

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MEDICATION-RELATED HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS



EXTENT OF PROBLEM

- 250,000 hospital admissions annually are a result of medication-related problems
- Annual cost \$1.4 billion
- 400,000 additional presentations to emergency departments are likely to be due to medication-related problems
- 50% of this harm is preventable

AFTER HOSPITAL DISCHARGE



- 3 in 5 hospital discharge summaries where pharmacists are not involved in their preparation have at least one medication error
- For 1 in 5 people at high risk of readmission, timely provision of the discharge summary did not occur
- Only 1 in 5 changes made to the medication regimen during hospital admission were explained in the discharge summary
- Over 90% of patients have at least one medication-related problem post-discharge from hospital

RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE



- 98% of residents have at least one medication-related problem
- Over half are exposed to at least one potentially inappropriate medicine

COMMUNITY



- 1 in 5 people are suffering an adverse medication reaction at the time they receive a Home Medicines Review
- 1.2 million Australians have experienced an adverse medication event in the last 6 months
- Almost 1 in 4 older people prescribed medicines cleared by the kidneys are prescribed an excessive dose