



DISC-0064

## An evaluation of Emergency Physiotherapy Practitioner autonomous prescribing in the emergency departments of five Queensland hospitals

Mark Cruickshank<sup>1</sup>, Lisa Nissen<sup>2</sup>, Dean Blond<sup>3</sup>, Tania Cavanagh<sup>4</sup>, Mark Nelson<sup>5</sup>, Nicole Bellet<sup>6</sup>, Sonia Sam<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital <sup>2</sup>QUT School of Clinical Sciences <sup>3</sup>Gold Coast University Hospital <sup>4</sup>Cairns Hospital <sup>5</sup>QEI Hospital <sup>6</sup>The Prince Charles Hospital

### Background

Australia faces many challenges such as an aging population, increasing burden of chronic disease, and increasing community demands for responsiveness, which is driving escalating demand for medicines[1,2,3]

Non-medical prescribing is a method of increasing the number of prescribers to meet community requirements, particularly where access can be restricted [4,5]

The aims of this study were to describe the safety, and the patient experience and satisfaction of prescribing by Emergency Physiotherapy Practitioners (EPPs)



### Methods



Eight EPPs in five emergency departments in Qld hospitals completed post-grad prescribing training



Authorisation was obtained to prescribe under Qld legislation and local HHHS credentialing processes



From March 2017 to November 2020, participants (n=1,643) were prescribed written orders (n=1,996)



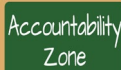
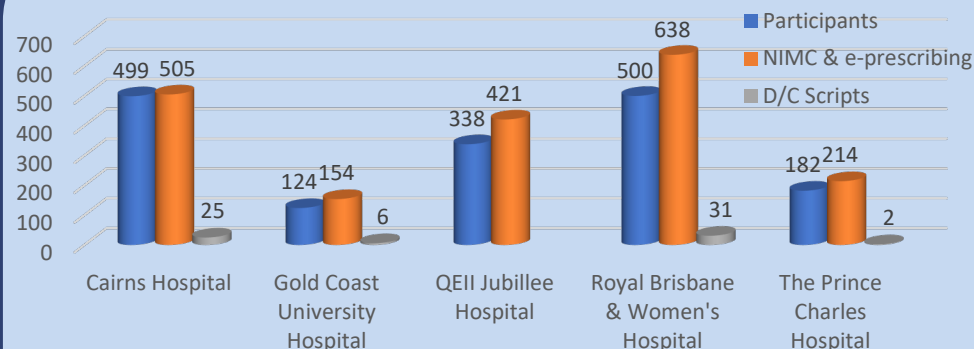
Primary outcome measure was the number of adverse events attributable to physiotherapy prescriber error



Patient experience and satisfaction survey data was collected (n=1024)

### Results

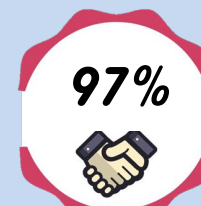
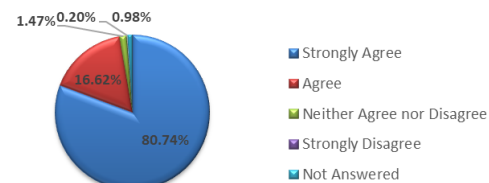
#### Participants and written orders by site



+ No adverse events due to EPP prescribing errors

+ NIMC Audit compliance comparable to usual prescribers

#### Patient trust in physiotherapist's ability to prescribe right medications (n=1024)



### Patient Experience

*"very informative and helpful. Knew what she was talking about and I fully trusted her."*

*"I felt my situation and condition was perfect for a physio to assess and direct my care needs. Overall a great experience which sped up the process of my care."*

*"Makes a lot of sense for physiotherapists to prescribe medication as they deal directly with injury and their ability to make informed decisions about medication is much easier for the patient (rather than having to go to another doctor to get a script)"*

### Key Message

Physiotherapy prescribing is safe and trusted by consumers to enable timely access to medicines for patients attending the emergency department

### References

- Morris, J.H. and K. Grimmer, Non-medical prescribing by physiotherapists: issues reported in the current evidence. *Man Ther*, 2014. 19(1): p. 82-6.
- Cardiff, L., ASPRINH Project Prescribing Assessment Toolkit. 2017.
- Nissen, L., et al., Non-Medical Prescribing-Final Report, N.H.W.P.R. Collaboration, Editor. 2010.
- Health Workforce Australia, Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway (HPPP) Project - Final Report. 2013.
- Health Workforce Australia, Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway (HPPP) Project - Final Report. 2013.