

# 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 **February 2024**. Updates regarding current medication-specific safety and supply related issues are available on the [CEC website](#).

### Medication safety issues under investigation

- Disruption to the supply of IV paracetamol – [Safety Alert](#) released 1 March 2024.

### Relevant clinician information to note

- [TGA Consultation](#): Medicine shortages in Australia – Challenges and opportunities. Closes 12 March 2024.
- TGA updates:
  - Zactin Tabs (fluoxetine 20mg dispersible tablets) – [shortage extension](#)
  - Gliclazide modified release 30 mg tablets – [shortage update](#) and approved [Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument \(SSSI\)](#)
  - Ordine (morphine) oral liquid – [shortage update and transfer of sponsorship](#)
  - Medicines containing Withania somnifera (Withania, Ashwagandha) – [Safety advisory](#)
  - [Product Information safety updates – February 2024](#)
  - Special Access Scheme (SAS) online system guidance – available [here](#)

### Current projects with eHealthNSW

- An Individual Patient Use (IPU) electronic solution will be incorporated into the NSW Medicines Formulary (Formulary) Online Platform. The inclusion of the IPU functionality will mark the final key component of the Online Platform and complement the Search and View, Formulary Submission and Admin User Interface functionalities. It is anticipated that the IPU solution will be available in late 2024.
- The VTE Prevention eMR solution pilot continues in WS/NMBLHD. The preliminary report has been completed and has reported no harm associated with the product. The final report will be written at the conclusion of the pilot in April 2024. The CEC are supportive of the solution and its broader availability for state-wide implementation.

### Medication Safety and Supply Summary

22	SAFETY/SUPPLY ISSUES REQUIRING INVESTIGATION BY THE MEDICATION SAFETY TEAM
10	WERE REPORTED TO THE FRONTLINE DUE TO SAFETY RISK REQUIRING LOCAL MITIGATION
1	RESULTED IN FORMAL SAFETY COMMUNICATION
14	PREVIOUS ISSUES RESOLVED ON CEC ONLINE PORTAL

### Safety Alerts/Notices/Information released

SI:001/24 [Fluid therapy and medicine dosing in adult patients who have a low body weight](#)  
- 6 February 2024

### Medication Safety Communications released

Nil

### Medications reported on online portal this month

[Betamethasone \(as acetate and sodium phosphate\) injection, fluoxetine dispersible tablets, imipenem plus cilastatin injections, itraconazole, lisdexamphetamine, Mixtard insulin, multiple nuclear medicine therapies, octreotide, sotalol](#)

### Contact us:

If you need support or assistance with medication safety matters in your facility, please email us:

[CEC-MedicationSafety@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:CEC-MedicationSafety@health.nsw.gov.au).