

Welcome to the tenth issue of CEC's Medication Safety and Quality Program newsletter.

In this issue

- Updates on paediatric medication safety
- High-Risk Medicines Management
- VTE Prevention,
- Continuity of Medication Management and
- Antimicrobial Stewardship and
- Community Pharmacy Palliative Care



The NPS Be Medicinewise week is from 19 – 25 August. The theme this year is 'Get to know the language of medicines' which is about knowing how to communicate and learn about medicines to get the most out of them, as well as recognising that this is

important for both English and non-English speaking communities. Visit the [NPS website](#) for further information. The CEC has a range of medication related information leaflets for patients, families and carers that have been translated into other languages. Please see the noticeboard opposite for further information.

Paediatric medication safety

In collaboration with the MSQ team, the CEC Paediatric Patient Safety team have released Edition 3/19 of the Paediatric Safety Watch titled 'Taking the confusion out of adrenaline'. Please contact your local Clinical Governance Unit to obtain a copy.

Noticeboard

Antimicrobial Stewardship

- New - [Third NSW Antimicrobial Stewardship Forum presentations](#).
- Information for patient, family and carers - Changing from intravenous to oral antibiotics. [Available in 8 languages](#)
- Information for patient, family and carers - Receiving antibiotics in hospital. [Available in 7 languages](#)

Community Palliative Care Initiative

- New - [PSA Palliative Care Essential CPE](#) (open to non-members)

High-Risk Medicines

- New - Information for patients, families and carers – Managing side-effects of opioid medicines in hospital. [Available here](#)
- New - My Health Learning Safe use of Anticoagulants module. [My Health Learning](#)
- Anticoagulant (apixaban, dabigatran and rivaroxaban) information for patient, family and carers. [Available here \(in 7 languages\)](#)
- New – Safe Administration of Medication Pen Devices: Information for Health Care Providers. [Available here](#)

VTE Prevention Program

- New - VTE Prevention, Information for women and their families. [Available here \(in 7 languages\)](#)
- Preventing Blood Clots: Information for Patients and Families. [Available here \(in 8 languages\)](#)

Links

For further information, go to www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au, or email us at CEC-Medicationsafety@health.nsw.gov.au



High-Risk Medicines Management

The CEC continues to work with the Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) on a suite of High-Risk Medicines education resources. The Safe Use of Anticoagulants module is completed and is now available on [My Health Learning](#). The 'Safe Use of Opioids' module is nearing completion and will be available soon.

An information leaflet for patients, families and carers on managing side effects of opioid medicines in hospital is available on the [High-Risk Medicines webpage](#). This document has been developed to assist health care professionals educate patients in hospital, their families and carers, on the side-effects of opioid medicines including who they should notify if serious side effects are experienced. The document includes a 'fillable PDF' section that can be updated with the facilities patient escalation service (for example REACH) telephone number. For further information regarding patient escalation services, contact your Clinical Governance Unit or visit the CEC [REACH Patient, family and carer escalation webpage](#).



The VTE Prevention Program

The Maternal VTE Risk Assessment Tool has been revised in collaboration with midwifery, obstetric and haematology experts to align with new evidence. The revised tool will be available soon through Stream Solutions.

The Preventing Blood Clots in Pregnancy and After Birth, Information for Women & Their Families leaflet has been translated into 7 languages. They can be downloaded from the [VTE webpage](#). The CEC is working with eHealth to develop an electronic version of the Maternal VTE Risk Assessment Tool for use in the Cerner eMR.

The CEC has met with lead clinicians from the Emergency Care Institute to discuss the most appropriate solution for VTE risk assessment for patients in Emergency Departments. While it was decided not to release a paper based VTE assessment tool, there was agreement that the clinical expertise which generated the paper version should be used to inform an electronic solution.



Continuity of Medication Management Program

Prince of Wales Hospital has been confirmed as a pilot site for the Cerner eMeds Patient Friendly Medication List solution. The CEC, POW and eHealth NSW have collaborated to develop an evaluation plan for the pilot. The non-production phase of the pilot is anticipated to commence in September 2019.

In consultation with the CEC NSW Medication Review Subgroup, a draft Medication Review Guide has been developed which includes an overview of medication review as well as practical information for health services and clinicians on what, why, and how. It includes examples of the different types of medication review. The Subgroup have also identified key risk factors which will help risk stratify patients for medication review.



Antimicrobial Stewardship

In June the CEC hosted the Third NSW Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Forum. The event was attended by 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 successful, with strongly positive reviews of sessions and speakers, and it was a fantastic opportunity for networking and collaboration. Sessions on antibiotic allergies, social influence of AMS, and AMS in surgery were very popular. Presentations from the Third NSW Antimicrobial Stewardship Forum are available on the [Antimicrobial Stewardship webpage](#).



Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Initiative

The community pharmacy palliative care initiative ended on the 30 June 2019. The outcomes of the initiative included:

- [Phase 1 Consultation Report](#)
- [PSA Palliative Care Essential CPE](#) (open to non-members) launched at the Annual Therapeutic Update on the 22 March 2019
- [Promotion of the NSW PEPA program](#)
- Core Palliative Care Medicines List for NSW Community Pharmacy (publication date to be confirmed).