UQ Winter Research Project Description

Project title:	An overview of medication management mobile apps for deprescribing in older people.
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	This four week project requires 20-36 hours per week engagement. Applicants will have hybrid working arrangement. You will work from UQ School of Pharmacy and have remote working flexibility.
Description:	**Background:** Use of potentially inappropriate medications (PIMs) and polypharmacy is common in older people, suggesting significance of medication optimisation in this population. This can be achieved via dose reduction or withdrawal of inappropriate medications under the supervision of health care professionals, also called deprescribing. Deprescribing can be beneficial in mitigating harm associated with PIMs and polypharmacy in older people. Mobile app offers a useful tool to facilitate innovative and efficient translation of deprescribing process into practice. The extent to which deprescribing is incorporated in such apps and their quality are not clear. **Aim:** This project aims to explore the features of medication management mobile apps within the scope of deprescribing. **Approach:** A web search in Android Google Play Store and iOS Apple App Store will be conducted using key terms to identify mobile apps intended for health care professionals for medication management that support deprescribing. Data will be extracted from each eligible app with support from Google search engine if needed. Descriptive statistics will be used to characterise key features of the apps. **Implication:** This project informs stakeholders about the key features of medication management mobile apps available in the market that support deprescribing in older people. Health care professionals can use the information for targeted use of such apps. App developers can use the information to maintain or improve their standard through comparison with other apps. This study will inform a part of a larger project intended to develop user interface for an electronic deprescribing decision aid tool.
Expected outcomes and deliverables:	Successful completion of this project will help the candidate to gain research skills (innovative web search, data extraction, data analysis, presentation of findings and reporting writing), insight into deprescribing (research, tools and apps) for older people, and an opportunity to generate research publication. Candidate may also be asked to produce a report or oral presentation at the end of their project.
Suitable for:	This project is open to applications from undergraduate (3rd or 4th year) or postgraduate students with a background in quality use of medicines.
Primary Supervisor:	**Primary:** Dr Shakti Shrestha, UQ School of Pharmacy **Co-supervisor:** Dr Wubshet Tesfaye, UQ School of Pharmacy
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