

Appendix 10. NPS contribution to relevant national QUM indicators

1. Process indicators⁴

Process indicators seek to measure the existence and uptake of QUM strategies. The indicators reflect the extent to which an infrastructure has been established which facilitates the implementation of QUM. The indicators are generally expressed in the form of a series of questions which are answered by responding to 1 of the following:

1. not yet planned
2. planned but no action taken yet
3. commenced preliminary development work including needs assessment
4. in process of implementation
5. fully developed, regularly reviewed and integrated across groups and other QUM areas where the process is visible and sustainable.

1.1 Provision of objective information and assurance of ethical promotion of medicines

Context

Objective information based on high quality data is needed by consumers and health professionals to facilitate informed decision making.

Purpose

Provide a measure of existence of, or progress towards, provision of objective information and ethical promotion of medicines in Australia.

National indicator name	Definition/measure	Data source
National therapeutics bulletin.	Periodicals concerned with QUM and published at least 4 times a year.	NPS records for <i>Australian Prescriber</i> and <i>NPS RADAR</i>
Mechanisms to disseminate consumer medicine information (CMI) to consumers and health professionals.	Consumer medicine information leaflets (CMI) and distribution mechanisms used by NPS.	NPS records
Mechanisms to assist consumers in the identification and use of objective information: a. individual consumers b. consumer groups c. Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) d. older Australians e. people in residential aged care facilities (RACFs) f. isolated communities g. people with disability h. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (ATSI).	Dissemination strategies to reach consumer groups (i.e. what interventions have been made available to the relevant consumer groups?).	NPS records
Mechanisms for the regular evaluation of acceptability and usability of sources of objective information.	Survey of consumers and health professionals about acceptability and useability of NPS resources.	NPS National surveys Usability tests, web tests

1.2 Education and training

Context

Appropriate training provides the prerequisites of knowledge, skills and awareness for quality use of medicines for all groups. Education should occur within a QUM framework which allows for discussion of the role of medicines in health.

Purpose

To assess whether an appropriate infrastructure has been developed to support QUM educational initiatives.

National indicator	Definition/measure	Data source
Curriculum statement supporting QUM for undergraduate health professional programs for: - medical profession - pharmacy profession - nursing profession - ATSI workers - other health professionals.	Statement within relevant medical and non-medical curricula supporting QUM.	Survey of undergraduate schools
Initiatives in the undergraduate curriculum for health professionals reflect the QUM principles.	<i>National Prescribing Curriculum</i> available to students.	NPS records
Curriculum statement supporting QUM for postgraduate health professionals.	Statement within relevant curricula supporting QUM.	Survey of postgraduate schools
Initiatives in the continuing professional development programs for health professionals reflect the QUM principle and initiatives.	Continuing professional development (CPD) activities incorporating QUM is provided by NPS.	CPD points claimed through applicable registration bodies

1.3 Provision of services and appropriate interventions

Context

Services to support the decision making and actions of health professionals and consumers in their daily practice need to be developed.

Purpose

To assess whether an appropriate infrastructure has been developed to support services and intervention activities.

National indicator	Definition/measure	Data source
Representation of relevant organisations on the bodies responsible for planning and development of QUM policies and initiatives for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consumers - health professionals - industry. 	Relevant organisations are appropriately represented on NPS advisory groups NPS appropriately represented on advisory and governance groups of partners and other relevant organisations.	NPS records
Medication aids available that assist individual consumers to manage medicines for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CALD - older Australians - RACFs - isolated communities - people with disability - ATSI - children. 	Provision and/or promotion of Medicines List and other medication management aids Links with providers of dose administration aids.	NPS records
Established mechanisms which feed medicines utilisation data back to health professionals.	Provision of <i>Prescribing Practice Review</i> with feedback to GPs Clinical indicators measures.	NPS records Clinical indicators project
Established national mechanisms which provide QUM education to health professionals, including education via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - academic detailing - clinical audits - other educational services. 	Contracts with divisions to deliver educational visits, group discussions, etc. with health professionals.	NPS records
Campaigns conducted addressing QUM issues.	Types of campaigns implemented by NPS that address the objectives of QUM policy.	NPS records

2. Impact indicators

Impact indicators seek to measure achievement of the objectives of the *National strategy for quality use of medicines* — they may relate to outputs or impacts. They provide measures either to the activities undertaken in implementing QUM, or the effect of those activities in influencing in behaviour or changes in utilisation of health resources.

Objective 1: To improve the quality use of medicines by health practitioners, health care providers and health educators

National indicator	Definition/measure	Data source
Use of national therapeutics bulletins by: - medical practitioners - dentists - pharmacists - other health professionals - nurses - trainee health professionals.	Number of health professionals who receive Australian Prescriber / total number of health professionals. Number of health professionals who receive NPS RADAR / total number of health professionals.	Numerator = NPS CoreData Denominator = Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) labour force data
Use of electronic decision support by: - medical practitioners dentists - pharmacists - other health professionals - nurses.	Number of health professionals who use e-decision support / total number of health professionals.	Numerator = unknown denominator = AIHW labour force data
Use of case studies supporting QUM, calculated: - annually - per topic. Calculated for: - medical practitioners - pharmacists - prescribing nurses - dentists - other health professionals.	Number of health professionals who complete case studies supporting QUM / total number of health professionals.	Numerator = NPS CoreData Denominator = AIHW labour force data
Use of clinical audits supporting QUM, calculated: - annually - per topic. Calculated for: - medical practitioners - pharmacists - prescribing nurses - dentists - other health professionals.	Number of health professionals who receive clinical audits supporting QUM / total number of health professionals.	Numerator = NPS CoreData Denominator = AIHW labour force data
Use of clinical audits supporting QUM, calculated: - annually - per topic. Calculated for: - medical practitioners - pharmacists - prescribing nurses - dentists - other health professionals.	Number of health professionals who complete clinical audits supporting QUM / total number of health professionals.	Numerator = NPS CoreData Denominator = AIHW labour force data

