

# 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 **November 2023**. Updates regarding current medication-specific safety and supply related issues are available on the [CEC website](#).

### Medication safety issues under investigation

- Update to [SI:010/23 – Optimisation of elastomeric infusion devices](#) – new information about infusion device available from Nipro/Slade.
- Safe use of magnesium sulfate in obstetric and maternity settings – **Safety Notice** being prepared.
- Possible contamination of sodium chloride products – **Safety Notice** released [1 December 2023](#).
- Disruption to supply of benzathine benzylpenicillin (Bicillin L-A) – **Safety Notice** released [1 December 2023](#).

### Relevant clinician information to note

- TGA updates:
  - Sodium chloride contamination – [safety alert](#) and [recall of Interpharma Sodium Chloride 0.9% 30 mL ampoules](#)
  - Cefalexin shortage – extension to the [Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument \(SSSI\)](#)
  - Fluoxetine 20 mg dispersible tablets (Zactin Tabs) – [shortage and safety advisory](#)
  - Mounjaro (tirzepatide) injections – [shortage](#)
  - Duloxetine – [safety advisory](#)
  - APOHEALTH Paracetamol Pain Relief – [safety advisory](#)
  - COVID-19 vaccine – final [safety report](#)
  - BioCeuticals Zinc Drops – [recall](#)
  - Haytox – [warnings on supply and advertising](#)
  - [Product Information safety updates – November 2023](#)
  - [Update to listed medicine ingredients in October 2023](#)

### Current projects with eHealthNSW

- Continued collaboration on the VTE Prevention eMR project, which is currently being piloted in WSLHD and NBMLHD sites.
- Continued collaboration on the NSW Medicines Formulary online platform. The Admin User Interface functionality has now been released and enables agile management of formulary listing data sets. Reporting functionality is scheduled for release in December 2023 and will enable end users to download a live extract of the Formulary.

#### 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
25	WERE REPORTED TO THE FRONTLINE DUE TO SAFETY RISK REQUIRING LOCAL MITIGATION
6	RESULTED IN FORMAL SAFETY COMMUNICATION
6	PREVIOUS ISSUES RESOLVED ON CEC ONLINE PORTAL

### Safety Alerts/Notices/Information released

SI:011/23 [Updated: Composition of counterfeit alprazolam in NSW](#) –

3 November 2023 (supersedes SI:006/22)

SN:031/23 [Cases of harm linked to strong opioids \(nitazenes\) in refillable vape \(e-cigarette\)](#) –  
7 November 2023

SN:032/23 [Disruption to supply – Intravenous \(IV\) paracetamol solution for injection/infusion](#) –  
10 November 2023

SN:034/23 [Disruption to supply – Olanzapine long-acting injection \(Zyprexa Relprevv\)](#) –  
24 November 2023

SI:013/23 [Risk forecast for encephalitic flaviviruses \(JEV, MVEV, KUNV\) and JEV vaccination eligibility update](#) –  
29 November 2023

### Medication Safety Communications released

[Filgrastim \(Neupogen®\) injection products](#) –  
9 November 2023

### Medications reported on online portal this month

[Aciclovir injections, ampicillin, cefalexin oral liquid, dexamethasone, dobutamine hydrochloride 250 mg/20 mL, eprosartan, esmolol hydrochloride powder for injection, filgrastim, fluoxetine dispersible tablets, gastrografin, methylprednisolone sodium succinate injection, Mixtard 50/50 penfill, olanzapine depot injections, paracetamol solution for injection, pentamidine, rifampicin, suxamethonium chloride 100 mg/2 mL, trimethoprim plus sulfamethoxazole oral liquid, valganciclovir.](#)