Australian General Practice Network

National Prescribing Service Limited

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General practice keen to improve prescribing practice

Twenty three general practice networks from around Australia have been selected as demonstration sites for an innovative pilot project which aims to give general practitioners (GPs) feedback on their prescribing practices.

The Prescribing Data in General Practice Demonstration (PDGPD) Project – run by the National Prescribing Service (NPS) in conjunction with the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) – is a quality improvement activity aimed at improving prescribing practice in patients with hypertension and chronic heart failure.

“Following a significant number of expressions of interest we selected 23 general practice networks to participate in the demonstration project,” said AGPN CEO Mr David Butt.

”This project offers GPs immediate feedback on their prescribing patterns and show how their prescribing compares to other GPs in their practice.”

“We are delighted with the number of practices that want to take part in the pilot, which shows the value of this type of project,” Mr Butt said.

The project uses the Canning data extraction tool so GPs can receive immediate feedback on their prescribing practices against clinical indicators.

“Until now use of electronic prescribing data extraction for the purposes of quality improvement and manual extraction for indicator calculations for prescribing indicators has been very time-consuming and complicated,” NPS CEO Dr Lynn Weekes said.

“To make this feasible, the Canning data extraction tool has been modified to automatically extract relevant prescribing data and calculate eight clinical prescribing indicators.”

The data extraction tool provides results for both individual GP and the whole practice. It also identifies, for the treating GP, individual patients who may benefit from a change in prescribing to optimise management.

“As well as receiving instant feedback, GPs will be able to reflect on their prescribing practices through discussions with practice peers and a PDGPD Project Facilitator.”

The pilot project focuses on chronic heart failure and hypertension. Both these conditions have well-established treatment guidelines but studies show under-prescribing of first-line recommended treatments.

The pilot project will run for two years and involve approximately 180 practices over that time.

For further information visit
www.agpn.com.au/programs/quality-use-of-medicines-qum/prescribing-data-in-general-practice

ENDS

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The general practice networks which are currently participating in the pilot project are:

Bayside General Practice Network, Dandenong Casey General Practice Association and Monash Division of General Practice consortium	VIC
Brisbane South Division Ltd	QLD
Canning Division of General Practice Ltd	WA
Central Highlands General Practice Network	VIC
Central Sydney GP Network Ltd	NSW
Eastern Ranges GP Association	VIC
General Practice Network South	SA
GP Access	NSW
GP Connections	QLD
GP Network Northside	NSW
Moreton Bay General Practice Network	QLD
Murrumbidgee GP Network Ltd	NSW
Nepean Division of General Practice	NSW
North East Valley Division of General Practice	VIC
Northern Division of General Practice	VIC
Peninsula GP Network	VIC
Riverina Division of General Practice and Primary Health Ltd	NSW
SouthEast Primary HealthCare Network	QLD
Southern General Practice Network Ltd	NSW
Sutherland Division of General Practice Inc	NSW
Townsville General Practice Network	QLD
WentWest	NSW
Wheatbelt General Practice Network	WA