

The Roles of Community Pharmacists as Partners in Care

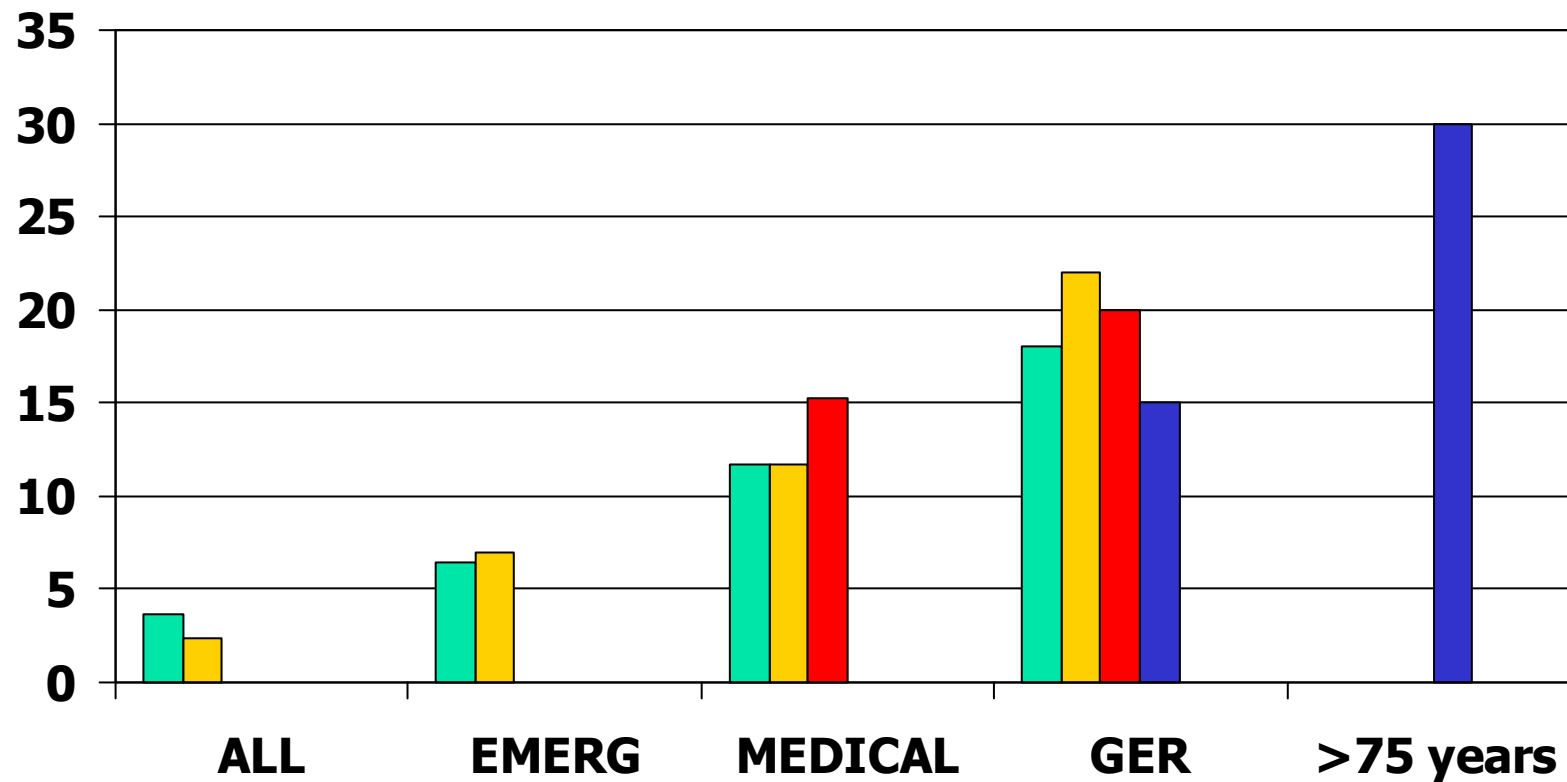
Bill Scott

