

GPs debate new diabetes drugs

NEIL BRAMWELL

GP LEADERS believe the jury is still out on whether second-generation sulfonylurea agents, gliptins and GLP1 agonists can help address the burden of cardiovascular disease in type 2 diabetes.

In a submission to the government's review of type 2 diabetes medicines, the RACGP said the

greatest burden of disease was cardiovascular death and microvascular complications including eye, neurological and renal disease.

Dr Gary Deed, chair of the RACGP National Faculty of Special Interests Diabetes Network said although the introduction of novel anti-hyperglycaemic agents had attempted to address this burden of disease, there was no

conclusive outcome.

"The long-term outcomes on cardiovascular risk reduction of either second-generation sulfonylurea agents, and newer agents such as gliptins and GLP1 agonists, remains as a whole, yet undetermined," he wrote.

He emphasised the need for closer consultation with GPs through the RACGP regarding the implementation and review of

diabetes-related prescribing algorithms through the PBS.

Medicines Australia said there was concern the review may not improve health outcomes.

"If the key outcome from the diabetes review is a price reduction or a price reduction with a changed restriction, without assessing appropriateness or value for money, the review will have failed," its submission said.



Dr Gary Deed