

Development of a medication incident classification system to standardise reporting in clinical practice

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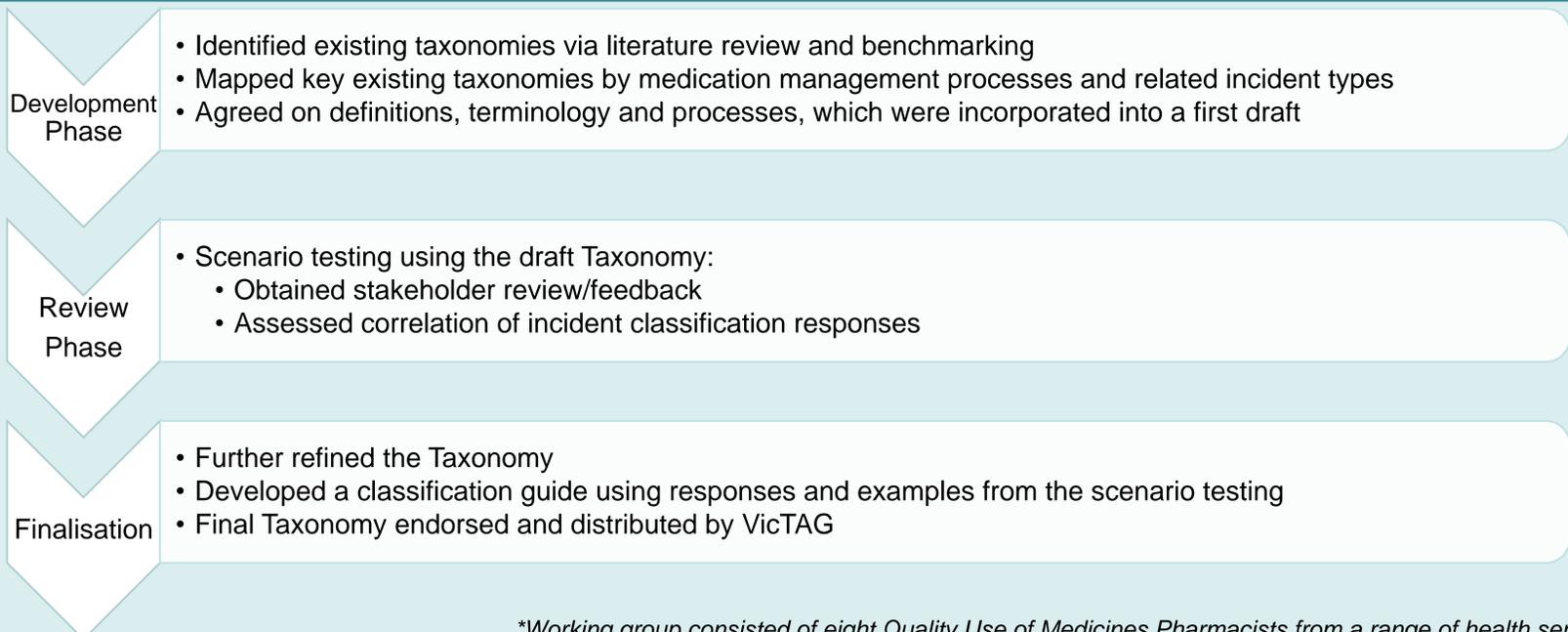
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Background & Aim

Classification systems (taxonomies) can help standardise incident reporting which may improve the quality of data used for identification of patient safety issues. There is currently no Australian standardised terminology or taxonomy for medication incidents.

