



Divisions National Consortium for the Quality Use of Medicines in General Practice (DiNCQUMGP)

DiNCQUMGP was the first national collaboration of general practice, the pharmaceutical industry (TPA), government, academia and consumers focused on delivering quality use of medicines in general practice. TPA took a leading role in three programs.

1. Polypharmacy in the Elderly Program

- Joint venture between Osborne, Fremantle Regional, Central Sydney, and Central Coast Divisions of General Practice, Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, Health Insurance Commission, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Consumers Health Forum, Integrations Support and Evaluation Resources Unit and NSW MIC
- GPs from the four Divisions of General Practice performed medication reviews for 484 elderly patients (aged 65 and over) on five or more medications
- The program aimed to help to improve the quality of their prescribing through medication reviews
- Results included a statistically significant reduction in the median total number of medications, the dose and number of benzodiazepines, and an increase in the number of SSRI antidepressants.

2. Peer Educator and Polypharmacy Program

- Canterbury and Central Sydney Divisions of General Practice, COTA NSW and TPA
- Recruitment of GPs and peer educators began in May 2001 and the program ran for eighteen months
- Used the DiNCQUMGP Phase 2 model of medication review with the addition of peer education for the patient. It provided formal evaluation of peer education
- The aim was to show that peer medicine support and education would enhance the medication review process and improve knowledge and understanding of medicines for older consumers.

3. Innovations Program

- Fremantle & Osborne Divisions of General Practice (WA)
- Completed end of 2001
- Objective was to improve linkages between GPs using clinical decision support system and interventions to improve patient outcomes. It used a quality assurance and clinical audit approach using a CD-ROM containing the clinical audit for antibiotics, cardiovascular risk assessment or diabetes management.

Concordance Program

A group formed from these collaborations to design and implement a program on concordance. This was a relatively new approach to the prescribing and taking of medicines; an agreement on how/when to take medicines was reached after discussion between the GP and the patient.