

Extract from:



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■ **EDQUM program expanded**

The Department of Health and Ageing in consultation with ADGP has agreed to an expansion of the Enhanced Divisional Quality Use of Medicines Program (EDQUM), with applications now open to new Divisions interested in joining the program.

Divisions with an interest in QUM could benefit from involvement in the program, through networking opportunities, support services provided and the potential for funding from the measure and share aspect of the program.

The EDQUM program is designed to encourage prescribing practices that improve standards of patient care through evidence based Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) initiatives.

In addition, as an outcome of Program activities, the rate of growth of prescribing costs in certain areas, presently antibiotics, peptic ulcer drugs, cardiovascular drugs and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) including Cox-2 selective NSAIDs (the 'targeted drug groups'), may be reduced.

All funds generated under EDQUM must be applied to primary care activities in the Division. There continues to be no up-front funding as per the original EDQUM process, however, a number of the participating Divisions in the pilot phase received a share of savings generated by the additional QUM activity for the 2003-2004 financial year.

For a copy of the application for Divisions wishing to enrol in this initiative, please go to the [ADGP web site](#).

Applications close at 12 noon (EST) on Friday, September 9. For further information please contact Mark Daddo, EDQUM Program Manager, at ADGP on (02) 6228 0850, mdaddo@adgp.com.au