National indicator	Definition/measure	Data source
Participation in academic detailing supporting QUM, calculated: - annually - per topic. Calculated for: - medical practitioners - pharmacists - prescribing nurses	Number of health professionals who receive academic detailing visits supporting QUM / Total number of health professionals. - dentists - other health professionals.	Numerator = NPS CoreData Denominator = AIHW labour force data
Use of prescribing feedback, calculated: - annually - per topic. Calculated for: - medical practitioners - pharmacists - prescribing nurses	Number of health professionals who receive prescribing feedback / Total number of health professionals. - dentists - other health professionals.	Numerator = NPS CoreData Denominator = AIHW labour force data
Practice incentives.	Number of health professionals who receive practice incentive payments for participating in QUM activities / Total number of health professionals.	Potentially Medicare
Use of QUM curriculum.	Number of trainee health professionals completing NPC feedback / Total number of eligible health student professionals.	Numerator = NPS EDS team Denominator = unknown
Participation by local health and community services in QUM activities, calculated for: - public hospitals - private hospitals - divisions of general practice - community health services.	Number of local health and community services participating in NPS activities / Total number of health and community services.	Numerator = NPS Denominator = AIHW
Prescribing according to therapeutic guidelines	Number of prescriptions written for selected conditions in accordance with therapeutic guidelines / Number of prescriptions written for key conditions.	BEACH, Medicare, DVA, GPRN, NPS clinical audits
Use of medication review processes in hospitals and RACFs.	Number of hospitals and RACFs surveyed that have routine formal review processes of medicines use / Total number of hospitals and RACFs surveyed.	NPS data
Use of S100.	Number of Aboriginal health services utilising special provisions under the PBS for access to medicines / Total number of Aboriginal health services.	Potentially a survey of services

Objective 2: To improve the quality use of medicines by health care consumers

National indicator	Definition/measure	Data source
Level of knowledge of key issues promoted in national educational initiatives for QUM.	Percentage of consumers aware of NPS. Percentage of consumers who have a basic understanding of QUM.	Biennial national consumer survey Pre-post campaign evaluation surveys
Level of knowledge, attitudes or beliefs, satisfaction and skills of consumers.	Level of knowledge, attitudes or beliefs, satisfaction and skills of consumers related to appropriate use of medicines.	Biennial national consumer survey and/or targeted surveys
Knowledge about own medicines.	Percentage of consumers who indicate a basic understanding of QUM / Percentage of consumers using 1 or more regular medicine.	Biennial national consumer survey
Use of Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) including for: - CALD - older Australians - RACFs - isolated communities - people with disability - ATSI - children.	Number of people receiving CMI with the last new medicine they received.	Biennial national consumer survey
Use of electronic decision support for: - CALD - Older Australians - Isolated communities - People with disability - ATSI - children.	Number of consumers using e-decision support / Total population.	Website statistics/CoreData
Asking questions from health professional.	Number of consumers who asked questions of their health professional the last time they received a medicine / Total population who received a medicine.	Biennial national consumer survey
Receiving a medication management review by: - CALD - older Australians - RACFs - isolated communities - people with disability - ATSI.	Number of people receiving medication management review (Home Medicine Review (HMR) and Residential Medication Management Review (RMMR)) / Total eligible population.	Medicare
Consumers trained as peer QUM educators.	Number of consumers trained as peer educators that support QUM / Total eligible population.	Numerator = NPS Denominator = unknown
Participation by consumers in peer education sessions.	Number of consumers attending peer education sessions that support QUM / Total population.	Numerator = NPS Denominator = unknown
Participation of community groups in QUM.	Number of community groups participating in QUM activities / Total number of community groups.	unknown
QUM training for medical writers.	Number of medical writers completing QUM training program / Total number of medical writers.	Numerator = NPS Denominator = Australian Medical Writers Association

3. NPS contribution to the National QUM outcome indicators

Outcome indicators seek to measure progress towards the stated goal of the *National strategy for QUM*, and reflect changes in health outcomes.

Goal: To optimise the use of medicines to improve health outcomes for all Australians

National indicator	Definition/measure	Data source
Rate of adverse drug reactions, calculated: - annually - nationally - by state/territory.	Number of hospital admissions associated with adverse drug reactions from medicines.	Potentially AIHW
Improved preventable morbidity, calculated: - annually - nationally - by state/territory. Criteria for selection of diseases to monitor: - appropriate medicine use must be able to improve or control the condition - hospitalisation results from exacerbations of these conditions and these hospitalisations could be avoided with appropriate therapy and management - the conditions are considered problematic in Australia.	Number of hospital admissions as a consequence of indicator diseases which are sensitive to QUM.	Potentially AIHW
Under use of medicines, calculated for: - untreated - inadequately treated.	Number of consumers with inadequately treated indicator conditions / Number of consumers with indicator condition.	Unknown
Deaths from adverse drug reactions. Preventable deaths. Criteria for selection of diseases: - appropriate medicine use must be able to improve or control condition - deaths result from exacerbations of these conditions and these deaths could be avoided with appropriate therapy and management - the conditions are considered problematic in Australia.	Annual mortality rate due to therapeutic poisoning. Annual mortality rate due to index diseases which are sensitive to QUM.	Potentially Australian Bureau of Statistics ABS Unknown