

## 1. Project Details

**Project Title:** Insights into High-Cost Medicines in Victoria: Equity of access and sustainability

### Project Synopsis:

This project will investigate the use of high-cost medicines in Victorian health services and provide an overview of current equity and sustainability issues. Using example medicines and data a briefing paper outlining the key issues and recommended actions will be developed.

## 2. Project Details

### Aims and Objectives

To develop a briefing paper on high-cost medicines in Victoria to be provided to Department of Health

- A summary of key issues, using examples.
- Associated supporting data.
- Information on how other jurisdictions manage high-cost medicines.
- Gap-analysis of Victorian processes against [CATAG Guiding Principles: Navigating high-cost medicines](#).
- A proposal for recommended solution(s).

### Background

The management of high-cost medicines continues to be raised as an issue for health services. There are variations in the availability of high-cost medicines on hospital formularies and those approved for individual patient use (IPU).

IPU requests in Victoria are often for high-cost, specialised medicines. In this situation, interpretation of the peer-reviewed evidence is complex, and requires specialised knowledge to best assess how appropriate it is to fund and approve the IPU. Within a given hospital such knowledge may be concentrated amongst the requesting clinician and their immediate colleagues, and an objective opinion may be hard to obtain. Relying on such assessments might also lead to hyperlocalised practice which potentially drives variations in care and low-value practice.

Other jurisdictions have more centralised approaches to managing high-cost medicines that should be considered in the Victorian context.

### Method

1. Convene an advisory group, with expert medical and pharmacy representatives from Victorian metropolitan and rural health services and representatives from Safer Care Victoria and the Victorian Department of Health.
2. Conduct a survey of Victorian health services to inform and determine a target list of medicines and indications to be analysed as examples.
3. Collect data on the selected medicines from participating health services.
4. Investigate processes for high-cost medicines in other jurisdictions.
5. Develop a proposal for recommended solution(s).

# Seeking Expressions of Interest

## Timetable

EOI closing date: Friday 31 May 2024

## Expected Outcomes

Final draft submitted to VicTAG Management Committee 6 months after commencement.

A brief monthly update to be provided to the VicTAG Management Committee.

## 4. Proposed Grant Budget

Grade 3, Year 1 – 4 salary 0.4 EFT (16 hours per week) for 6 months = up to \$25,574 + 25% oncosts = \$31,968

Design costs are additional and will be provided by VicTAG with approval from the Management Committee

## 5. How to submit an Expression of Interest

- Provide information on why you would be a suitable lead for the project, including your credentials (max 250 words).
- Provide your CV.
- Provide a statement of support for a secondment arrangement from the Director of Pharmacy (or department manager) at your health service.