National Vice President

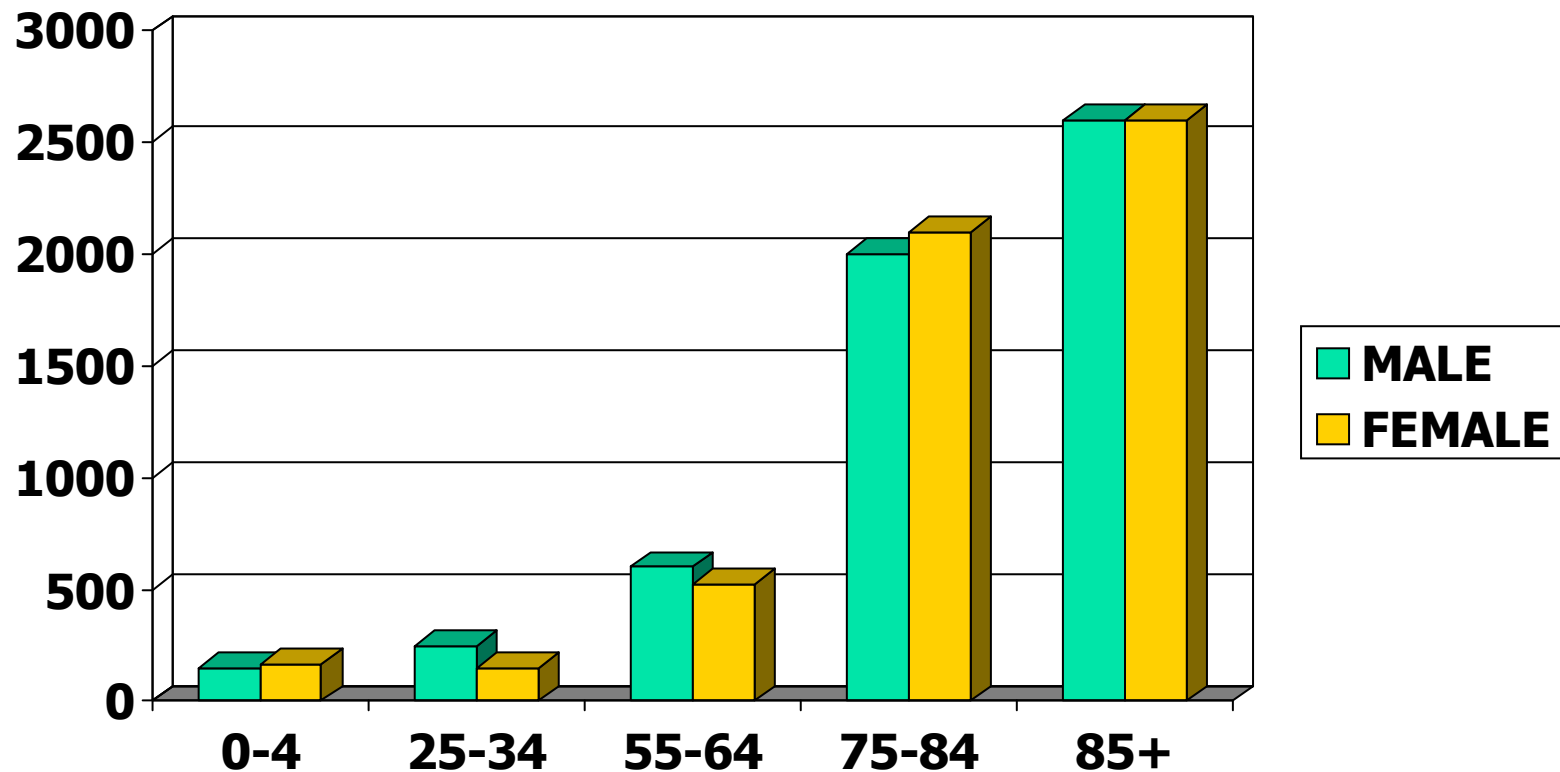
The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

