

MSQ CONNECT

ISSUE 9 | February 2019

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

We also welcome two wonderful new Medication Safety team members. Ms Thulasee Sri Ganeshan who was previously working as a clinical pharmacist in the St John of God Network and Maria Moran who previously worked as a clinical and research pharmacist at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney and as a tutor with the University of Sydney, School of Pharmacy. Maria and Thulasee are both supporting work of the Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Prevention Program.



Photo: New Medication Safety and Quality Team Members: Maria Moran (left) Thulasee Sri Ganeshan (right)

Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Initiative

The community pharmacy palliative care initiative aims to enhance palliative care services within NSW by supporting the role of community pharmacy in improving medication management for people with palliative care needs. Phase 1 of the initiative is now complete and the stakeholder report with recommendations can be found on the [Medication Safety and Quality webpage](#).

Recommendations from Phase 1 included establishing the need for a recommended core palliative medicines list and developing a standardised palliative care education package for community pharmacists. Both of these recommendations have progressed. A survey of NSW pharmacies has been completed and the CEC is partnering with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia to develop an online continuing professional development module.

Noticeboard

MSQ Resources

Antimicrobial Stewardship

- Surgical antibiotic prophylaxis improvement toolkit. Available [here](#)
- Slides from the CEC Antibiotic Awareness webinar series. Available [here](#)

Community Palliative Care Initiative

- NSW Community Palliative Care Initiative. Available [here](#)

High-Risk Medicines

- Guidelines on perioperative management of anticoagulant and antiplatelet agents. Available [here](#)
- Intravenous unfractionated heparin recommended standard. Available [here](#)
- My Health Learning Safe use of HYDROmorphine and Introduction to High-Risk Medicines and Introduction to High-Risk Medicines modules Visit: [My Health Learning](#)

VTE Prevention Program

- My Health Learning Electronic VTE risk assessment tool for adult inpatients module. Visit: [My Health Learning](#)

Links

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

Continuity of Medication Management Program

The Patient Friendly Medication List (PFML) subgroup, of the Continuity of Medication Management Expert Advisory Group (CMMEAG), has been meeting regularly to provide support and clinical advice regarding the progress and development of the PFML in Cerner eMeds, with plans to pilot in a NSW hospital in 2019. The CMMEAG met on 11 October and is exploring potential tools and resources to provide support for hospitals transitioning across to the second edition of the National Standards, which includes medication review. The last Medication Reconciliation Leads teleconference meeting for 2018 was held on 7 November with representatives from 10 districts and networks in attendance.

Antimicrobial Stewardship

Surgical antibiotic prophylaxis refers to the use of antibiotics to prevent infections that can occur following a surgical procedure. Unfortunately, over prescribing of antibiotics for prevention of surgical site infections is a continuing and prevalent issue in Australian hospitals (results of the 2017 Hospital National Antibiotic Prescribing Survey). A surgical antibiotic prophylaxis improvement toolkit was designed by an expert multidisciplinary group to help address over prescribing of antibiotics. The toolkit includes fact sheets and guides, Quality Improvement tools, and templates to assist in the improvement process across facilities. The toolkit is available on the [Antimicrobial Stewardship Webpage](#)

Antibiotic Awareness Week was celebrated globally during November. The CEC joined many others on Twitter to promote awareness and protect antibiotics. Slides from the CEC Antibiotic Awareness webinar series are available from [Antimicrobial Stewardship Webpage](#).



The VTE Prevention Program

The CEC has collaborated with eHealth NSW and the Health Education Training Institute (HETI) to produce an Electronic Venous VTE Risk Assessment training module. The module is designed to help clinicians understand and use the electronic VTE risk assessment tool in the Cerner electronic medical record (eMR) and includes important clinical considerations for performing risk assessments for VTE prevention in their patients. It is recommended for Local Health Districts (LHD) using the electronic tool. The module is available on [My Health Learning](#).

For LHDs and Specialty Health Networks (SHN) using the paper VTE Risk Assessment Tool, an updated version is available via Stream Solutions. A copy of the updated tool is available for viewing on the [VTE Prevention webpage](#).

The CEC is working with eHealth and representatives from LHDs to develop an electronic version of the Maternity VTE Risk Assessment Tool for use in the Cerner eMR.

The tool's development will be informed by the current Maternity VTE risk assessment tool and best practice guidelines.

The Emergency Department VTE Risk Assessment Tool is in its final stages of review and will be available in 2019. The tool was developed with support from the NSW VTE Expert Advisory Group and the CEC's VTE Prevention Program. It has undergone a multi-site pilot study with positive results and is pending a final review of the inclusion criteria and accompanying patient information leaflet.

The CEC, in collaboration with eHealth, has completed the Phase 1 evaluation of the electronic VTE risk assessment tool. The evaluation will be used to optimise the use of the tool.

The High-Risk Medicines Program

The Guidelines on the perioperative management of anticoagulant and antiplatelet agents and supporting documents have been finalised and are available on the [High-Risk Medicines Webpage](#). In addition, communication documents have been developed to assist with communicating the anticoagulant plan to patients and other health care professionals.

The Intravenous Unfractionated Heparin Recommended Standard and supporting 'frequently asked questions' document are now available on the [High-Risk Medicines webpage](#). The Recommended Standard was developed to assist in the standardisation of intravenous unfractionated heparin management in NSW Public Health facilities. It is not intended that clinicians use this Recommended Standard to guide therapy, but rather that the contents of the Recommended Standard should be included in local intravenous heparin protocols.

The High-Risk Medicines program is also working with HETI on a suite of High-Risk Medicines education resources. The Safe Use of Hydromorphone and Introduction to high-risk medicines modules have been completed and are now available on [My Health Learning](#). The modules will assist LHDs and SHNs meet High-Risk Medicines Management policy (PD2015_029) clinician education requirements. The development of the *Safe Use of Anticoagulants* module is well underway and will be available during 2019. It is anticipated that a safe use of opioids module will be developed next.

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