**Medication Advisory Committees and emerging system-level roles for pharmacists**

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**Introduction**: All Australian residential aged care facilities (RACFs) are recommended to have access to a Medication Advisory Committee (MAC) to provide overarching governance of medication management and ensure safe and appropriate medication use.

**Aim**: To explore the structure, scope and function of Australian MACs.

**Method**: National 43-item self-reported survey of residential aged care MACs was open from November 2023 to January 2024. The survey was adapted from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care Audit Tool and Checklist for a Medication Advisory Committee. MAC chairs and/or MAC members were sampled through the Department of Health and Aged Care, professional organisations, professional contacts, social media, and snowball sampling.

**Results**: Responses were received from 120 MACs covering 643 RACFs (24% of Australian RACFs) in all Australian States and Territories. MACs provided oversight to a median (IQR) 116 (61-196) beds/residents and median (IQR) 1 (1-4) RACFs. More than half the MACs reported performing all functions relating to policy development (59%), risk management (53%) and education (55%). Only 28% of MACs performed all functions relating to quality improvement outlined in the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care User Guide: Role of a Medication Advisory Committee.

**Conclusions**: This study highlights extensive heterogeneity in structure and function of

MACs, and significant scope for targeted interventions to optimise MACs. The MEGA-MAC project will build on these findings by engaging pharmacists and MAC representatives as knowledge brokers to drive implementation of the Guiding Principles for Medication Management in RACFs into practice.