



# Project Update

## Pharmacist participation urgently required!

*June 2008:* Despite widespread promotion, pharmacist participation in the VALMER project has so far been disappointing.

After a recruiting drive at the AACP ConPharm seminar late last month, the number of pharmacists presently enrolled in the study is 75. Furthermore, only five pharmacists have submitted HMR data, for a total of 21 reviews.

The target numbers for participation are for 1000 HMRs to be submitted by over 200 pharmacists. Without an adequate amount of data, the study sample cannot be considered to be representative of the greater body of accredited pharmacists- so the project will only be successful with a high level of pharmacist participation. The results of the VALMER study may have significant ramifications on funding for the HMR program, hence all pharmacists performing HMRs should consider contributing by submitting reviews.

Data collection ends in October this year, so there is still plenty of time for pharmacists to participate. Participation is easy, well-reimbursed and not time-consuming. Pharmacists interested in the VALMER study should visit [www.valmer.com.au](http://www.valmer.com.au) for more information.

## VALMER goes to ConPharm

*May 2008:* Pharmacists attending the AACP ConPharm seminar in Adelaide last month were given the chance to win a bottle of Jansz wine simply by enrolling in the VALMER study.

Over fifty pharmacists enrolled in the study during the three days of the conference. The winner of the competition for the bottle of Jansz cuvée was Elisabeth Sabolch of New South Wales. Congratulations Elisabeth, and thank you to all the pharmacists who enrolled in the study at ConPharm.

The VALMER project has been granted ethics approval by the Human Research Ethics Committee (Tasmania) Network (H9360). It is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement through the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement Grants Program managed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia

## So I'm enrolled in VALMER – what do I do now?

Once a pharmacist has enrolled in the VALMER 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 (available to download from the project website) for each HMR. This form details the outcomes of the first three recommendations made by the pharmacist in the HMR report. This form is completed by the pharmacist by contacting the doctor some weeks after the HMR to find out the outcomes of the review.

Once this information has been collected (for up to five HMRs), all that is left to do is post the data to VALMER, Private Bag 83, UTAS, Hobart 7001. Pharmacists may also include an invoice for \$30 per HMR.

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### Project statistics (June 2008):

- Pharmacists enrolled: 75
- Target enrolment: 200 pharmacists
- HMRs submitted: 21
- Target HMRs: 1000
- Data collection ends: 17 October 2008

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