



Project Update

HMR submission deadline extended!

1 October 2008: Pharmacists now have an extra month to collect HMR data for the VALMER study.

The original cut-off date for HMR submissions was 17 October this year. Owing to a slow start to data collection (see figure), this date has now been extended to **14 November** this year.

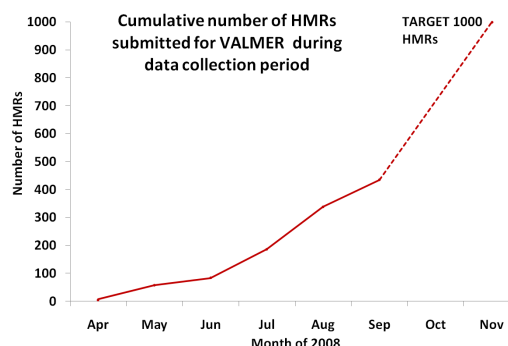
Many of the pharmacists who have enrolled in the study have not yet submitted any HMRs. The extra month for data collection will allow these pharmacists in particular to finalise their HMR submissions and contribute to the study. Pharmacists who have not yet enrolled in the study are also welcome to get involved and submit some HMRs.

For each HMR they submit, 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 ideally 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.

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.

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.



What happens when data collection ends?

30 September 2008: With the data collection period for the VALMER study closing shortly, preparations for the next stage of the project are being finalised.

During the past two months, a web-based HMR assessment system has been developed. This system will be used by a panel of "medication therapy experts" consisting of pharmacists, general practitioners and specialist medical practitioners. Over a three month period, these experts will use the online system to predict the likely outcomes of the interventions made

by pharmacists in the HMRs submitted for the VALMER study.

Once the online assessment process has been completed, an estimate of the projected impact of each HMR on patient health is obtained. Appropriate economic analysis of the data will then be undertaken to provide an estimate of the average value of an HMR, which can then be used to estimate the benefits of HMRs Australia-wide.

The project will be completed in Sept 2009.

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

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Project statistics (End September 2008):

- Pharmacists enrolled: 156
- Target enrolment: 200 pharmacists
- HMRs submitted: 413
- Target HMRs: 1000
- Data collection ends: 14 November 2008

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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