

# The Role of a Research Pharmacist in Electronic Medication Management (EMM)

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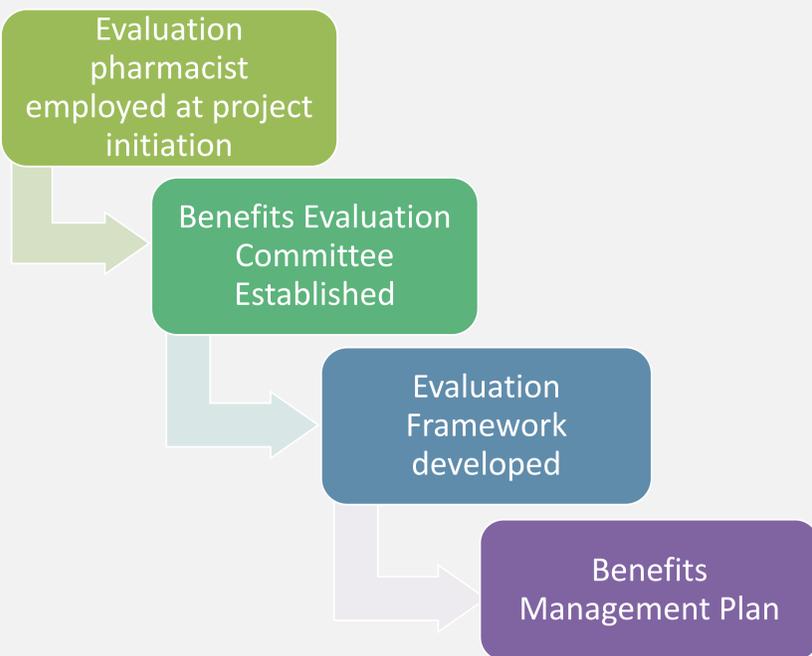
## Background

The uptake of Electronic Medication Management (EMM) is increasing in Australia, including technologies such as Automated Dispensing Cabinets (ADCs), Dispensing Robotics and Electronic Prescribing and Medication Administration systems. The evidence-base for use of these technologies is often limited and dependent on local implementation, system design and training.

## Aim

To describe the role of a research pharmacist in leading the benefits realisation and evaluation, to ensure medication safety and assist decision making for future optimisation and roll-out of EMM across the Health District.

## Method



The Benefits Evaluation Committee is a multidisciplinary committee which brings together nursing, medical, pharmacy, academia, finance and funding representatives to ensure a collective and collaborative approach to benefits realisation.

## Results

Resources have been obtained to drive the research and evaluation agenda, by establishing strong executive support for evidence-based evaluation of EMM. Research is currently underway to evaluate all aspects of the EMM implementation including studies to capture benefits to:

- ✓ Medication safety and clinical outcomes through observation of medication errors
- ✓ Efficiency, workflow and communication through time-and-motion studies
- ✓ Medication expenditure and financial return
- ✓ Staff satisfaction through interviews and surveys

## Conclusion

In order to ensure evidence-based and value-based healthcare for our consumers, consideration needs to be given to establishing a Benefits Evaluation Framework using high quality research methodology.

Evidence has highlighted the risks of introducing new electronic health systems, and therefore research is critical to ensuring patient safety and any negative impacts of introducing EMM systems can be identified and addressed.

Sound Benefits Realisation Management can provide evidence for health service improvement and be used to promote change and acceptance amongst users and decision makers.

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