

Welcome to the 12th issue of CEC's Medication Safety and Quality Program newsletter.

In this issue, Infection Prevention and Control COVID-19 resources, medication shortages and medication safety.



Infection Prevention and Control COVID-19 Resources

In NSW, the CEC has a role in responding to the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic under the NSW Influenza Pandemic Plan. The CEC is providing state-wide strategies, infection prevention and control advice and developing state-wide [resources](#) to assist health services and clinicians with infection prevention and control and ensuring patient and staff safety.

The CEC have developed [information for clinicians on safe handling of medications during COVID-19 pandemic](#). This document is intended to be used to create local guidelines for the safe handling of medications (including patient's own medications) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In collaboration with the NSW Antimicrobial Stewardship Expert Advisory Committee, the CEC has developed [factsheets](#) on use of hydroxychloroquine and lopinavir-ritonavir in COVID-19 Clinical Trials. The factsheets have been developed for use by clinicians and pharmacists and provide information on contraindications and precautions to the use of these agents, potential drug-drug interactions and suggestions on the appropriate monitoring.



Medication Shortages

The CEC is releasing a weekly [medication shortage update](#) that provides an overview of current supply issues for health professionals in NSW public health organisations. [Medication shortage communications](#) have also been released for several medications. The CEC is also working with the TGA and other key stakeholders as part of the Medicines Shortage Working Party to manage medication supply on a national level.



Medication Safety

The revised paper-based NSW Maternal VTE Risk Assessment Tool is now available for order and supporting education material is available on the [CEC webpage](#). The electronic version of this tool is also available as part of the Managing Deterioration V4 Package for the Cerner eMR.

Phase 1 (non-live environment) of the eMeds Patient Friendly Medication List pilot is complete. The CEC's evaluation report is being finalised. Phase 2 and 3 have been placed on hold with the current COVID-19 pandemic and will be recommenced as soon as practicable.

The 'Managing side effects of opioid medicines in hospital' leaflet was developed to assist NSW Health clinicians educate patients in hospital, their families and carers, on the side effects of opioids medicines. This leaflet is now available in [seven languages](#).

The CEC's website has undergone a refresh to make it easier to navigate. If you have any problems finding what you need or have feedback, contact cec-communications@health.nsw.gov.au

Noticeboard

Infection Prevention and Control COVID-19

Guidance for health professionals, including standard and transmission based precautions and education and training resources. [Available here](#)

Medication Safety

High-Risk Medicines Management policy
Hydromorphone Standard Implementation checklist.
[Available here](#)

Managing side effects of opioid medicines in hospital leaflet (translated into seven languages). [Available here](#)

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