

Information for healthcare professionals

Post-discharge medication service

The post-discharge medication service (PDMS) is a new service funded by the SA Government for people returning home from hospital. The PDMS is conducted by community pharmacists and will provide people with dedicated support and advice about their medicines following discharge from hospital to reduce avoidable medication-related readmissions.

General Practitioners (GPs)

- > Patients with complex medication regimens can be referred to this service on discharge by the hospital pharmacist.
- > Following patient discharge, you will receive initial communication from the community pharmacy conducting the service
- > You will receive a copy of the medication profile and an action plan outlining any recommendations.

Cost

The PDMS is funded by the SA Government and there are no costs for patients.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the PDMS, the person must:

1. Be recently discharged from the RAH or FMC to home*

AND

2. Meet at least one of the following criteria:

- > using 9 or more medicines on a regular basis
- > prescribed a high-risk medicine (e.g. insulin, opioid or other sedative, oral chemotherapy, anticoagulant)
- > prescribed a new long-term medicine or has experienced a significant change to their usual medication regimen during their inpatient admission
- > has self-identified concerns regarding their medication regimen
- > be considered by the hospital care team to be at risk of experiencing medication misadventure

* People not living independently at home in the general community setting are ineligible for the PDMS.

Pharmacy participation

Community pharmacies can choose to register for the service. Hospital pharmacists ask patients to nominate a participating community pharmacy during their inpatient stay.

Process

During the patient's admission the hospital pharmacist will:

- > assess eligibility, explain what's involved and obtain informed consent
- > record the patient's nominated participating community pharmacy and GP details
- > send a referral form (including the name of the patient's nominated GP), a list of medicines and a copy of the consent form to the nominated community pharmacy.

After the patient is discharged, the community pharmacy will:

- > contact the patient as soon as possible following discharge to arrange a time to conduct the PDMS. The PDMS must be completed within 7 days following discharge
- > contact the nominated general practitioner to inform them that they will conduct a PDMS consult, or if there has been an urgent referral to a healthcare provider/service
- > conduct the PDMS consult in the pharmacy, at the patient's home, or via video link (telephone consults are not permitted)
- > perform a medication reconciliation
- > provide the patient with an up-to-date medicines list and an action plan
- > provide the documents to the patient's nominated GP and referring hospital pharmacist
- > record information in relation to the service and provide to SA Health.

Evaluation

- > Consumers and practitioners will be invited to complete a survey to provide feedback and to identify opportunities for service improvement. An independent formal evaluation of the PDMS initiative will occur as the service is expanded.

For more information

SA Health
Department for Health and Wellbeing
Office of the Chief Pharmacist
11 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide SA 5000
Email: Health.OfficeoftheChiefPharmacist@sa.gov.au
Telephone: +61 8 8204 1944
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au



www.ausgoal.gov.au/creative-commons



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