

Media release

Monday 28 June 2021

New infectious diseases practice standard leads bumper JPPR issue

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has comprehensively revised leading guidelines on the provision of specialised infectious diseases (ID) pharmacist care, leading a bumper issue of the Society's flagship journal.

SHPA Infectious Diseases Chair Kelly Cairns says recommended ratios of one ID pharmacist for every 15 overnight beds for weekday clinical pharmacy services is a pillar of the [*Standard of practice in infectious diseases for pharmacy services*](#), published in the latest issue of the [*Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*](#) (JPPR), with a supporting editorial by leading members of the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (USA).

'In this comprehensive update, the SHPA Infectious Diseases Leadership Committee focused on key domains of ID pharmacist expertise, research, and leadership in current practice including antimicrobial stewardship, pandemic preparedness and the leadership of multidisciplinary antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) teams to ensure the provision of quality care to patients in rural and regional Australia.

'As a strongly growing area of pharmacy practice, the Leadership Committee also highlighted innovative, future-focused emerging services to be provided in addition to key service areas. Investment in, and resourcing of ID pharmacist roles in primary care, and aged care, as well enabling contribution to policies, procedures and governance is strongly encouraged, as there is growing evidence of improved patient outcomes.'

Also in the June 2021 issue of JPPR, research articles include hospital pharmacists impacting prescribing in the Emergency Department through education; a review of IV iron infusion dosing methods; a key outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy (OPAT) stability study; and working towards expanded roles for pharmacy technicians.

A [systematic review](#) (Reali *et al*) led by the SHPA Research Leadership Committee identified barriers and facilitators to hospital pharmacists involvement in practice-based research across four themes: pharmacist capacity and capability, workplace environment, research resources, and research culture.

'Hospital pharmacists had a high interest in conducting research, but large variation in research experience. Common barriers identified were lack of time, workplace support, funding, research culture, and competing priorities,' wrote the authors.

'Building research capacity and capability by supporting post-graduate research qualification, providing designated time and creating research networks may strengthen the research culture amongst hospital pharmacists.'

JPPR is [available free](#) to SHPA members.

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About SHPA

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national, professional, for-purpose organisation for leading pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working across Australia's health system, advocating for their pivotal role improving the safety and quality of medicines use. Embedded in multidisciplinary medical teams and equipped with exceptional medicines management expertise, SHPA members are progressive advocates for clinical excellence, committed to evidence-based practice and passionate about patient care.

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