

# MSQ CONNECT

ISSUE 7  
December 2017

Welcome to the seventh issue of our Medication Safety and Quality Program Newsletter, 'MSQ Connect'. In this issue, we report on medication safety team activity including the Continuity of Medication Management (CMM) Program, Antimicrobial Stewardship, High-Risk Medicines Program, VTE Prevention Program and the Medication Safety Self-Assessment. Selina Boughton has re-joined the team after returning from maternity leave and Catherine Rosario from NSLHD has also recently joined the team. Lillian George and Kate Roper are currently on maternity leave.



Photo: Medication Safety and Quality Team: (L- R) Evette Buono, Selvana Awad, Fiona Bailey, Patricia Conaghan, Dr Harvey Lander (Director - Systems Improvement) Lolita Tu, Nina Muscillo (Senior Manager Medication Safety), Kate Roper and Lillian George.

The MSQ Team hosted a combined CMM and VTE prevention forum in September. The theme of the day was 'Making It Happen' and featured a number of presentations on how organisations have made improvement 'happen' in the areas of Med Rec and VTE Prevention. It was a great opportunity to share learnings, support networking and collaboration, and stimulate innovation.

The MSQ Team, together with the CEC Adult Patient Safety Team, is leading a 'Falls Collaborative' over the course of the next year, working with clinical teams across the state to reduce falls in hospitals.



Photo: Making it Happen Forum

## High-Risk Medicines Program

The NOAC Guidelines, Updated July 2017 and point-of-care documents were released on the High-Risk Medicines webpage in September 2017. The Guidelines for the perioperative management of anticoagulant and antiplatelet agents are close to finalisation. It is anticipated that the guidelines will be available in early 2018. Along with subject matter experts, the High-Risk Medicines program has commenced work with the District Health and Education Training Institute (HETI) on a suite of High-Risk Medicines education resources. The development of the introduction to high-risk medicines and the hydromorphone education resource is underway. It is anticipated that anticoagulant and narcotic and other sedatives resources will be developed in 2018.

## Noticeboard

### MSQ Resources

#### Antimicrobial Stewardship

- Presentations from the Second NSW Antimicrobial Stewardship Forum are now available from [www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/medication-safety/antimicrobial-stewardship/quah/ams-forum-2017](http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/medication-safety/antimicrobial-stewardship/quah/ams-forum-2017)
- Leaflet for parents and carers [Making the switch: Changing from intravenous to oral antibiotics](#)

#### Paediatric Medication Safety

- Safe Gentamicin Prescribing in Paediatrics: Taking the Confusion & Harm Out Of Gentamicin Dosing & Monitoring resources are available from [www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/paediatric-patient-safety/pqp-medication-safety](http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/paediatric-patient-safety/pqp-medication-safety)
- [Gentamicin Prescribing in NSW YouTube video](#)
- [Rule of 2s Medication Errors in Children YouTube video](#)

#### High-Risk Medicines

- CEC NOAC Guidelines, Updated July 2017 are available from <http://cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/medication-safety/high-risk-medicines>

#### VTE Prevention

- Maternity VTE Risk Assessment resources are available from [www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/adult-patient-safety/vte-prevention/maternity](http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/adult-patient-safety/vte-prevention/maternity)

#### Links

##### Medication Safety Self Assessment

- Medication Safety Self Assessment® for Australian Hospitals (2015) [www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/medication-safety/mssa](http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/medication-safety/mssa)

## Continuity of Medication Management

The Education Package to support nurses in undertaking medication reconciliation tasks has been finalised and will be available on the CEC CMM webpage in early 2018. It is designed to be used in conjunction with facility-led implementation of standardised medication reconciliation processes and should be adapted where appropriate to suit the local context. The CMM program would like to thank all of the Education Package pilot sites for their participation and feedback. The development, piloting and evaluation of the Package was presented at the NSW Rural Health & Research Congress in Wagga Wagga.



Photo: Kate Roper at the 2017 NSW Rural Health & Research Congress

The program, together with other subject matter experts, has completed work with HETI on rebuilding the CMM modules. The finalised module is now available through HETI My Health Learning.

## VTE Prevention Program

The CEC is currently supporting sites with the implementation of the Electronic VTE Risk Assessment Tool in local Electronic Medical Records (eMR2). An eLearning module to support training requirements is also under development. Further work is being done to explore more active prompting mechanisms and linkage to electronic prescribing.

To support the implementation of the NSW Maternity VTE Risk Assessment Tool which was released in June 2017, a state-wide webinar on the tool and supporting resources was held in August in collaboration with the NSW Pregnancy and Newborn Services Network. These resources can be accessed via the CEC webpage.

## Antimicrobial Stewardship

The CEC hosted the second NSW Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Forum in August. The event was attended by 118 delegates representing pharmacists, doctors, nurses and quality and safety professionals from public hospitals across NSW; with good representation from rural, regional and metropolitan facilities. The day was a fantastic opportunity for networking and collaboration.



Photo: Ms Susannah Ford presenting at the Antimicrobial Stewardship Forum

The CEC partnered with Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick to develop a leaflet for parents and carers. This publication is designed to facilitate the discussion about switching from intravenous to oral antibiotic therapy, promote shared decision making, and inform what parents/carers need to know before taking their child home.

The MSQ team have collaborated with CEC Paediatric Patient Safety to develop resources to assist with the safe prescribing of gentamicin in the paediatric patient population. This includes a fact sheet which provides drug dosing and therapeutic drug monitoring information and two short animation videos to engage and provide the audience with a clear and memorable message in safe medication practices. It is recommended that clinicians caring for children utilise this to improve gentamicin prescribing and dose monitoring in NSW.

If you would like more information or to provide any feedback on this newsletter, please email the CEC Medication Safety and Quality team: [cec-medicationsafety@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cec-medicationsafety@health.nsw.gov.au)  
For further information on the Medication Safety and Quality Program visit: [www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au)

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