Background
National pharmaceutical data indicates:
- Māori have lower prescription and uptake rates than Non-Māori
- Research suggests cultural differences have an impact on patient adherence to medicine use
- Consultation with Māori identified issues like: Lack of quality information, sharing, storing and misuse of medicines, uncertainty of prescribed medicines.

Project Goal
To increase the uptake, utilisation and prescription rates of subsidised medicines for Māori consumers.

Objectives
1 - Increase awareness of safe and appropriate practice for medication use
2 - Promote medications as part of managing overall health care
3 - Improve ‘access’ to and inform whanau of nationally subsidised medicines
4 - Increase the level of understanding of the need to use medications safely and appropriately
5 - Identify matters in relation to rongoā use and medicines
6 - Develop resources for use by health professionals and patients

Intended Audiences
Education Program
- Māori community health workers, Māori primary care nurses
Health Resources
- Māori health providers, Pacific health providers, PHO’s
Consumer Resources
- Māori consumers of medicines and their whānau, All consumers of medicines and their whānau

Interventions

Section One: Māori Health Workforce Education Program
- 20 hour course with learning modules
- Range of Health worker roles info

Section Two: Kaimahi - Health Professional Resource:
He Rongoā Pai, He Oranga Whānau Education Tool
- 25 page flipchart with 6 sections:
  - Course materials, readings and templates

Section Three: Consumer Resources

Potential resources:
- Patient Medication card – bilingual?
- Help desk / 0800 line, DVD, Consumer information Website,
- Children’s Book, Interest group initiated information sessions, Links to Local Pharmacists

Pilot Course Results:
How attendees rated their knowledge of medicine pre course & post course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical information</th>
<th>Before the course</th>
<th>After the course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taking a full course of antibiotics</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking heart medication with food</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use of the right types of asthma inhalers</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall average PRE-course: 5.9       Overall average POST-course: 7.6

Medication information
A number of participants had discussed medication with their clients since attending the program

Key Outcomes
- Understand what the pharmaceutical schedule is and how to use it
- Knowing what medicines are subsidised
- Identifying safe practice with medicines
- Effective communication with Māori patients & whānau
- Understand how Rongoā Māori works with pharmaceuticals

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