

Media release

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Setting the standard: SHPA releases first in new pharmacy practice series

The Society of Hospitals Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has released the first of its new [Standards of Practice](#) – a series of revered guidelines on optimal clinical practice and operations of hospital pharmacy services – which focuses on Pain Management and appears in the latest issue of the [Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research \(JPPR\)](#).

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says the publication of SHPA's [Standard of Practice in Pain Management for Pharmacy Services](#) kicks off the progressive release of new and updated guides, which draw on decades of expertise and experience held by Leadership Committee members across SHPA's 25 Specialty Practice streams.

'SHPA's *Standard of Practice* series is widely utilised and well-referenced by pharmacists and health professionals seeking guidance on the delivery of clinical, operational and specialty hospital pharmacy services.

'In partnership with some of our most influential members, supported by our Specialty Practice model, SHPA is undertaking a comprehensive review and expansion of the crucial series with enhancements relevant to current practice.

'This is meticulous work and we are proud to see the result of 18 months of consultation and revision culminate in this Pain Management standard, with Standards of Practice in Emergency Management, General Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, Oncology and Haematology and Nephrology next in the development pipeline.'

'We would like to thank SHPA's Pain Management Leadership Committee who have devoted many hours to this piece of work for the benefit of the profession. We would also like to thank external stakeholders including Faculty of Pain Management who contributed feedback at key stages of development.'

The new standard includes information about staffing ratios, consideration of patient factors for commencing treatment and discussion of emerging practice such as opioid stewardship.

Ms Michaels says the release of the first in the updated [Standards of Practice series](#) comes at a pivotal time for pain management in Australia.

'This week, as PainAustralia launched the new National [Strategic Action Plan for Pain Management](#), we are reminded the number of Australians living with chronic pain is set to rise from 3.24 million to 5.23 million by 2050.

'Harnessing the knowledge of SHPA's Pain Management Leadership Committee and supporting Practice Group we are proud to ensure all pharmacists with a clinical interest in pain management can access this essential resource, now available through SHPA's flagship journal.'

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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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