

Statistical connection: Care Plans and Home Medication Reviews

- Study of perceptions of Home Medication Review (HMR, Medicare item 900) by patients with Chronic illness
- Patients with and without chronic illnesses were offered an anonymous questionnaire based on eligibility for HMR
- Over 40% of patients with chronic illness who received Care Plans self-identified themselves as eligible / in need of HMR
- Compared with 5% of patients without chronic illness, who have self-identified themselves as eligible / in need of HMR

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The following slide is a de-identified questionnaire that has been offered to 1200 patients at several suburban GP clinics. (the PDF of this questionnaire is provided separately for download)

Taking Medications Safely Check Up

Do you take both prescribed and over the counter medicines? <i>e.g. painkillers, allergy tablets, herbal remedies, topical treatments, vitamins, and supplements</i>	YES / NO
Do you take 5 or more medicines?	YES / NO
Do you have questions about interactions between food and medicines?	YES / NO
Do you want to optimise your use of medicines ? <i>e.g. reduce the number of medicines taken</i>	YES / NO
Do you take any medications causing most of the medicine related accidents? <i>Such as NSAID, combination of medications for blood pressure, antidepressants, psychotropics.</i>	YES / NO
Are your medicines not working or causing problems ?	YES / NO
Have you recently been discharged from hospital ?	YES / NO
Do you take medications prescribed by more than one medical practitioner?	YES / NO
Do you sometimes forget to take your medicines? <i>or</i> Are you sometimes unsure about whether you've taken your medications?	YES / NO
Have you had a medical condition for more than 6 months (chronic illness) ?	YES / NO
Do you want more information about generic medicines or any other medicines? <i>e.g. Which types of tablets you can take together or Does it matter if I swap to a generic medicine?</i>	YES / NO

**If you answered YES to any question,
you may need a consultation with Specialist
Pharmacist also called Home Medication
Review- free, at no cost to you, referred by
your GP.**

**Do you think you need Home
Medication Review? YES/NO**

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Results

- 1200 questionnaires were offered in total
- 68% (816) of those who were offered a questionnaire returned them in provided envelopes.
- 32% (261) of respondents self identified themselves as having chronic condition
- Over 40% (106) of patients with chronic illness who received Care Plans self-identified themselves as eligible / in need of HMR
- Compared with 5% of patients without chronic illness, who have self-identified themselves as eligible / in need of HMR

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Conclusions

- Patients who self identify themselves as chronically ill are 8 times more likely to self identify themselves as eligible for HMR than patients without chronic conditions
- There is a strong connection between chronic illness and the need for HMR

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Practical implications

- Delivery of Home Medication Review as a service can be improved if patients are offered a questionnaire explaining the eligibility and need scenarios (next slide) (PDF of the questionnaire is available for download)

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Practical implications (cont)

- Quality medical service should strive for providing HMR to at least 40% of patients with chronic illness
- Absence of chronic illness does not exclude the need / eligibility for HMR due to patient's concerns about medications

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Practice point (!)

It is very important to physically hand the questionnaires over to the patients, normally, by REception or nurses.

It is not effective to place questionnaires on the top of the reception desk or anywhere around waiting room.