoting the role of pharmacies in maintaining and optimising the health of all Australians through the provision of advice and information, particularly in the areas of medication management, preventative health and health promotion.
- Workforce Development and Capacity Building** - strengthening the pharmacy workforce to enhance quality delivery of pharmacy services. This may include addressing recruitment and retention, professional satisfaction, sustainable career opportunities, or evolving skill requirements.

These definitions should only be used as a guide to stimulate thinking about potential research and development topics.