

# Aged Care On-site Pharmacist Program Frequently Asked Questions

The Australian Government introduced the Aged Care On-site Pharmacist (ACOP) measure on 1 July 2024 to improve the health and wellbeing of older people by encouraging partnerships between pharmacists and residential aged care homes (RACHs).

Western Victoria Primary Health Network's ACOP program provides guidance on implementing the measure and facilitating collaboration among healthcare providers and aged care homes.

## What does an ACOP Pharmacist do?

ACOP pharmacists support medication reviews, safe medicine practices, medication reconciliation, communication with GPs, staff education, and quality improvement activities in RACHs. For more details, see [Indicative Role Description: Aged Care On-site Pharmacist | Pharmacy Council](#)

## How does ACOP differ from the Residential Medicine Management Review (RMMR) or Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) services?

ACOP provides a regular on-site pharmacist presence, whereas RMMR and QUM rely on visiting pharmacists and periodic reviews. RACHs cannot access both at the same time.

## How can residential aged care homes, community pharmacies or pharmacists participate in the program?

If you are interested in taking part in the program and finding the right party to match your needs, register through WVPHN's [Aged Care Pharmacist Connect platform](#).

## Do pharmacists need specific training to become an ACOP?

Yes. Pharmacists must either complete an Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) accredited ACOP training program or hold an existing Medication Management Review credential and complete the ACOP credential by 30 June 2026. See [Accredited Pharmacist Education Programs | Australian Pharmacy Council](#)

## What funding is available?

Funding is based on residential aged care homes bed numbers, with allocations up to 1 FTE (full time equivalent) pharmacist for homes with 300 or more beds. For more details, see [Aged Care On-site Pharmacist Measure Tier 1 Rules - Community Pharmacy claims and receives payments | Pharmacy Programs Administrator](#)

## For more information

Contact WVPHN's Healthy Ageing team via email [agedcare@westvicphn.com.au](mailto:agedcare@westvicphn.com.au)