

Advancing the pilot: *reviewing and growing our renal pharmacist clinic service*



Rebecca Livori¹, Catherine Shaji¹, Georgia Bish¹, Renee Dimond¹, Adam Livori^{1,2}

1. Pharmacy Department, Grampians Health Ballarat 2. Centre for Medicine Use and Safety, Monash University Parkville

Background

In 2021, a multidisciplinary nephrology clinic was established at Grampians Health Ballarat to provide consultative care for patients with early chronic kidney disease. Pharmacist EFT (0.1) was appointed to a renal pharmacist clinic to conduct medication reviews via telehealth prior to the nephrologist clinic appointment, for 4-5 patients per week.



Figure 1: Model of care for renal pharmacist clinic

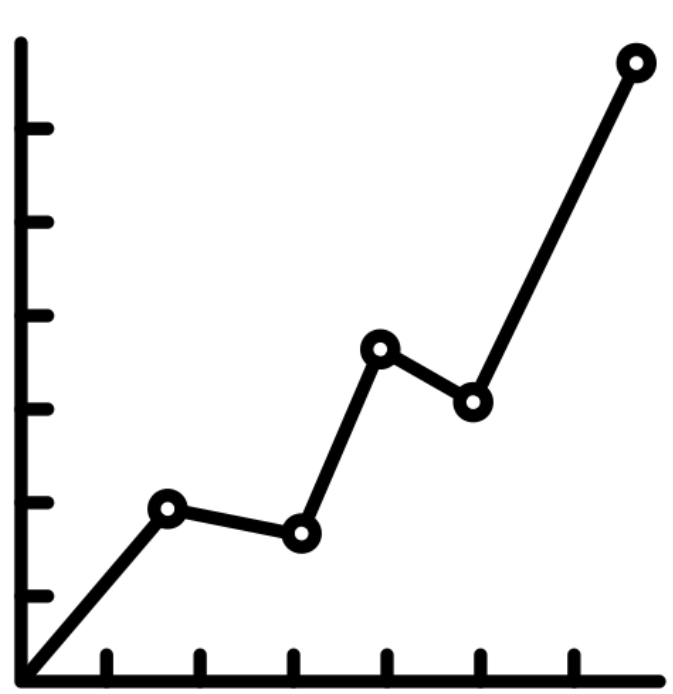
Objectives

To understand the impact of a renal pharmacist clinic on nephrologist clinic attendance and nephrologist experience and assess characteristics of referred patients across two years of clinic operations.

Method

Results

1 Patient throughput:



Clinic **referral and appointment statistics** were analysed to understand **coverage** and **did-not-attend** rates.

- From 2021 to 2023 the renal pharmacist clinic saw **64% (198/311)** of patients attending the nephrologist clinic.
- **Did-not-attend rates** for the pharmacist clinic were **9%** v **22%** for the nephrologist clinic.
- Patients had lower did-not-attend rates to the nephrologist clinic if they attended the renal pharmacist clinic (**14%** v **22%**).

2 Nephrologist experience:



Semi-structured interviews with nephrologists were conducted to **understand their perceptions** of the service.

- **Nephrologists** reported their **experience was enhanced** when patients were consulted by the pharmacist prior.

3 Patient complexity:



Auditing of pharmacist clinic letters was conducted to understand **patient characteristics** and the burden of kidney disease.

- The audit demonstrated an **increased complexity** of referred patients over time.
- In the second year of operation, patients had:
 - **more advanced renal disease** (CKD G3b **47%** v **38%**),
 - **more regular medications** (**10** v **7**), and
 - **more advanced age** (**68** v **61** years).

Discussion

With nephrologist clinic growth, improved nephrologist experience with the addition of the renal pharmacist clinic, and increasing complexity of patients, there is strong evidence to support the expansion of the renal pharmacist clinic. The renal pharmacist clinic will move beyond the pilot stage, with recent additional EFT to expand both coverage of the nephrologist clinic and the clinical role of pharmacists in ambulatory patient care.