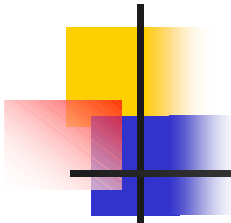
PERCENT OF ADMISSIONS AS A RESULT OF PROBLEMS WITH MEDICINES

S&Q COUNCIL 2002

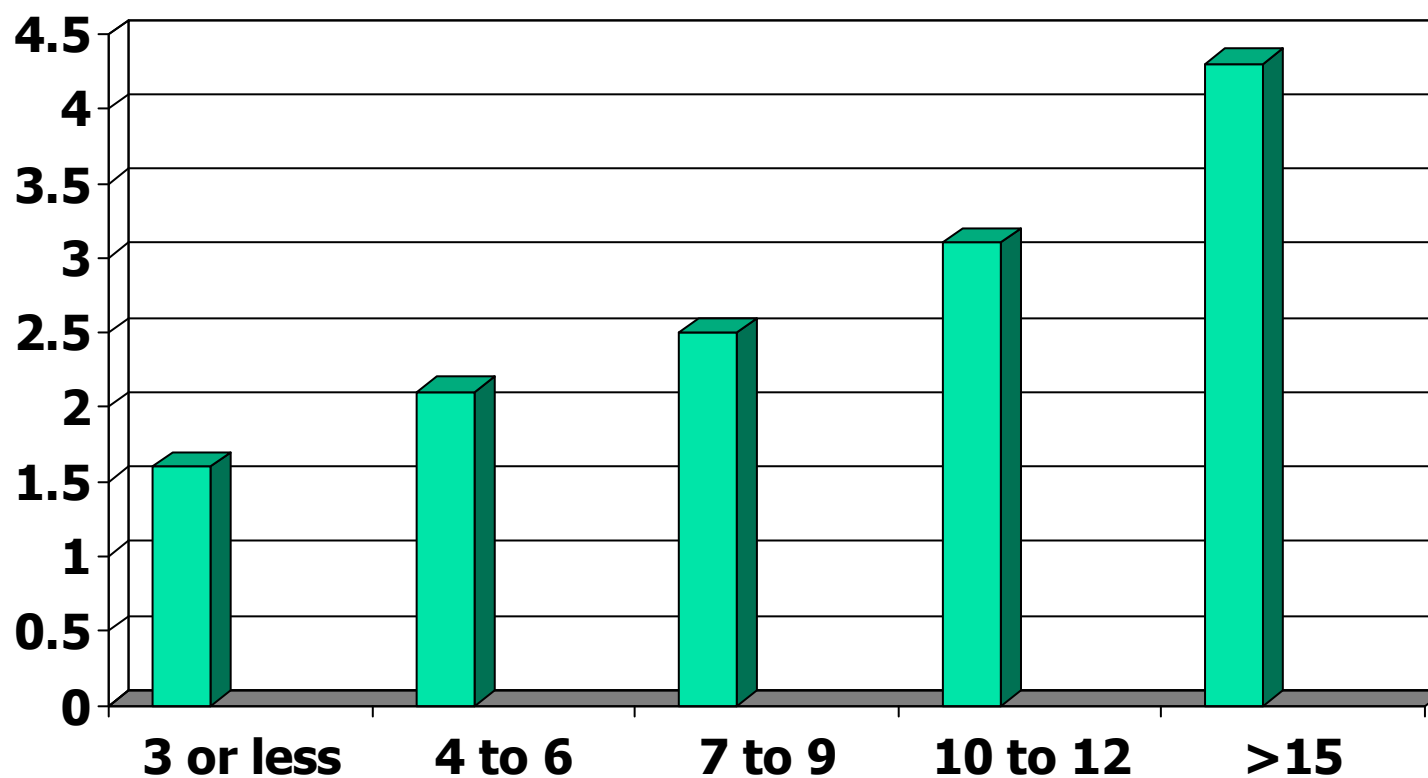


ADRs ASSOCIATED WITH HOSPITALISATIONS PER 100,000 POPULATION (SAFETY & QUALITY COUNCIL 2002)





NUMBER OF MEDICATION-RELATED PROBLEMS COMPARED TO NUMBER OF MEDICINES TAKEN



HMR Success

- 65,000 reviews.
- First collaborative service funded by government.
- ADGP / Guild collaboration re facilitators.
- Divisions with facilitators achieve 2.5 times more HMRs.
- While facilitators are expensive they do represent a template for future cooperation.
- HMRs have helped deliver on the national medicines policy and QUM.
- British system is not exactly comparable to Australia.

Threats Facing Pharmacy

- The government's new generic policy could reduce pharmacy remuneration by \$25,000 per year.
- Gross profit as a percentage of sales is trending towards zero by 2020.
- Loss to e-Pharmacy: approximately 6% of the market.
- Dispensing machines for daily dosing.
- Auto-teller type dispensing machines.
- IT initiatives which could lead to channelling of prescriptions and patients.
- Possible remuneration reduction in the 4th Agreement.
- Increased policing role for government.
- Mega Retailers

Changing Professional Expectations of Pharmacists

Pharmacists do wish to be able to use their pharmaceutical knowledge to deliver:

- Advice to the public and sometimes doctors or other health professionals.
- HMR and RMMR.
- A balance of advice, safety and access for over the counter medications.
- Assist with early identification of diabetics.
- Assist the GPs with patient self-management
- Inter-professional communication

The Guild's Vision for 2020-10

- Universal patient medication records for doctors and pharmacists.
- Maintenance of current initiatives – rural allowances, Aboriginal health allowances
- Maintenance of the Quality Care Pharmacy.
- Extension of the Consumer Medicine Information.
- Maintenance of Home Medication Reviews and Residential Medication Reviews.
- Ensuring equitable, widespread access to pharmacies across Australia.

The Guild's Vision for 2020-10 (continued)

- Facilitate evidence-based program introduction through Research.
- Provision of dose administration aids.
- Improved continuity of care between hospitals and homes/institutions.
- Possible diabetes screening
- Greater assistance to people with incontinence and asthma in conjunction with their doctors and other health professionals.
- Improved administration of medication supply through the PBS in nursing homes and private hospitals.

The Guild's Electronic Health Records Patent (possible)

- This patent application was about to be registered by others.
- This patent was never intended to block HealthConnect or MediConnect.
- Free licence has been offered to government.
- The patent may have no commercial value.
- The patent may not be approved.
- Its purpose is to assist the patient to manage their medication information – OTC, complementary and prescription.

Pharmacists' Role Extension

- Current workforce shortages (= DR)
- We are very busy already.
- The Fourth Agreement Vision Paper does not include immunisation or low-level localised pathology. It is a continuation of the Third Agreement.
- Medicine profiles to improve adherence is a possibility.
- Collaboration to improve adherence and patient self-management of their medications.

Coordination of the General Practitioner / Community Pharmacist Interface with the Patient

- Currently it usually works.
- However, there are glaring exceptions which need to be solved.
- Possible payment for case conferencing.
- Possible payment for joint medicine profiling.
- Inter-professional communication helps and ideally needs to be cultivated.
- IT may allow better messaging in the future.
- We would be very interested to develop this area, eg. MMR Facilitators, joint CE, joint conferences, joint development of IT.