

# Evaluating pharmacist use of the Quality Improvement National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey in Australia

## The Quality Improvement NAPS

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### Background

The Quality Improvement National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (QI NAPS) is a simple auditing tool designed for improving practice by encouraging frequent, small quality improvement audits with timely feedback to prescribers to enable self-reflection and behaviour change.

It targets quality indicators such as documentation of antimicrobial indication, review or stop date, assessments for suitability for intravenous to oral switch and concordance with guidelines. QI NAPS's main advantage is that it can be conducted by pharmacists without infectious diseases (ID) or antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) training; and therefore useful in areas where there is limited ID/AMS pharmacist or physician access to ensure that National Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standards are met, and to monitor high risk infections and the use of high cost or high risk antimicrobials.

### Objectives

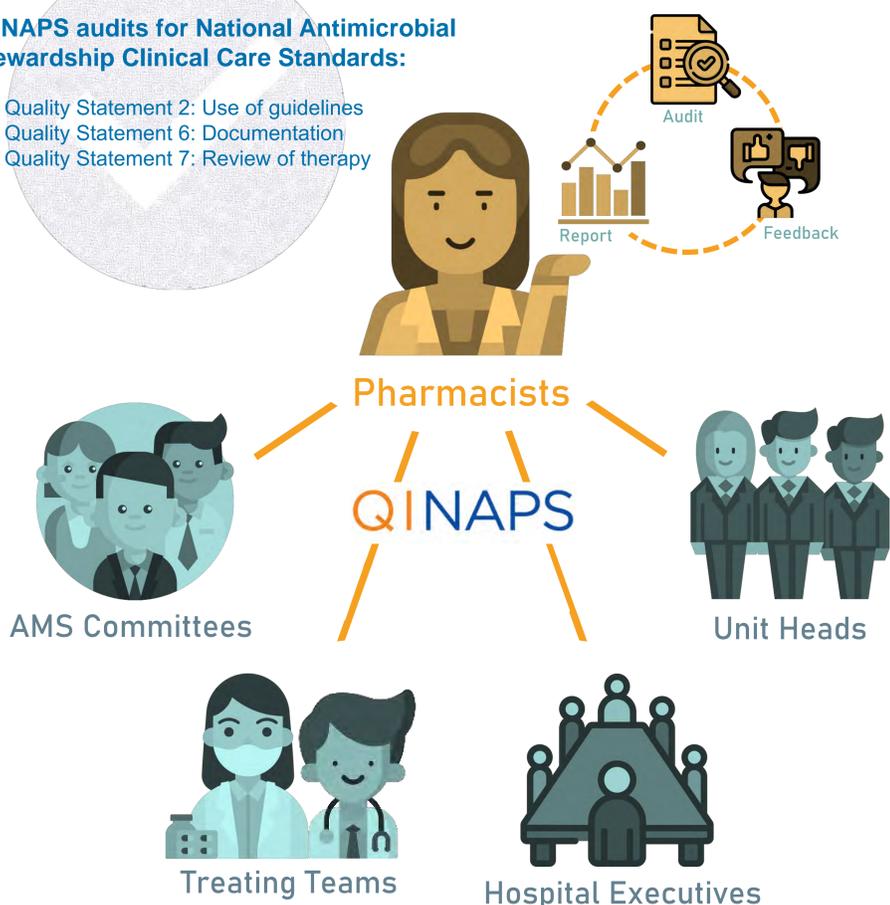
To assess how QI NAPS has been utilised by pharmacists (AMS specialists, hospital, and community) across Australia.

### Action

- Data were obtained from the QI NAPS data repository from 2016 to 2021
- Short qualitative survey sent to QI NAPS users in April 2021 to ascertain how QI NAPS was being used and to seek feedback on the service. Responses from 17 pharmacist auditors were received.