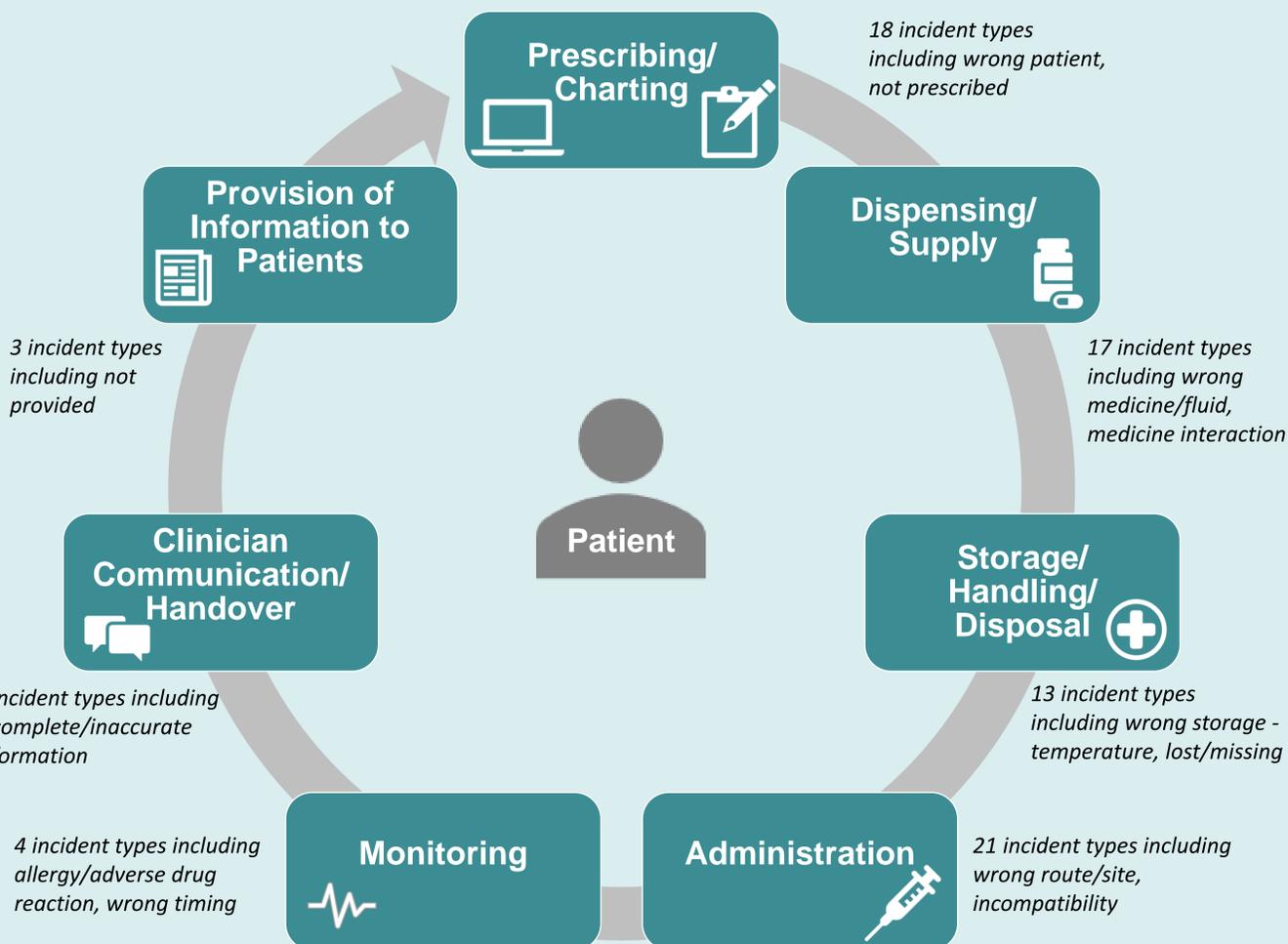
This project aimed to develop a state-wide taxonomy, aligned to an adapted medication management cycle, designed to standardise medication incident reporting in clinical practice.

Methods



*Working group consisted of eight Quality Use of Medicines Pharmacists from a range of health services in Victoria

Results



- A Medication Incident Taxonomy was developed, based on medication management cycle processes with associated incident types
- A Classification Guide was written to help standardise reporting in clinical practice. It includes:
 - Definitions and examples to improve consistency in user-classification
 - Recommendation to classify incidents based on the impact to the patient

Conclusion

The Victorian Medication Incident Taxonomy is directly applicable for use within clinical practice. It provides a good foundation for standardising medication incident data to inform development of medication safety systems to reduce the risk of preventable patient harm.

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To obtain a copy of the Victorian Medication Incident Taxonomy, contact your local Therapeutics Advisory Group.

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