

Medication Review (RMMR & HMR)

Program Enhancements April 2020

Information for our GPs



What are the changes?

To better support you and your patients, the following key changes have been made to the RMMR and HMR program:

- **Telehealth** can now be used by accredited clinical pharmacists to provide RMMR and HMR services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Up to two follow up reviews** can be conducted for your patients within 9 months of the initial review where this is deemed clinically appropriate.
- **Medical specialists** are also able to refer for an HMR or RMMR but cannot claim for this referral.

These program enhancements will allow for Australia's elderly to be better supported to avoid medicine related harm. They are supported by the AMA as endorsed by their recommendations in their submission to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

A summary of the new program rules for the delivery of medication review services can be found here: [RMMR Program Rules](#), [HMR Program Rules](#).



What will a follow up review entail?

The follow up review is so we can assess the outcomes of the recommendations from the initial comprehensive medication review.

The follow ups are NOT a comprehensive MMR but will relate to one or more specific medication related issues identified at the initial review. These issues will be highlighted in our initial review to you.

The follow up review will include a clinical record of the follow up and any actions or recommendations arising for the review and this will be sent to the GP and referring medical practitioner.

The follow up is based on clinical need and will occur, if required, within 9 months of the initial review. You do not need to sign an additional referral for the follow up reviews.

MBS item number updates including for COVID-19 Telehealth items can be found by clicking on this link: [MBS item numbers inc COVID-19](#)

Potential reasons for an **initial comprehensive medication review**:

- ✓ Medications don't appear to be having the desired effect.
- ✓ Resident has condition associated with high risk of unplanned hospital admissions (eg heart failure).
- ✓ Resident has 3+ chronic conditions.
- ✓ Recent discharge from hospital.
- ✓ Significant change to medication regimen.
- ✓ Taking high-risk medications (eg opioids, psychotropics, insulin, anticoagulants, antibiotics, NSAIDs).
- ✓ Resident has functional issues (frailty, frequent falls, cognitive impairment, swallowing difficulty).
- ✓ Symptoms of adverse drug reaction.

Potential reasons why we would recommend a **follow up medication review**:

Following up on medication changes we recommended in the initial review:

- ✓ Due to use of high-risk medications.
- ✓ Deprescribing requiring slow tapering of dose
- ✓ Multiple medication related problems
- ✓ Serious medication related problems

Following up on ongoing high risk of medication related problems:

- ✓ Continues to take high-risk medications that require close clinical monitoring for efficacy/adverse effects
- ✓ Multiple ongoing chronic conditions
- ✓ Taking 9 or more regular medications
- ✓ Functional issues that increase risk of harm and/or reduce the chance of benefit from medicines use


**Taken from [PSA Guidelines for Comprehensive Medication Management Reviews](#)*

How do I request an RMMR or HMR?

Download the [RMMR Referral form](#) or [HMR Referral form](#) to request a medication review.

Need help? We can support you in the process, just get in touch:

 Call us today:
1800 927 366

 Send us an email:
info@wardmm.com.au
Find out more online:

 www.wardmm.com.au