



New Zealand HealthCare Pharmacists' Association (Inc)

Aotearoa Hauora Kai Whakaranu Rongoa

Position Statement on Medication Reconciliation

Context

Pharmacy services naturally align with the National Medicines Strategy¹ to promote optimal use of medicines, quality of medicines and access to medicines. In the provision of services aimed at optimising the use of medicines pharmacists have historically been active in the role of reconciliation of medicines, particularly in transition care settings (e.g. primary to secondary and the reverse). Reconciliation refers to a method of improving the accuracy of medicine history taking.² The reconciliation process as a part of routine clinical practice is instigated in line with a triage process highlighting those patients and clinical situations where benefits are most likely to be seen.³ The overarching goal of an efficient transition care process relies on an effective primary-secondary interface. The New Zealand HealthCare Pharmacists' Association (NZHPA) fully supports any position which actively addresses transition issues. More recently a formal application of reconciliation, termed Medicines Reconciliation (MR), has received general awareness. The NZHPA recognises that a more formal role that has arisen out of the routine reconciliation process such as MR is likely to be a very important step towards a larger and more integrated transition care model.

Medication Reconciliation

The reconciliation of medicines lies on the causal path of medicine use. Reconciliation provides a method to reduce medicine errors at or temporally near the point of prescription. A reduction in medicine errors reduces the risk of adverse medicine events and the resultant risk of compromising patient outcomes. MR formalises the current process undertaken by pharmacists currently by increasing cover to more patients and introduces more formal documentation. Recent guidelines^{4,5} detail the MR process.

NZHPA Position

The NZHPA supports the formal provision of MR as an extension of routine pharmacy services. NZHPA believes

1. That Pharmacy services have both the clinical and technical components to lead the coordination and delivery of MR services within NZ as pharmacists have been providing similar services for more than 20 years.
2. That the formal provision of MR services to 90% of patients by Pharmacy will require logistical and resource support from relevant organisations.

Our vision statement:

Supporting innovation in the practice of pharmacy and promoting effective medicines management

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References

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Approved by the NZHA Executive – January 2009