

# Pharmacists are core clinicians in a community mental health team

## Integrating pharmacists as core clinicians within community mental health teams

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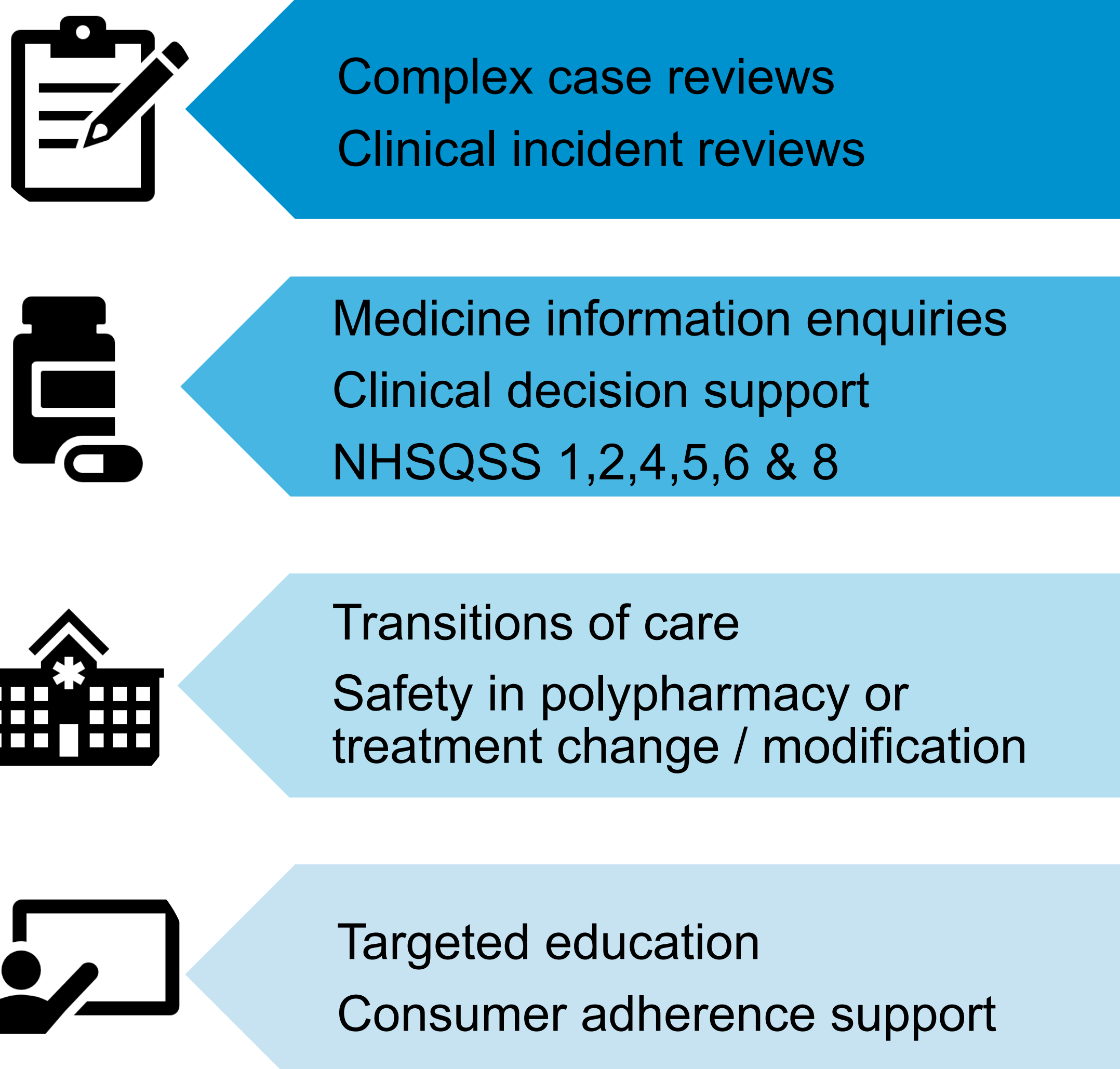
### Background

Pharmacists have an advanced level of expertise to assist services in complex medicines management, however, are often not considered as core clinicians within specialist community mental health services.

### The action

- Clinical Pharmacy service implemented 0.8FTE across 2 adult mental health services in Northern Adelaide
- Service priorities were outlined in collaboration with medical, nursing and pharmacy leadership

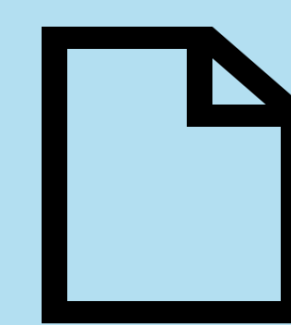
### Service priorities



### Over the 3.5-month period



295  
consumer  
referrals



407  
activities



102  
medicines  
information enquires

### Quality Improvement Projects

- Increasing uptake of Closing the Gap medicines access scheme
- Targeted staff education
- Tobacco free consumer group
- Quality use of olanzapine LAI
- GP shared care enablement
- Community access to medication pathways

### Enablers

- Multidisciplinary approach
- Advocacy from local leadership
- Accessibility & physical location
- Previous professional relationships
- Adaptable and dynamic implementation of services

### Challenges

- Familiarity of the role by non-medical clinicians
- Changing embedded processes
- Identifying high risk patients in an outpatient setting
- Accessing patients for reviews

### Lessons learnt:

- Integrating a new clinical pharmacy service requires service vision, adaptability, visibility, patience and support of local leaders
- A dynamic and flexible approach allows identification of where services are needed to align with local priorities and National Standards while fulfilling the core roles of a pharmacist
- A specialist clinical pharmacist in mental health community services is a core requirement

Acknowledgements: Northern and North East Community Mental Health Teams, SA

For more information

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