

# Survey of pharmacists on the quality of blood pressure devices provided in Australian pharmacies

Australian guidelines recommend that people purchase a blood pressure device for home monitoring, and a common place of purchase is pharmacies. Little is known on the quality of blood pressure devices supplied through Australian pharmacies and this survey seeks to better understand this from the views of practicing pharmacists.

By filling out the survey, which takes about 10 minutes, you are providing consent for your responses to be used for research.

You can also go into a draw to win a \$500 gift voucher. The survey is a study carried out by researchers from the University of Tasmania, which has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of Tasmania (H0023506).

You can find out more study information here: <https://cloudstor.aarnet.edu.au/plus/s/jvdsK5BUXMNNbYQ>

The first few questions are to ascertain non-identifiable demographic information.

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Age range	<input type="radio"/> Less than 30 years <input type="radio"/> 30-39 years <input type="radio"/> 40-49 years <input type="radio"/> 50-59 years <input type="radio"/> 60-69 years <input type="radio"/> 70 years or over <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say
Sex	<input type="radio"/> Female <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Prefer not to say
Highest pharmacy qualification	<input type="radio"/> B.Pharm <input type="radio"/> Honours (Hons) <input type="radio"/> PhD <input type="radio"/> Masters e.g. M Pharm, M Clin Pharm <input type="radio"/> Ph.C <input type="radio"/> Grad.Dip <input type="radio"/> Other _____
The period in which you initially registered was:	<input type="radio"/> Prior to 1985 <input type="radio"/> 1986 to 2000 <input type="radio"/> 2001-2015 <input type="radio"/> 2016 or later
The country you initially registered in?	<input type="radio"/> Australia <input type="radio"/> Overseas
Are you accredited to conduct HMRs/RMMRs?	<input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> Currently enrolled
Which state/territory of Australia do you primarily practice in?	<input type="radio"/> ACT <input type="radio"/> QLD <input type="radio"/> TAS <input type="radio"/> VIC <input type="radio"/> NSW <input type="radio"/> SA <input type="radio"/> WA <input type="radio"/> NT

**Practice details**

In which area of practice do you spend the majority of your time in most weeks?

- Community Pharmacy
- Hospital Pharmacy
- Teaching or research
- Consultant
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe your main position?

- Pharmacy Owner
- Pharmacy Manager
- Employee pharmacist
- Locum
- Consultant
- Retired
- Teaching or research
- Working, but not within pharmacy
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Details of place of work**

**If you are not currently involved in community pharmacy in some capacity please skip this section and go to the blood pressure device questions on the next page.**

**This information helps us to understand survey responses from people of similar experience and working environments. Please provide the following information for your primary place of employment.**

Postcode of the pharmacy you work in:

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of pharmacists usually working within the practice:

- 1-2  
 3-4  
 5+

Number of hours open each week:

- < 50  
 50 - 70  
 > 71

Average number of prescriptions dispensed each week:

- ≤ 500  
 501 - 1200  
 1201 - 3000  
 > 3000  
 Unsure

### Blood pressure device questions

Is the accuracy of blood pressure devices sold by pharmacists an issue of importance to you?

- Not at all important  
 A little important  
 Neutral  
 Quite important  
 Extremely important

Do you consider all blood pressure devices sold in your pharmacy to be equally reliable in terms of measurement accuracy?

- No  
 Yes  
 Unsure

True or false, before being sold in Australia, blood pressure devices must pass accuracy testing according to rigorous scientific standards:

- True  
 False  
 Unsure  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

True or false, if a blood pressure device has been approved for sale by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, this is confirmation that it has passed accuracy testing according to rigorous scientific standards:

- True  
 False  
 Unsure  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

What factors could be used to identify the accuracy of a blood pressure device? (check all that apply)

- Brand  
 Type (e.g. upper-arm device vs. wrist device )  
 Price (e.g. more expensive devices are more likely to be accurate)  
 Claims of clinical accuracy on the box or via other marketing  
 Checks of online databases that list accurate blood pressure devices  
 Unsure  
 None of the above  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Which type of blood pressure device is usually more accurate?

- Upper-arm  
 Wrist  
 Both upper-arm and wrist devices are equally accurate  
 Unsure

Do you associate a particular brand of blood pressure device with being more accurate than others?

- No  
 Yes  
 Unsure

Which of the following brands of blood pressure devices do you associate with being more accurate than others? (check all that apply)

- A&D Medical  
 Beurer  
 Dr. Trust  
 iHealth  
 Lot Fancy  
 Microlife  
 Omron  
 Welch Allyn  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

When people buy a blood pressure device at your pharmacy, are they provided with any advice or information on how to measure blood pressure at home?

- No  
 Yes, always  
 Yes, sometimes

What sources of evidence are used for the advice or information on how to measure blood pressure at home? (check all that apply)

- General knowledge on home blood pressure measurement  
 Australian home blood pressure measurement expert consensus statement  
 National Heart Foundation of Australia information  
 European Society of Hypertension guidelines  
 American Heart Association information  
 Unsure  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you recommend people take their blood pressure device to be checked for accuracy against manual measurements by a GP or other health professional?

- No  
 Yes, always  
 Yes, sometimes

With each blood pressure device that is purchased, do you ensure that an appropriately sized blood pressure cuff is supplied?

- No  
 Yes, always  
 Yes, sometimes

Do you offer a service to measure blood pressure at your pharmacy?

- No  
 Yes  
 Unsure

What device brand do you use for measuring blood pressure at your pharmacy? (if unsure please leave blank)

\_\_\_\_\_

What device model do you use for measuring blood pressure at your pharmacy? (if unsure please leave blank)

\_\_\_\_\_

	No	Yes	Unsure
Are the blood pressure measures taken at your pharmacy: Provided to the person	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provided to a GP or other health professional	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recorded in a pharmacy database	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

After measuring blood pressure at your pharmacy, do you provide advice or recommendations to people?

- No  
 Yes  
 Unsure

What advice or recommendations are given to people? (check all that apply)

- Advised to take their results to their GP for interpretation  
 Advice or recommendations based on Australian blood pressure guidelines  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

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On what basis do you select which blood pressure devices to stock? (check all that apply)

- To ensure a range of different prices
- To ensure there are different types (upper-arm and wrist)
- Quality
- Brands
- Accuracy
- Additional functions (e.g. Bluetooth, storage of measurements)
- Determined by pharmacy banner group
- None of the above
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

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Were you aware that only 23.8% of blood pressure devices sold by pharmacies in Australia have passed accuracy testing according to rigorous scientific standards?

- No
- Yes
- Unsure

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Is this statistic surprising to you?

- Not at all surprising
- A little surprising
- Neutral
- Quite surprising
- Extremely surprising

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Thank you for completing this survey.

After clicking submit you will be automatically directed to a final page and if you would like to enter the draw to win a \$500 gift voucher please enter your email address (this will only be used to contact you if you are the prize winner).