



Project Update

Just over one month left to participate in VALMER!

9 September 2008: With about five weeks for data collection remaining, there is still time for accredited pharmacists who have not yet provided HMRs to participate in the VALMER project.

Changes were made to the HMR submission process in June which have made participation even easier. Although still highly desirable, information about the outcomes of reviews is no longer a pre-requisite for participating in the study.

To participate in VALMER, the first thing to do is complete a Participating Pharmacist Consent Form. Pharmacists may either send the form off straight away, or wait until they have collected their HMR data and send in all the information together.

Once a pharmacist has enrolled in the study, the next thing for them to do is start collecting information from the next HMRs that they

perform. It is really important that pharmacists do not select the reviews that they submit in any way.

For each review, pharmacists are requested to provide de-identified copies of both the referral and their letter back to the doctor that contains their recommendations. In addition to these two pieces of information, pharmacists should complete an Outcomes Summary form which details the outcomes of the first three recommendations made by the pharmacist in the HMR report. If it's not possible to obtain outcome information, a HMR may still be submitted for inclusion in the study.

Pharmacists wanting more information about the VALMER study should visit the project website (www.valmer.com.au) or contact either Peter Tenni or Andrew Stafford at the University of Tasmania on 03 6226 1715.

Accredited pharmacists respond to call for HMRs

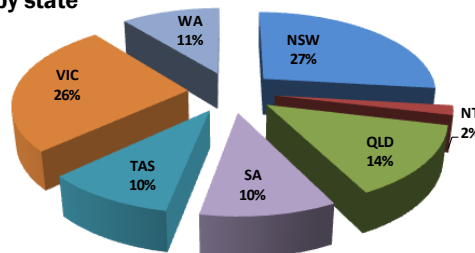
9 September 2008: After a slow start to the study, accredited pharmacist participation in the VALMER project has improved dramatically in past weeks. More HMRs are still required for the study to achieve its objectives, so there's no better time to participate in VALMER!

At present, between 25 and 50 HMRs are being submitted each week. Pharmacists from New South Wales and Victoria are leading the charge, having provided over 50% of the VALMER HMRs to date. Pharmacists from other states should also be congratulated for their participation.

Data collection ends mid-October this year, so there is still plenty of time for pharmacists to participate. Participating pharmacists should

remember that it is really important that they do not select the reviews that they submit in any way. Each pharmacist may submit a maximum of 5 HMRs in total, and will be reimbursed between \$20 and \$60 per HMR, depending upon the amount of information they provide for each HMR.

Figure 1 - Pharmacist participation in VALMER by state



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Project statistics (End August 2008):

- Pharmacists enrolled: 145
- Target enrolment: 200 pharmacists
- HMRs submitted: 309
- Target HMRs: 1000
- Data collection ends: 17 October 2008

Contact:

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How to submit an HMR for inclusion in VALMER

Perform an HMR as you normally would

Use the GP Faxback form or call the doctor a few weeks after the HMR to document the outcomes of the first three recommendations made in the HMR on an Outcomes Summary form

If it is not possible to obtain outcome information:

De-identify copies of the referrals and your reports, and complete an invoice for \$20 per HMR (maximum 5 HMRs in total)

If outcome information is available:

De-identify copies of the referrals and your reports, and complete an invoice for \$60 per HMR (maximum 5 HMRs in total)

Send all information to VALMER, Private Bag 26, University of Tasmania, Hobart 7001