

# 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 **September 2023**. 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 morphine hydrochloride (Ordine) oral solution – **Safety Notice** being finalised.
- Fluid therapy and medicine dosing in adult patients who have low body weight – **Safety Information** being prepared.
- Discontinuation of **Neupogen** – safety assessment of biosimilar products being undertaken in collaboration with the ACI BMT+CT Network.
- **Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC)** Guidelines due for release in October 2023.

### Relevant clinician information to note

- Newly released consensus guideline – [Remdesivir and nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir in renal impairment](#).
- TGA updates:
  - Semaglutide (Ozempic) shortage – [updated advice to prescribers](#)
  - Vigabatrin (Sabril) shortage – a [Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument \(SSSI\)](#) has been issued
  - GlucaGen HypoKit – [shortage extension](#)
  - Choline salicylate – [changes to access](#)
  - Sports supplements – [changes to regulations](#)
  - Injectable medicines administered by health professionals – [Product Information inserts no longer required](#)
  - [Product Information safety updates - September](#)
  - [COVID-19 vaccine safety report](#).

### Current projects with eHealth NSW

- Continued collaboration on the VTE Prevention eMR project, working towards a pilot beginning in November 2023.
- Continued collaboration on the NSW Medicines Formulary online platform, with aim to release Admin User Interface functionality in November 2023. This will enable agile management of formulary listing data sets by the NSW Medicines Formulary Committee Secretariat.

#### 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).

### Medication Safety and Supply Summary

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

### Safety Alerts/Notices/Information released

SN:025/23 [Updated - Medication management in patients with Parkinson Disease](#) – 7 September 2023

SN:026/23 [Vigilance required: Increase in listeriosis cases in NSW](#) – 8 September 2023

SN:027/23 [Disruption to supply – tenecteplase \(Metalyse®\) and alteplase \(Actilyse®\) injection](#) – 13 September 2023

SA:008/23 [Updated: Clinician Alert - Invasive group A streptococcal disease](#) – 15 September 2023

### Medication Safety Communications released

[Multivitamin liquid for infants \(Pentavite®\)](#)  
– 4 September 2023

[Salbutamol 2.5 mg/2.5 mL inhalation ampoules](#)  
– 6 September 2023

[UPDATED: Fludarabine phosphate 50 mg injection](#)  
– 13 September 2023

[Methylprednisolone sodium succinate \(Solu-Medrol Act-O-Vial\)](#)  
– 15 September 2023

### Medications reported on online portal this month

[Amoxicillin, ampicillin, entecavir, esmolol hydrochloride powder for injection, fludarabine phosphate, glucagon \(GlucaGen\) HypoKit, lithium SR tablets, methylprednisolone sodium succinate injection, metronidazole \(Fresenius Kabi\) 500 mg/100 mL bottles, mianserin, multivitamin liquid for infants \(Pentavite\), salbutamol solution for inhalation, semaglutide, tenecteplase, vigabatrin](#)

