

SA Palliative Care Community Pharmacy Update

A joint initiative of South Australian Palliative Care Services

The Community Pharmacy Update distribution list has grown and now reaches a multidisciplinary audience.

Background

We have been writing and distributing the SA Palliative Care Community Pharmacy Updates for over 6 years now with a change from fact sheets to case studies in 2015. Late last year we distributed a questionnaire seeking feedback on the updates and their usefulness.

Questionnaire responses

The vast majority of responses received were from pharmacists who were likely to recommend the newsletter to their colleagues.

Respondents described the newsletter as:

"clear, relevant useful information in handy one-page format, with very illustrative case studies"

"interesting information not often addressed by other publications".

For those respondents who were less inclined to recommend the newsletter to their colleagues, they cited reasons as:

"applicability is often limited, and generally information conveyed is what I would consider an assumed body of knowledge"

"I find they do not have enough detail/too basic" where "greater depth would be helpful and links to published evidence where it exists".

100% of respondents found the case-based format helpful but a few suggestions included mixing it up with some updates focused on a single review of topics.

"I have only very recently started subscribing to this and have found it really useful. I like the case-based format as it puts the information into a useful perspective. But perhaps the occasional 'information only' newsletter may also be of interest to others, especially if dealing with more complex information".

Specific subjects that were suggested for future updates included:

- > Motor Neurone Disease (MND)
- > De-prescribing
- > Opioid conversions
- > Modifying medicines for people with swallowing or absorption issues
- > Medication continuity when moving from hospital to community
- > Patient perspectives.

General feedback

"Thanks for the work and effort you put into the newsletters. They are a great resource that as a hospice pharmacist I refer to when I have student nurses, pharmacists and doctors as good summaries of important topics".

Thank you

Thank you to all those who responded to our questionnaire. We appreciate our readers and we have listened! Your responses will help guide and develop future topics. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time if you have any other comments or suggestions.

The April Update will be an update on **Medicines Information Resources in Palliative Care.**

For more information

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