

MONTHLY MEDICATION SAFETY UPDATE – September 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 September 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 Notice 020/21 - [Remdesivir 100mg injection – disruption to supply](#) – 9 September 2021

Safety Notice 021/21 - [Safety risks due to new labelling on the outer carton packaging of intravenous potassium chloride ampoules](#) – 10 September 2021

Safety Notice 022/21 - [Preparation of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines](#) – 17 September 2021

Medication Safety Communications released

[Cisatracurium Medication Safety Communication](#) – 10 September 2021

Medication Safety and Supply Summary

74	SUPPLY ISSUES MADE APPARENT TO CEC
15	OF THESE REQUIRED FURTHER INVESTIGATION DUE TO POTENTIAL SAFETY CONCERNS
8	WERE REPORTED TO FRONTLINE STAFF DUE TO SAFETY RISK REQUIRING LOCAL MITIGATION
4	RESULTED IN FORMAL SAFETY COMMUNICATION
2	PREVIOUS ISSUES RESOLVED ON CEC ONLINE PORTAL

Current projects with eHealth NSW

- *Maternal VTE Risk Assessment Tool for Cerner eMR* – After investigation and correction of errors identified in June, the Maternal VTE Risk Assessment Tool will shortly be reinstated for use. CEC, eHealth NSW and Maternal VTE Expert Group have undertaken extensive testing and are satisfied that the tool is now working correctly. A memo will be released once the updated tool files are available for download from the eMR Connect & Service Delivery Hub.
- *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 –

[Cisatracurium](#), [potassium chloride](#), [heparin](#), [hydromorphone](#), [acyclovir](#), [furosemide](#), [fluoxetine](#)

Relevant clinician information to note

TGA information

- [COVID-19 vaccine weekly safety report – 23 September 2021](#)
- [Shortage of tocilizumab \(Actemra\)](#)
- [Joint statement: Supply allocations of intravenous tocilizumab \(Actemra\) during serious shortage](#)
- [Supplementary advice: tocilizumab shortages: Guidance on clinical trials for institutions, HRECs, researchers, and sponsors](#)
- [Erenumab and hypertension](#)

Other information

- [ATAGI clinical guidance on use of COVID-19 vaccine in Australia in 2021 \(v7.2 – updated 9 September 2021\)](#)
- [ATAGI statement about the need for additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [ATAGI recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in all young adolescents in Australia](#)
- [Agency for Clinical Innovation COVID-19 Critical Intelligence Unit – Living evidence COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [Practice changing updates eTG complete - September 2021](#)