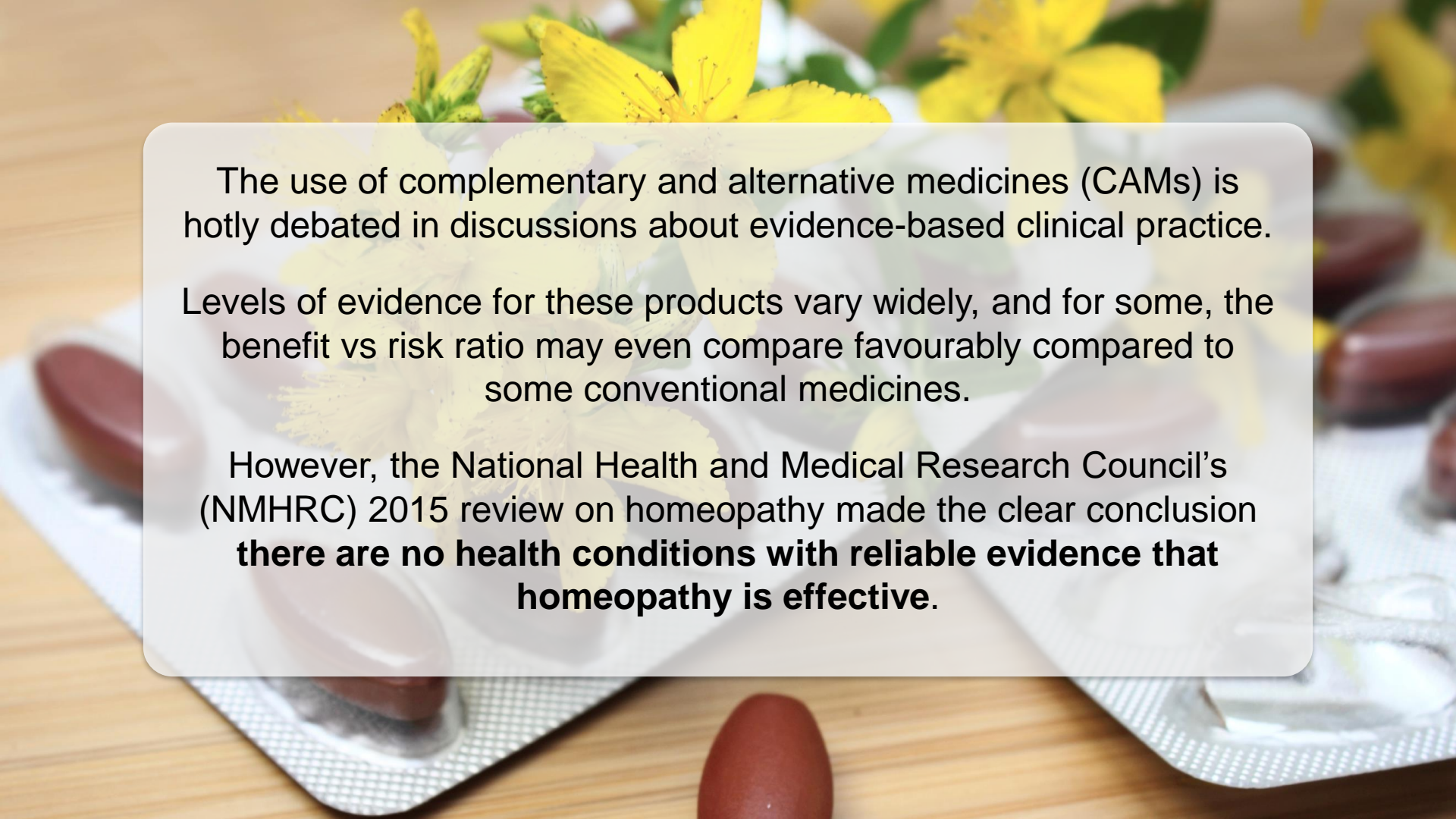




Diluting the supply of evidence-poor products:

Homeopathy in pharmacy



The use of complementary and alternative medicines (CAMs) is hotly debated in discussions about evidence-based clinical practice.

Levels of evidence for these products vary widely, and for some, the benefit vs risk ratio may even compare favourably compared to some conventional medicines.

However, the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NMHRC) 2015 review on homeopathy made the clear conclusion **there are no health conditions with reliable evidence that homeopathy is effective.**

Changing the conversation

Review of
evidence


**NMHC
Statement**



December
2018



January
2019



Touch image to
open documents
with this symbol

In PSA's role as the professional peak body representing pharmacists across all areas of practice, the ongoing supply of homeopathic products from pharmacies is in conflict with presenting the profession as evidence-based health practitioners.

Two of PSA's Choosing Wisely recommendations launched in December 2018, focus on CAMs. Choosing Wisely has provided us with the vehicle to make an explicit recommendation that **homeopathic remedies should not be promoted or provided by pharmacists.**

To further highlight PSA considers provision of homeopathic products inconsistent with expectations for professional or ethical practice, in January 2019 an open letter was distributed to pharmacy banner groups.

PSA has welcomed the **positive reaction** to our Choosing Wisely recommendations, and is pleased it has generated discussion across the profession about the place of homeopathy.



Continuing the conversation

A close-up photograph of a white ceramic mortar and pestle. The mortar is filled with dried yellow flowers, which appear to be St. John's Wort, with their characteristic five-petaled structure and prominent stamens. The pestle is partially visible, resting inside the mortar. The entire setup is placed on a rustic, weathered wooden surface. In the lower right foreground, a single yellow flower lies on the wood, its stem extending towards the right. The background is softly blurred, showing more greenery and flowers.

While many pharmacies stopped supplying these products some time ago, we hope through consumer and profession awareness raised through Choosing Wisely that these products will disappear from pharmacy shelves

A man with dark hair, a beard, and glasses is sitting in a modern office environment. He is wearing a dark grey suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a blue and orange plaid tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. His hands are clasped in his lap. The background is a blurred office space with bookshelves and large windows.

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