

28 January 2013

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION – USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT MEDICATION ADHERENCE

Poor adherence to medication regimens can potentially cause adverse health outcomes. PHARMAC are currently investigating ways in which technology support can promote and improve medication adherence. For the purposes of this Request For Information (RFI), technology is defined as applications and initiatives that use mobile, digital, telecommunication, or other device type approaches.

PHARMAC has a legislative responsibility to ensure the appropriate use of pharmaceuticals (which includes medicines, therapeutic medical devices and/or related products) and we are investigating the possibility of a national project in this area. We are interested in hearing of any initiatives that examine the use of technology in adherence or related issues. We hope to gain a national picture of initiatives using technology that are currently underway or in the development stage.

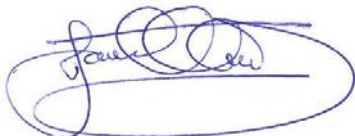
In particular, we are interested in evidence around the effectiveness of technology interventions and the ability to evaluate them, including their effectiveness with different population groups, health conditions, and/or medications.

We would appreciate if you could provide feedback on the projects that you are aware of by **11 March 2013** to myself at:

Janet Mackay
Programme Manager – Access and Optimal Use
Ph: 04 916 7593
E-mail: Janet.Mackay@pharmac.govt.nz

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely



Janet Mackay
Programme and Accountability Manager – Access and Optimal use

Specification

For the purposes of this RFI PHARMAC is using the World Health Organisation definition of medication adherence:

“The extent to which a person’s behaviour – taking medication, following a diet, and/or executing lifestyle changes, corresponds with agreed recommendations from a health care provider.” (Adherence to long-term therapies – Evidence for Action, WHO, 2003).

PHARMAC is interested in products or services that use technology to support medication adherence for patients. This could include mobile, digital, telecommunication, or device technology.

Examples of possible products or services include but are not limited to:

- Smartphone apps
- Supported adherence devices
- Outbound calling services
- Electronic reminders
- Text message services

PHARMAC does not require information about blister packaging.

Innovative products or services will be viewed with particular interest, as will those that integrate with other technology, services and databases.

The ability to target the use of technology to the most appropriate patient groups, as well as to evaluate the effect the technology has on patient adherence to medication, is of great importance to PHARMAC. In providing information on patient medication adherence technologies, the following details would be helpful:

- The type/characteristics of the patients that will gain/have gained the most benefit from the use of the medication adherence technology;
- How information about patient adherence can be collected, and how this can be shared with the patient’s healthcare team; and
- Patient and healthcare professional feedback on the suitability and applicability of the intervention.