



389 - Australia's first Allied Health Prescribing Program – enabling new models of patient care and practice scope for allied health professionals

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and health services. A framework for allied health professional (AHP) prescribing trials within Queensland Health (Allied Health Professions' Office of Queensland) enabled endorsed credentialed physiotherapists and pharmacists working in the public health system to enrol in the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Allied Health Prescribing Training Program. The principles underpinning this framework incorporated those identified in the Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway.

Aim: To design and deliver an allied health prescribing training program that would ultimately enable a new model of patient care across multiple Queensland public health practice settings, focusing on best practice via the Quality Use of Medicines and the NPS MedicineWise Prescribing Competencies Framework (the nationally available standard for health professional prescribing in Australia).

Methods: A remote, interprofessional AHP prescribing training program was developed with enrolment offered to appropriately credentialed Queensland Health physiotherapists and pharmacists. The QUT program design included an extended period of supervised practice with an authorised prescriber within specific practice settings and with support by the local facility.

Results and Discussion: Twenty participants (12 physiotherapists and 8 pharmacists) have undertaken the QUT prescribing training program to date. Following training completion, participants reported an increase in degree of confidence and understanding regarding various prescribing learning objectives (including safe and effective prescribing, professional, legal and ethical aspects, communicating medication orders, prescribing safely within their select area of practice, prescribing safely for complex patients in their area of practice). The training provided will enable implementation of a new model of patient care within public hospitals by AHPs within an approved prescribing trial framework. Future prescribing programs may include more diverse allied health cohorts targeting patient populations in different practice settings but still focusing on enabling safe, effective, appropriate and judicious prescribing under agreed processes and within a legislative framework.

