



Media release

New SHPA-NAPE partnership for MMR accreditation

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) and the National Alliance for Pharmacy Education (NAPE) are pleased to announce a new accreditation pathway for pharmacists wishing to perform Commonwealth-funded medication management reviews (MMRs).

From 1 October 2012 SHPA will recognise NAPE-credentialing as a pre-requisite for accreditation under the SHPA system. NAPE credentialing is in addition to the existing SHPA pathways that recognise certification from the US-based Commission for the Certification of Geriatric Pharmacists (CCGP) and Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS).

MMRs are a structured, collaborative health service aimed at consumers who are at risk of medication misadventure. They are conducted with the aim of achieving safe and appropriate use of medicines by detecting and addressing medicine-related problems. MMRs involve collaboration between the general practitioner, pharmacist, other relevant health professionals and the patient to improve the patient's health outcomes and quality of life.

NAPE Coordinator, Kirstie Galbraith explains "NAPE credentialing offers a robust pathway to MMR accreditation for pharmacists who have undertaken significant postgraduate study and have successfully undertaken a competency exam to demonstrate appropriate skills in medication management. NAPE is very pleased to collaborate with SHPA to facilitate the accreditation of suitably qualified pharmacists to perform MMRs".

Pharmacists who have graduated with a coursework Master's degree from a NAPE university in the last five years wishing to become accredited to perform MMRs will apply to NAPE who will assess the candidate. NAPE will issue a certificate of currency for MMR accreditation to successful candidates; candidates can then apply to SHPA to be accredited to perform MMRs.

SHPA President, Sue Kirsas said "SHPA is pleased to work together with NAPE on this important venture. The NAPE credential recognises the quality postgraduate courses available to pharmacists at NAPE universities and is excellent preparation for doing medication reviews. This is a great example of how postgraduate study can advance practice for pharmacists.

"The addition of a new pathway for pharmacists to be accredited to perform MMRs will help to increase the availability of highly trained clinical pharmacists to the Commonwealth MMR program, which in turn will help improve patient care."

More information at <http://cpd.shpa.org.au/MMR-Accreditation> and www.nape.edu.au/initiatives.html

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