

MSQ CONNECT

ISSUE 8 | August 2018

Welcome to the eighth issue of our Medication Safety and Quality Program Newsletter, 'MSQ Connect'. In this issue, we provide updates on Continuity of Medication Management (CMM), Antimicrobial Stewardship, Community Pharmacy Palliative Care, High-Risk Medicines, and VTE Prevention.

We also welcome two wonderful new Medication Safety team members. Ms Ashley Thomas is on secondment from Mid North Coast LHD, and is providing her expertise to the CEC's Continuity of Medication Management program. Ms Kylee Sheehy, on secondment from Sydney Local Health District is leading the CEC in the Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Initiative.

Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Initiative

The consultation phase of the Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Initiative has been completed. This phase of the initiative provided a crucial opportunity for our key partners and stakeholders with expertise in palliative care and community pharmacy to explore important issues around medication management for people with palliative care needs in the community and the role of community pharmacy.



Photo: Community Palliative Care Initiative Workshop (L - R) Nina Muscillo (CEC - Senior Manager Medication Safety), Uncle Allen Madden (Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council), Mrs Leslie Williams, MP (Parliamentary Secretary for Regional and Rural Health), Dr Harvey Lander (CEC - Director Systems Improvement)

Over 100 expert representatives shared their ideas and experiences from perspectives spanning community pharmacy, palliative care, public and private health services, community nursing, general practice, residential aged care, and academia. Consumer perspectives rounded out the consultation, with all committed to improving medication access for palliative care patients.

The consultation included key stakeholder interviews, two Sydney workshops and two telephone focus groups for regional/rural participants.

A report has been finalised from the consultation outcomes, and will soon be available on the CEC website. Its insights will be incorporated into phase 2 of the initiative, which began in July.

Noticeboard

MSQ Resources

High-Risk Medicines

- HETI Safe use of HYDRomorphone module. Visit [HETI online](#).

Continuity of Medication Management Program

- A new Medication Reconciliation Nursing & Midwifery Education Package. Available [here](#)

Antimicrobial Stewardship

- Presentations from the Second NSW Antimicrobial Stewardship Forum. Available [here](#)
- Leaflet for parents and carers
Making the switch: Changing from intravenous to oral antibiotics.
Available [here](#)

Links

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare

- User-applied Labelling of injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines Issues Register May 2018. Available [here](#)

For further information, go to www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au, or email us at CEC-Medicationsafety@health.nsw.gov.au

The High-Risk Medicines Program

The Intravenous Unfractionated Heparin Recommended Standard and the supporting 'frequently asked questions' documents is close to finalisation. The Standard is being developed to assist in IV UFH management in NSW Public Health facilities. The Guidelines for the perioperative management of anticoagulant and antiplatelet agents are also close to finalisation and are expected to be available in late 2018.

The High-Risk Medicines program is also working with the District Health and Education Training Institute (HETI) on a suite of High-Risk Medicines education resources. The Safe Use of Hydromorphone module has been completed and is now available on the HETI platform. The module will assist Local Health Districts and Speciality Health Networks meet High-Risk Medicines Management policy (PD2015_029) clinician hydromorphone education requirements. The development of the introduction to high-risk medicines resource is well underway and work has commenced on the anticoagulants resource. It is anticipated that a 'narcotic and other sedatives' resources will be developed in 2018.

Antimicrobial Stewardship

The CEC presented three posters at the Australian Society for Antimicrobials Conference in February 2018 addressing:

- aligning the NSW sepsis pathways with antimicrobial stewardship principles to improve patient care;
- the resources developed to prevent harm and confusion about gentamicin dosing and monitoring in paediatrics
- using a quality improvement approach to support timely, safe and appropriate switch from intravenous to oral antibiotics in children.

The CEC has been working collaboratively with a working party of surgeons, anaesthetists, infectious diseases physicians, nurses and pharmacists to develop a toolkit to support improved use of antibiotics for surgical prophylaxis.

This follows the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) accreditation advisory in November 2017, requiring all hospitals to monitor surgical antibiotic prophylaxis. ACSQHC determined that if surgical antibiotic prophylaxis is determined to be an area requiring focus and improvement, evidence of action taken in response to issues identified from monitoring must be demonstrated. The CEC's work will assist NSW hospitals with meeting this requirement.

The CEC is also partnering with two metropolitan hospitals and two regional hospitals in NSW to improve surgical antibiotic prophylaxis using Quality Improvement methodology. These hospitals will be testing the toolkit before it is made widely available.

VTE Prevention Program

In February the CEC participated in the launch of the electronic VTE risk assessment tool at Prince of Wales Hospital, which is the first hospital in NSW to introduce the tool following Blacktown Hospital's 2017 trial. Work is concurrently underway to enhance the tool's build and explore active alerting to improve reliable use of the tool.

The CEC continues to partner with NSW hospitals to pilot the Emergency Department (ED) Adult VTE risk assessment paper tool.

User-applied Labelling of Injectable, Medicines, Fluids and Lines

The ACSQHC has recently released a User-applied Labelling of injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines Issues Register in May 2018. The Labelling Standard Issues Register records implementation issues that cannot be answered by the Labelling Standard or related support materials. Labelling Standard implementation resources are also available on the ACSQHC webpage.

Continuity of Medication Management Program

In March a peer review article (Boughton, S., Roper, K. and Conaghan, P., 2018. Strategies to Prevent Medication Errors between acute care and primary care. *Medicine Today*, 19(3), 37-40) was published in *Medicine Today*. The article was co-authored by CEC Medication Safety and Quality Officers. It was published to promote medical engagement in the primary care setting and will be a helpful response to engage with the General Practice Visiting Medication Officers in rural and remote areas.

A new education package to support nurses and midwives in medication reconciliation processes is now available on the CEC website. The package provides face-to-face workshop materials that an Educator or Facilitator can adapt to their organisation, and will soon be linked into the HETI My Health Learning Platform.

The package, developed by the CEC in collaboration with NSW Health clinicians and HETI, responds to requests from rural and remote areas, often with limited pharmacist availability to lead medication reconciliation processes

The package complements the suite of resources already available on the CEC website that support the education of all clinicians in medication reconciliation processes, as part of the CEC mandate to promote and support improved clinical care, safety and quality across the NSW public health system.



Image: Medication Reconciliation Nursing & Midwifery Education Package

Thank you to the hospitals who participated in the 2017 Medication Reconciliation Nursing & Midwifery Education Package Pilot Study, including Cobar Health Service, Western NSW LHD, Forensic Cobar Hospital, Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network, Long Bay Hospital, Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network, MEHI Cluster, Hunter New England LHD and Milton Ulladulla Hospital, and Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD.

We are looking to develop some case studies about how the Medication Reconciliation Nursing & Midwifery resources are being rolled out across different organisations. To become involved you can call us on (02) 9269 5500 or email us at CEC-MedicationSafety@health.nsw.gov.au.

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