

# MONTHLY MEDICATION SAFETY UPDATE – July 2021

Information for health professionals in NSW public health organisations

Updates regarding current medication-specific safety and supply related issues are available via [the online portal](#) on the CEC website. Subscribe [HERE](#) to receive an email when there is new/updated information. This is a summary of medication safety and supply related issues affecting NSW public health facilities in July 2021.

## Medication safety issues under investigation

Ongoing work with HealthShare NSW and Clinical Communities of Practice regarding disease-modifying treatments for COVID-19 recommended by the [Australian National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce](#)

## Safety Alerts/Notices/Information released

[Safety Information 007/21 – Safe use of medications with multiple concentrations in Electronic Medication Management \(EMM\) systems](#) – 9 July 2021

## Medication Safety Communications released

[Access to tocilizumab \(Actemra®\) injection for NSW Health Facilities for COVID-19 patients ONLY](#) – 19 July 2021

## Medication Safety and Supply Summary

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 51 | SUPPLY ISSUES MADE APPARENT TO CEC   |
| 16 | OF THESE REQUIRED FURTHER INVESTIGATION DUE TO POTENTIAL SAFETY CONCERNS       |
| 10 | WERE REPORTED TO FRONTLINE STAFF DUE TO SAFETY RISK REQUIRING LOCAL MITIGATION |
| 2  | RESULTED IN FORMAL SAFETY COMMUNICATION  |
| 2  | PREVIOUS ISSUES RESOLVED ON CEC ONLINE PORTAL                                  |

## Current projects with eHealth NSW

- *Revised electronic VTE risk assessment tool for adult inpatients* – the build files have been released by the PowerChart Application Advisory Group for state-wide use. Contact [CEC-StopClots@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:CEC-StopClots@health.nsw.gov.au) for change management resources.

- *VTE Prevention Pre-Design Working Group* – Led by eHealth NSW and supported by the CEC, this group has undertaken a six-week discovery exercise with clinicians across the state to understand the ideal requirements for a VTE prevention solution that is clinically appropriate, user-friendly and integrates seamlessly into prescriber workflow. eHealth will create a report with findings and recommendations to inform future work.

- *Antimicrobial Stewardship Design Working Group* – reviewing the AMS mPage solution and adapting the Gentamicin Dosage Advisor for the paediatric population.

- *Patient Friendly Medication List* – assisting LHDs with implementation.

Medications reported on online portal this month –

[Quinine dihydrochloride](#), [labetalol](#), [tocilizumab](#), [lignocaine](#), [atracurium](#), [promethazine](#), [flucytosine](#), [etacrynic acid](#), [nitrofurantoin](#), [azathioprine](#)

## Relevant clinician information to note

TGA information

- [COVID-19 vaccine weekly safety report – 29 July 2021](#)
- [Shortages of tocilizumab \(Actemra\) medicines](#)
- [Bupropion and serotonin syndrome](#)
- [Methylphenidate - use in pregnancy](#)
- [Nifedipine and pulmonary oedema when used in pregnancy](#)
- [Parenteral iron products and foetal bradycardia/Kounis syndrome](#)
- [Ocrelizumab and late onset neutropenia](#)
- [Philips recall action for CPAP, Bi-Level PAP devices and mechanical ventilators](#)
- [Recall: Neutrogena Ultra Sheer Body Mist Sunscreen Spray SPF 50+ \(aerosol sunscreen\) possible presence of benzene](#)

Other information

- [National Standard for Labelling Dispensed Medicines](#)
- [Practice-changing updates in eTG complete in July 2021.](#)
- [Pregnant women and COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [Weighing up the potential benefits against risk of harm from COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine clinical consideration updates](#)