



# A WHOLE-NEW WORLD

## Pharmacist perceptions on an eMEDS career pathway

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### BACKGROUND

Since the deployment of electronic medication management (eMeds) throughout Australia, the roles of Australian pharmacists have evolved to adapt to this new era of eHealth. These roles typically utilise the pharmacist's knowledge of medication management and apply it to the development of medication-specific systems and software. This growing specialty of pharmacy is attracting an increasing number of pharmacists away from traditional community and hospital career pathways and into the world of computers and IT.

### OBJECTIVE

To capture the general perception of eMeds related roles as an alternative career path for Australian pharmacists.

### METHOD

A fifteen question survey was circulated through emails and professional forums to Australian pharmacists over three days. The survey, which consisted of three multiple-choice and twelve Likert scale questions, was anonymously completed by participants using Microsoft Forms. Pharmacists currently working in eMeds related roles were excluded.

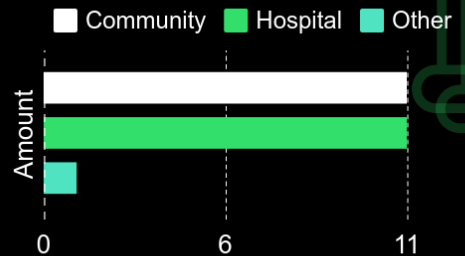
### RESULTS

23 surveys met the inclusion criteria (11 community, 11 hospital, 1 other). In comparison to the pharmacist's current role, the eMeds pharmacist role was perceived to have a 4% greater level of work meaningfulness, 11% greater career progression and 19% greater remuneration. 61% are happy overall in their current role, however 57% would consider a career in eMeds and 26% would be likely to apply for an eMeds role in the next 12 months. Only 35% of pharmacists, however, understood what the eMeds role involved.

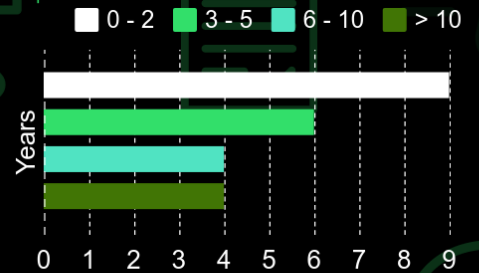
### CONCLUSION

The survey provides insight into the perception of Australian pharmacists on the eMeds career path. Overall, the role of pharmacists in eMeds is perceived to be a positive experience. The survey also highlights the role of pharmacists in eMeds is not well understood and further interventions could investigate this avenue to better inform the profession of this employment opportunity.

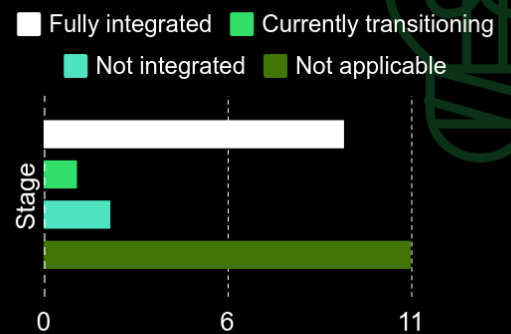
What pharmacy environment do you mainly work in?



How many years have you been registered as a pharmacist?



What extent has your hospital implemented eMeds?



I am satisfied with the level of meaningfulness in my current role.	3.30 of 5	66.0%
An eMeds role would offer me a satisfactory level of meaningfulness.	3.43 of 5	68.0%
I am satisfied with the career progression in my current role.	3.22 of 5	64.4%
An eMeds role would provide satisfactory career progression.	3.57 of 5	71.4%
I am satisfied with the remuneration I receive from my current role.	3.04 of 5	60.8%
An eMeds role would provide satisfactory remuneration.	3.61 of 5	72.2%
I am satisfied with the level of work/life balance in my current role.	3.83 of 5	76.6%
An eMeds role would offer me a satisfactory level of work/life balance.	3.52 of 5	70.4%
I am happy overall in my current role.	3.65 of 5	60.9%
I understand what eMeds related roles involve.	3.17 of 5	34.8%
I would consider a career in an eMeds related role.	3.57 of 5	56.5%
I am likely to apply for an eMeds role in the next 12 months.	2.78 of 5	26.1%