



# General Practice / Pharmacist Patient Centred Integrated Care A model to consider

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# RACGP Clinical Guidelines

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- To manage chronic illness effectively requires
  - Well co-ordinated patient centred care that is:
    - continuous,
    - comprehensive,
    - and consistent



# Have you ever considered having a Clinical Pharmacist work in your practice?

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- I hadn't until I visited a rural practice that employed a clinical pharmacist performing Medication Reviews.
- I wondered if this would be effective in our suburban practice?



# Why leave pharmacists in the pharmacy?

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- In our practices we already work with other disciplines
  - Registered and enrolled nurses
  - Practice Management
  - Mental health nurses and Psychologists
  - Psychologists, Dieticians, Podiatrists, Occupational therapists & Social Workers



# Guidelines for patients who may benefit from a Home Medication Review

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- Currently taking 5 or more medications
- Taking more than 12 doses of medication a day
- Significant medication changes in the last 3 months
- Taking medications with a narrow therapeutic index
- Experiencing symptoms suggestive of an adverse drug reaction
- Experiencing sub-therapeutic response to treatment
- Have suspected non compliance or inability to manage medication
- Are attending a number of different doctors



# Case study of 85 year old lady with intractable nausea and vertigo

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- 3 month history of intractable nausea
- Complicated Medical History
- Active problems included:
  - Controlled CCF
  - IHD
  - HTN
  - Ulcerative oesophagitis
  - Fatty liver
  - Chronic AF
  - Hypercholesterolemia
  - Hypothyroidism
  - Insomnia
  - Osteoarthritis
  - Diverticulosis



# Medications at time of review

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- Akineton
- Arthro aid
- Avapro
- Brufen
- Marevan
- Moduretic
- Murelax
- Oroxine
- Panadeine forte
- Pariet
- Serc
- Prn:
  - Dymadon
  - Elocon ointment
  - Mylanta
  - Periactin
  - Stemetil
  - Systane eye drops



# Pharmacist Recommendations

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- Unknown to the General Practitioner Digoxin had been commenced two months earlier by the cardiologist
- Postulated that Digoxin was the cause of nausea.
- Digoxin ceased – symptoms resolved



# Advantages of a Home Medication Review performed by a practice based pharmacist.

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- Timeliness
- Patient centred
- Access to full Clinical Record
- Workforce
- Safety and Quality use of medication



# Possible future roles of a Practice Based Pharmacist

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- Home Medicines Review
- Residential Medication Management Reviews
- Medication Reconciliation
- Medication use research
- Chronic disease management
- Compliance assessment and counselling
- Patient education
- Drug information service
- Adverse drug reaction management
- team member



# Possible future roles of a Practice Based Pharmacist

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- Management of services / systems to ensure medication safety on a practice basis
  - Warfarin dosing
  - Leading the National Prescribing Service agenda in the practice.
- Management of systems to enhance medication safety across related facilities.



# The Business Case for a Pharmacist in the Practice

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- In Development
- The Economic Value of Home Medicines Reviews ( VALMER) showed limited value, but improved targeting of patients may improve the cost effectiveness.
- In the same way that practices need to do their own financial and business analyses when they employ a practice nurse, so to, must practices use these skills when considering a practice based pharmacist.
- For me and my practice, we will continue to embrace our Practice Pharmacist.

# Questions?

