



Project Update

New participation requirements – outcomes information easier to obtain, no longer essential

24 June 2008: Due to difficulties in pharmacists obtaining information about HMR outcomes, the VALMER project methodology has been changed. Now there is no excuse for not getting involved in VALMER!

Many pharmacists have cited an inability to obtain information about HMR outcomes as a barrier to participating in the VALMER study. Despite their best efforts, obtaining this information from GPs has proven extremely difficult. Two changes have therefore been made to the project methodology to help these pharmacists participate in the VALMER project.

The first of these changes is a modified "Outcomes Summary" form. This form details the outcomes of the first three recommendations made by the pharmacist in the HMR report. The new version of this form may be directly attached to the HMR report that is sent to the GP. The GP then simply fills in the necessary outcome information and faxes it back to the reviewing pharmacist. This form (along with a de-identified copy of the referral and HMR report) may then be submitted for inclusion in the VALMER study.

For every HMR that is submitted with outcomes information, the reviewing pharmacist is now eligible to claim \$60.

If there is no response from the GP (either from using this new form or by telephoning them directly), then an HMR may be submitted with only a de-identified copy of the referral and HMR report. Whilst it is highly desirable to have outcomes information provided with HMR data, an inability to collect outcomes inform-

ation is no longer a reason to not participate in VALMER.

For each HMR that is submitted with just a referral and HMR report, pharmacists are reimbursed \$20.

A flow chart for HMR submission may be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

Data collection ends mid-October this year, so there is still plenty of time for pharmacists to participate. As previously, it is really important that pharmacists do not select the reviews that they submit in any way. Each pharmacist may submit a maximum of 5 HMRs in total. All data may be sent to VALMER, Private Bag 83, UTAS, Hobart 7001.

Pharmacists interested participating in the VALMER study should visit www.valmer.com.au for more information. Alternatively, contact either Peter Tenni (pctenni@utas.edu.au) or Andrew Stafford (andrews5@utas.edu.au or 03 6226 1715) at the University of Tasmania.

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. This 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.

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Project statistics (End June 2008):

- Pharmacists enrolled: 84
- Target enrolment: 200 pharmacists
- HMRs submitted: 32
- 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