

Finding an Aged Care Onsite Pharmacist (ACOP)

A guide for residential aged care homes

The ACOP program provides ongoing government funding for your RACH to have a pharmacist embedded in your care team. We encourage you to explore the following options – most RACHs are able to find a pathway through one of these.

Want to know more about ACOP? Visit the [EMPHN ACOP page](#) for a full overview of the program.


Option 1 – Tier 1: Engage through a community pharmacy

Under Tier 1, a community pharmacy employs the ACOP pharmacist and you enter into a service arrangement with them. There's no proximity requirement – any Section 90 community pharmacy can participate. Try any or all of the following:


Your dispensing pharmacy: Talk to the community pharmacy that already supplies medications to your residents. They already know your home and are often the easiest first conversation.

Other local community pharmacies: Contact other pharmacies in your area to ask if they have, or could employ, a credentialed ACOP pharmacist.

Consultant pharmacists already visiting your RACH: If your RACH currently receives RMMRs, speak with those consultant pharmacists – they already know your residents and may be interested in transitioning to the ACOP role


 Share the [ACOP flyer for Pharmacy](#) to help explain the program from their perspective.


 Keep a record of pharmacies you've approached. If you later move to Tier 2, you may need to show you've genuinely attempted Tier 1 first.

 [Tier 1 information – Pharmacy Programs Administrator \(PPA\)](#)

Option 2 – Tier 2: Directly employ or contract a pharmacist



If you've genuinely been unable to find a community pharmacy willing to participate, your RACH can directly employ or contract an ACOP pharmacist. Under this arrangement, your RACH claims and receives payments directly.

 The pharmacist must hold – or be working toward – an APC-accredited ACOP credential. You can point them to the [APC accredited training programs](#).

 [Tier 2 information – Pharmacy Programs Administrator \(PPA\)](#)

Need help?

If you've explored these options and are still unable to find a pharmacist, EMPHN may be able to provide advice or connect you with providers delivering ACOP services in the eastern Melbourne region.

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