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| Victorian pharmacotherapy area-based networks |
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# Background

Pharmacotherapy has become established in Australia and many other parts of the world as an effective treatment for opioid dependence. It is an important part of the Victorian Government’s community response to the treatment of drugs and alcohol in the state.

The Victorian pharmacotherapy system is a community-based model, where medical professionals and pharmacists work together to make pharmacotherapy for opioid dependence available in the community.

In 2014, five area-based pharmacotherapy networks were established to facilitate localised approaches in connecting care, driving best practice and improving health and wellbeing outcomes for opioid dependent patients.

# Service objectives

Each of the five pharmacotherapy networks support health professionals (general practitioners, pharmacists and allied health clinicians) to prevent, identify and treat opioid dependence throughout the state.

The networks identify and provide local solutions to service need in their area, work with other services to form partnerships and referral pathways, facilitate ongoing training for pharmacotherapy providers and provide access for complex clients to addiction medicine specialists.

# Contacts

## Area 1: Barwon South West Pharmacotherapy Network

Holistic management support for prescription opioids, over the counter codeine and illicit opioids.

Access to specialists, mentors, professional development events and staff training.

Phone: 03 5222 0800

Email: info@westvicphn.com.au

Fax: 03 5223 2209

## ORTicare (Area 2): Grampians and Loddon Mallee Pharmacotherapy Network

Workforce education, training and clinical networks of professional peers.

Clinical support, expert consultation and mentoring including the Rural Addiction Medicine Pharmacotherapy Specialist (RAMPS) service.

Phone: 03 5338 4500 or 5338 9142

Email: orticare@bchc.org.au

## Area 3: Gippsland and Hume Pharmacotherapy Network

#### Gippsland Pharmacotherapy Network

Addiction Medicine Specialist support and consultations through the RAMPS service.

General practitioner, pharmacist, nurse practitioner and health care worker support and training.

Phone: 1800 242 696

Email: pharmacotherapy@lchs.com.au

Fax: 03 5136 5406

#### Hume Pharmacotherapy Network

General practitioner, pharmacist, nurse practitioner and counsellor support and training.

Telehealth secondary consultations with the RAMPS addiction medicine specialist service.

No-cost, weekly Project ECHO collaborative learning sessions, led by a specialist team available to all Victorian health practitioners.

Phone: 03 5823 3219

Email: info@hapn.org.au

Fax: 035823 3299

Website: https://echo.pabn.org.au

## Area 4: South and Eastern Metropolitan Pharmacotherapy Network

Direct access to Addiction Medicine Specialist support and secondary consultation

General practitioner, pharmacist, nurse practitioner and practice manager support, mentoring and training.

Phone: 03 8514 6600

Email: A4PN@semphn.org.au

Fax: 03 8514 6699

### Area 5: North and West Metropolitan Pharmacotherapy Network

General practitioner peer mentoring, education, training and community of practice for treatment providers.

Addiction Medicine Specialist support including specialist assessment and secondary consultation.

Phone: 03 9448 5507

Email: pharmacotherapy@cohealth.org.au

Fax: 03 7000 1811



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