### QI NAPS audits for National Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standards:

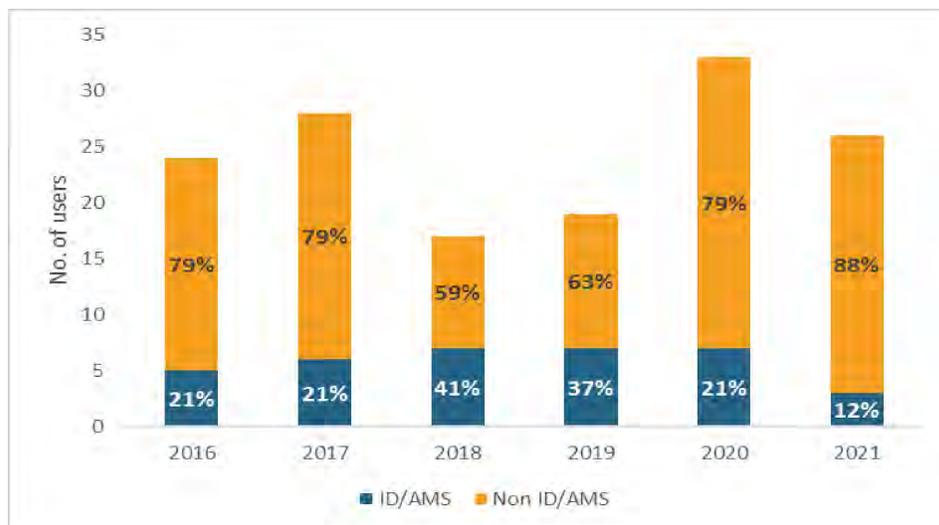
- ✓ Quality Statement 2: Use of guidelines
- ✓ Quality Statement 6: Documentation
- ✓ Quality Statement 7: Review of therapy



QI NAPS allows pharmacists, regardless of ID or AMS expertise, to conduct frequent small-scale audits to report and feedback to various stakeholders.

### Discussion

The QI NAPS enables health services to engage pharmacists who may not have specific infectious diseases or antimicrobial stewardship training to carry out antimicrobial audits. This may be particularly useful in resource-limited settings, where it may be challenging for organisations to gain oversight of antimicrobial use, and record clinician interventions. QI NAPS enables all pharmacists to lead this activity to improve prescribing quality for the improvement of patient safety.



### QI NAPS pharmacist users by expertise

- ID/AMS: Infectious Diseases or Antimicrobial Stewardship specialists
- Non ID/AMS: Non-Infectious Diseases Antimicrobial Stewardship specialists

### Evaluation

Since its release in 2016, QI NAPS has been used by 126 auditors across 111 healthcare facilities throughout Australia. Over these six years, 16,248 prescriptions have been audited; and this figure continues to grow with prescriptions assessed increasing from 1,437 prescriptions in 2016 to 3,025 prescriptions in 2021.

The majority of QINAPS users are pharmacists (n=87, 69%), who are mostly non-ID or AMS specialists (n=65, 74%) largely located in inner and outer regional centres (n=58, 67%).

Results from the survey demonstrated that users were conducting the QI NAPS

- weekly (31%)
- fortnightly (12%)
- monthly (1%)
- randomly (42.31%)

Fed back results to treating team doctors (62%), unit heads (42%), hospital executives (35%), ward pharmacists (31%), quality units (31%), treating team pharmacists (23%), ward nurses or midwives (19%) or antimicrobial stewardship committees (15%).

User comments on QI NAPS were largely positive, some of these include, "QI NAPS data) has been great during COVID when regular Hospital NAPS was not feasible", "Great resources" with regards to the educational resources available on the website, and "Amazing program for our AMS team. Don't know what we'd do without it."

*..has been great during COVID when regular Hospital NAPS (National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey) was not feasible.*

**Great resources**

**Amazing program for our Antimicrobial Stewardship team. Don't know what we'd do without it.**



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GUIDANCE

QI Quality Improvement  
NAPS National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey