

MONTHLY MEDICATION SAFETY UPDATE

Information for health professionals in NSW public health organisations

This is a summary of medication safety and supply related issues affecting NSW public health facilities in **August 2023**. Updates regarding current medication-specific safety and supply related issues are available on the [CEC website](#).

Medication safety issues under investigation

- **Medication Safety Communication** in progress for the following disruptions to supply (for release early September):
 - methylprednisolone sodium succinate
 - Pentavite® infant multivitamin liquid
 - salbutamol 2.5 mg/2.5 mL nebulas.
- **Misoprostol** – safety assessment given availability of multiple strengths.
- Safe prescribing of medicines for administration via **syringe driver**.
- Strategies to ensure appropriate administration of **long-acting antipsychotic agents** via intramuscular injection.

Relevant clinician information to note

- Statewide consultation regarding revised High-Risk Medicines Management Policy Directive and associated Standards has been extended until 5pm on Monday 25 September 2023 – ‘Have your say’ [here](#).
- TGA updates:
 - Morphine (Ordine) [discontinuation](#) – further information [here](#)
 - GlucaGen HypoKit (glucagon) [shortage](#)
 - Vigabatrin (Sabril) [shortage](#)
 - Tenecteplase (Metalyse) [shortage extension](#)
 - Somatropin products [shortage](#)
 - Cefalexin [shortage](#) and [SSSI](#) update
 - [Safety advisory](#): medicines containing turmeric or curcumin – risk of liver injury
 - COVID-19 vaccine [safety report](#)
 - [PI safety updates](#) – July 2023
 - [New reporting requirements for shortages](#)
 - [Import, advertising and supply compliance priorities for 2023-24](#)

Current projects with eHealthNSW

- Continued collaboration on the VTE Prevention eMR project, working towards a pilot beginning in November this year.
- Continued collaboration on the NSW Medicines Formulary online platform.

Medication Safety and Supply Summary

28	SAFETY/SUPPLY ISSUES REQUIRING INVESTIGATION BY THE MEDICATION SAFETY TEAM
11	WERE REPORTED TO THE FRONTLINE DUE TO SAFETY RISKS REQUIRING LOCAL MITIGATION
5	RESULTED IN FORMAL SAFETY COMMUNICATION
16	PREVIOUS ISSUES WERE RESOLVED ON CEC ONLINE PORTAL

Safety Alerts/Notices/Information released

SN:020/23 [Disruption to supply - Glucagon 1 mg \(GlucaGen® Hypokit®\)](#) – 10 August 2023

SN:023/23 [Disruption to supply – Lidocaine \(lignocaine\) 1% \(50 mg/5 mL\) and 2% \(100 mg/5 mL\) solution for injection \(Pfizer and Baxter\)](#) – 23 August 2023

SI:010/23 [Optimisation of elastomeric infusion devices](#) – 29 August 2023

Medication Safety Communications released

[Barium sulfate oral suspension products](#) – 22 August 2023 (UPDATED)

[Fludarabine phosphate 50 mg injection](#) – 31 August 2023

Medications reported on online portal this month

[Antacid suspensions, antiseptics – various, barium sulfate oral suspension products, cefalexin oral liquid, entecavir, labetalol, lidocaine \(lignocaine\) 50 mg/5 mL and 100 mg/5 mL solution for injection, lisdexamfetamine, Ryzodeg 70/30 FlexTouch, vigabatrin](#)

Contact us

If you need support or assistance with medication safety matters in your facility, please email us CEC-MedicationSafety@health.nsw.gov.au.