

# INITIATING A NATIONAL CONSORTIUM APPROACH TO SUPPORT OPTIMAL USE OF bDMARDs

Jessica Sheppard<sup>1</sup>, Jonathan Dartnell<sup>1</sup>, Renee Granger<sup>1</sup>, Premarani Sinnathurai<sup>1</sup>, Catherine Hill<sup>2</sup>, Claire Barrett<sup>2</sup>, Debra Rowett<sup>3</sup>, Rachelle Buchbinder<sup>4</sup>, Samuel Whittle<sup>4</sup>, Franca Marine<sup>5</sup>, Jane Donnelly<sup>6</sup>, Shane Jackson<sup>7</sup>, Kylee Hayward<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>NPS MedicineWise, <sup>2</sup>Australian Rheumatology Association, <sup>3</sup>University of South Australia, <sup>4</sup>Australia and New Zealand Musculoskeletal Clinical Trials Network, <sup>5</sup>Arthritis Australia, <sup>6</sup>Council of Australian Therapeutic Advisory Groups, <sup>7</sup>Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, <sup>8</sup>Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia

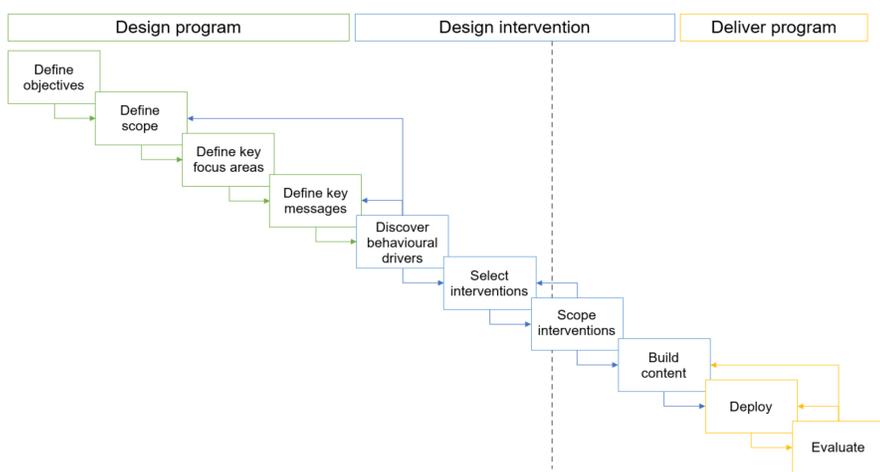
## Introduction

- ▶ The Value in Prescribing (ViP) bDMARDs program is a three-year national education program funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.
- ▶ The program aims to achieve better patient health outcomes, support optimal bDMARD use and contribute to Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme sustainability.
- ▶ The program is being led by a consortium of nine organisations representing specialists, pharmacists, consumers and research experts who have formed the Targeted Therapies Alliance.

## Methods

- ▶ The consortium have worked collaboratively throughout each stage of program development which includes stakeholder engagement, formative research, program design, intervention development and implementation and evaluation.
- ▶ Through our consortium approach a range of evidence and data driven educational interventions for health professionals and consumers have been developed to support the program.
- ▶ Interventions have been selected based on identified barriers and enablers informed by the Theoretical Domains Framework.
- ▶ Interventions have been developed with end user input and agile methodology, implementation occurred from October 2020.

Figure 1: Stages of program design and development



## Results

- ▶ The initial program phase included establishing the consortium and shared workplan, undertaking formative research and determining program design (objectives, scope, key focus areas, audiences, high-level key messages and intervention selection).
- ▶ The consortium agreed on the following objectives: (1) optimise first-line csDMARD use; (2) optimise first-choice b/DMARDs; (3) optimise biosimilar prescribing and dispensing; (4) optimise b/tsDMARD dosage for patients in remission or low-disease activity for target conditions; and (5) optimise glucocorticoid and analgesic use.
- ▶ Interventions include: living guidelines, PBS Practice Review, educational visiting with clinicians, patient decision aids and action plans which are targeted at rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.
- ▶ The consortium approach supports access to multidisciplinary expertise and builds in consensus with key stakeholders through all stages of program development. This intends to support greater engagement, uptake and impact of the program when implemented.

Figure 2: Examples of program interventions developed for rheumatology conditions



## Conclusions

- ▶ The consortium-based approach has provided a collaborative model for developing a multifaceted program addressing multiple perspectives optimising bDMARD use.
- ▶ Collaboration has fostered the opportunity to share best practice, learn from each other's expertise and share networks.
- ▶ The Alliance is currently working closely with dermatology and gastroenterology professional and consumer organisations to design and develop resources and materials for these conditions, which will be available from May 2021.

## Acknowledgement

This program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health through the Value in Prescribing – bDMARDs Program Grant.

Presented at the Australian Rheumatology Association (ARA) Annual Scientific Meeting 2021

### + TARGETED THERAPIES ALLIANCE

Helping consumers and health professionals make safe and wise therapeutic decisions about biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) and other specialised medicines. Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health through the Value in Prescribing bDMARDs Program Grant.

