Breakout Session A:
Tackling overuse and underuse of health care services

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THE LANCET Right Care Series

Evidence for overuse of medical services around the world
Shannon Brownlee et al

Evidence for underuse of effective medical services around the world
Paul Glasziou et al

Drivers of poor medical care
Vikas Saini et al

Levers for addressing medical underuse and overuse: achieving high-value health care
Adam Elshaug et al
Choosing Wisely
Category 2: Low-value status determined by heterogeneous treatment effect

Representative sample of actual/potential recipients of care (intervention quantity)

Adapted from Skinner and Chandra typology of medical technologies with heterogeneous benefits.
Measuring variation between (select Australian) hospitals
Choosing Wisely cross-country measurement project

- Percutaneous coronary interventions for stable coronary disease
- Minimally symptomatic inguinal hernia repair
- Spinal fusion for low back pain
- Benzo overuse in the elderly
- Preoperative testing (low risk surgery)
- Overuse of colonoscopy for older patients
- Diabetes overtreatment in elderly

*In addition to imaging for low back pain; antibiotics; benzo’s (OECD interests)*
Structure of paper 4

• Top-down, bottom-up. Cultural change…

Levers operating at the level of…

• Patients, community, and civil society organisations
• Clinical professionals and professional associations
• System leaders
  • Delivery arrangements
  • Financial arrangements
  • Governance arrangements

An inventory of levers, a menu, for cross-system application today
The MBS Review

- Established by Health Minister Sussan Ley in June 2015
- MBS is the largest single health program
  - $20B p.a
  - 30 per cent of Commonwealth health expenditure
  - Overall health expenditure exceeds $150 billion per annum
- More than 5,700 services funded
  - many haven’t been re-examined or evaluated since listing
What do we spend on the MBS?

Total MBS Expenditure in 2015-16: $21.1 Billion
MBS review activities have been distributed among several groups

- **MBS Review Taskforce**
  - **Clinical Committees**
  - **Principles & Rules Committee**
    - **Consultation with stakeholder groups and public**
  - **Service specific working groups**
25-Hydroxy Vitamin D Tests as an Exemplar

Source: Elshaug analysis for Senate hearing.
