

The effect of red tape on pharmacy rules

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The one I can think of is that all our medications are sent to the central database maintained by the Pharmacy Guild, not just the medications that get abused (painkillers etc). When the Howard government first introduced that register, they included far more medications than they should have, in complete disregard for patient privacy. If the purpose of the register is to track the release of medications of abuse, why do they also need to know about all our other medications? Why do they need that red tape to extend to all the other medications that don't get abused?

The effect on our health of that register is that it's one piece of the puzzle that makes us as patients feel like we don't really have medical privacy, that it's only an illusion. Any benefit to our health they might claim through having access to our medication history is something that we should be able to opt in to, instead of being nannied. And it's not true anyway if it's a piece of the puzzle that makes us less trusting in our privacy and less likely to seek help in the first place.

The bigger piece of that puzzle with pharmacies though is how openly everything is done in front of other customers. And that's where you should be *increasing* red tape, instead of decreasing it. Perhaps requiring separate consult rooms (less secure), or cubicles at the counter (more secure) which allow for a discreet way to give customers their medication and discuss their ailments out of view and earshot of other customers. With security glass between the customer and the pharmacist, this would be completely safe, even safer than how things are currently, and it would have a health benefit through closing one of the gaping holes in patient privacy that is responsible for patients not seeking help. They also need better rules dealing with making phone calls in earshot of customers, what CCTV footage gets recorded and provided to courts, and filling scripts in view of customers.

For the most part, the pharmacy sector needs to increase red tape, not reduce it. But one way you can cut it is to reverse the Howard government's decision to send all our medications to the Pharmacy Guild register, instead of just those that get abused.

Thankyou.