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Media release

Pharmacy incentives for electronic prescription scanning

A new incentive payment to eligible community pharmacies to boost the uptake of electronic prescriptions will have significant benefits for patients in terms of their quality use of medicines.

The Guild has been in discussions with the Department of Health and Ageing for some time regarding an Electronic Prescription Scanning Incentive (ePSI). This incentive, now confirmed, will be applicable for the 2013-14 financial year. This initiative is a reallocation of existing eHealth funds to better drive the uptake of electronic prescriptions.

This new incentive is an important step in supporting community pharmacy's role in improving the use of medicines and reducing the number of adverse medication events by embedding Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions into practice.

The National President of the Pharmacy Guild, Kos Sclavos, said: "This is a significant and cost effective step towards boosting the use of electronic prescription technology, reaping tangible benefits in terms of accuracy, efficiency, and patient medication management."

"The take up of Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions by Australian community pharmacies has been exceptionally good over the past two years. This measure will add new impetus to the transition and maximise the benefits for all patients."

The measure will encourage more pharmacies to adjust their workflow to facilitate the scanning of barcodes on all electronic prescriptions.

The ePSI will be funded through a reallocation of existing ETP funding within the 5th Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA). This is a cost-neutral change in terms of the Agreement. For eligible community pharmacies, it will mean a payment of around \$2000 per pharmacy.

To qualify for the ePSI, pharmacies will need to:

1. Be eligible for the Pharmacy Practice Incentive (PPI) Community Services Support priority area, and
2. Meet (or exceed) specified ETP Scan Rates over two review periods. The first target is an ETP Scan Rate of 15% of all original prescriptions, and you should be aiming to achieve this rate of scanning, or higher, by November 2013.

If a pharmacy is already registered for the PPI Community Services Support priority area, their PPI registration does not need to be changed to participate in this new incentive.

Pharmacies which are not already participating in Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions will need to register with one of the two existing Prescription Exchange Services.

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