



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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Evidence-based prescribing a must

The Australian Medical Association's (AMA) calls today to have an evidence-based approach to prescribing medicine is fully supported and addressed in the Australian Division's of General Practice (ADGP) *Effective Resource Management* (ERM) proposal.

ADGP Chair Dr Jenny Thomson said the AMA's example of patients in teaching hospital with heart conditions not being prescribed life-saving medication is concerning and reinforces the need for evidence-based prescribing methods.

"The latest example in the *Medical Journal of Australia* suggesting that patients are not receiving proven and effective medication, highlights the desperate need for a total of review of prescribing methods in Australia.

"The study focuses on hospitals and highlights prescribing issues in that environment. Similar prescribing issues apply across general practice - where the vast majority of prescribing takes place.

"The ERM solution currently before the government will see GPs gather in professional peer groups to consider and analyse the latest drug information and prescribing data. GPs will be able to have direct access to critical data that is not currently available to them," Dr Thomson said.

"This solution is an evidence-based approach to prescribing medication," Dr Thomson said.

There will be no allocation of targets or budgets to GPs – they will continue to prescribe in the best interests of their patients. However, prescribing decisions will be better informed and allow for the removal of red tape.

"The current system isn't smart or sustainable and simply must change as demonstrated in this study. That is why the ERM project has been researched extensively. The research included looking at overseas experience and thoroughly analysing PBS data," Dr Thomson said.

By cutting this red tape the analysis carried out by the ERM consortium demonstrates that the savings to the PBS will be in the order of \$170 million a year.

For more information please call Kate Carnell, ADGP Chief Executive Officer, on 0415 662 266.

WHAT IS ADGP?

- ADGP is the peak body representing 119 Divisions of General Practice and eight State-based organisations (SBOs) around Australia. The Divisions Network supports general practice and their practice teams and drives the implementation of innovative health strategies.
- ADGP, through the Divisions Network, works to integrate general practice with other sectors of the health system, both government and non-government, to deliver high quality care to the Australian community.
- ADGP is committed to promoting the health of all Australians by supporting the role of Divisions in the nation's primary health care system.



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