

9 May 2022



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The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP  
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Dear Premier

Please find enclosed a copy of *AMA Queensland's Survey Report on the Urinary Tract Infection Pharmacy Pilot Queensland and North Queensland Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot*.

Although these issues are being canvassed directly with the Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, the fundamental failure of the UTI pilot to ensure patient safety warrants your attention.

AMA Queensland would be grateful for your Department's review of the attached report, and your personal consideration of the issues raised.

In the absence of any information about outcomes from the Queensland-wide UTI pilot, AMA Queensland invited doctors to participate in a survey of their patients' experiences of the UTI pilot, and their views on the proposed expansion of the pilot that will enable pharmacists to diagnose, prescribe and dispense for 23 conditions for patients in North Queensland.

Over 1,300 doctors participated in the survey. These doctors come from different craft groups, live in a broad range of geographic areas across Queensland, and include both AMA Queensland members and non-members.

The survey results are alarming. They provide shocking insights into misdiagnoses, missed diagnoses, and serious patient complications following treatment through the pilot.

At least six pregnant women were given antibiotics that are unsafe in the first trimester of pregnancy. For one of these women, her ectopic pregnancy was misdiagnosed and treated as a UTI. Numerous patients had cancer, or pre-cancerous conditions, misdiagnosed and treated as UTIs. At least nine patients ended up in hospital with complications following pharmacist treatment, primarily for sepsis and bladder or kidney infections. Complications were also reported for male patients following participation in the pilot, when the pilot was specifically limited to female patients.

AMA Queensland holds grave concerns about the UTI pilot's impact on patient safety.

These concerns are exacerbated by the lack of transparency around the pilot's outcomes and evaluation, especially given discourse around the 'success' of the UTI pilot, and its use as a justification for the *North Queensland Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot*.

AMA contends that QUT's evaluation of the UTI pilot, and the Government's plans for implementing the North Queensland Pharmacy Pilot, should be subject to appropriate scrutiny from the medical profession and the public.

Yours sincerely



Professor Chris Perry OAM  
President  
**AMA Queensland**



Dr Brett Dale  
Chief Executive Officer  
**AMA Queensland**

*Enclosures:*

*AMA Queensland's Survey Report on the Urinary Tract Infection Pharmacy Pilot Queensland and North Queensland Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot*

*Letter from AMA Queensland to the Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services*