

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-024

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: COMMUNITY PHARMACY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Di Natale asked:

The Fifth Community Agreement includes requirements for collaboration between community pharmacists and other health professionals, however new templates do not require pharmacists to submit evidence of inter-professional collaboration in a range of areas. In the absence of mandatory fields in these claim forms, how is the Department ensuring that inter-professional collaboration occurs under the following items:

- T2F Staged Supply Checklist
- T3B Dose Administration Aids Checklist
- T3C Screening and Risk Assessment Checklist
- T3E Smoking Cessation Checklist
- T3F Medication Management Review Checklist
- T3H Health Promotion Checklist
- T3I Disease State management Checklist
- T3J Medicines Adherence Checklist

Answer:

There are six 'priority areas' under the Pharmacy Practice Incentives (PPI) Program: Dose Administration Aids, Clinical Interventions, Staged Supply, Primary Health Care, Community Services Support and Working with Others.

To be eligible to receive incentive payments community pharmacies must register for one or more priority areas and be accredited under an approved national accreditation program. At present, the Quality Care Pharmacy Program (QCPP) is the only accreditation mechanism that meets national and international Conformity Assessment Body requirements in order for pharmacies to participate in the program.

The assessment entails the assessor visiting the pharmacy and reviewing records held within the pharmacy to assess policy implementation and ensure compliance with service delivery standards as defined in each priority area checklist. If a pharmacy fails to meet defined

standards they must then undertake remedial action within a specific timeframe or lose their accreditation status, at which point they become ineligible to participate in the PPI Program.

A pharmacy which registers for the Working with Others priority area must show evidence of interprofessional collaboration with at least two different health care professional groups. Evidence must comply with the requirements of T2E interprofessional Collaboration checklist and P2I interprofessional Collaboration Policy. It is expected that the number of interprofessional collaborations required will increase over the life of the Fifth Agreement.

In addition to the checklist relating to the Working with Others priority area, a number of components within the remaining five priority areas offer the opportunity for interprofessional collaboration, including the components to which this question relates.

Separately to the above, and as part of their audit and compliance framework, the Department of Human Services (Medicare) is permitted to undertake audit and compliance activity to ensure pharmacies continue to meet all participation requirements for the PPI Program.