

MSQ CONNECT

ISSUE 4
April 2016

Welcome to the fourth issue of our Medication Safety and Quality Program Newsletter, 'MSQ Connect'. In this issue, we provide an update on the 2015 Medication Safety Self Assessment (MSSA) and updating of medicine names to align with international usage.

We are pleased to welcome Selina Boughton. Selina is the acting lead for the Continuity of Medication Management Program. She is an experienced Hospital Pharmacist with a keen interest in medication reconciliation and electronic medication management.

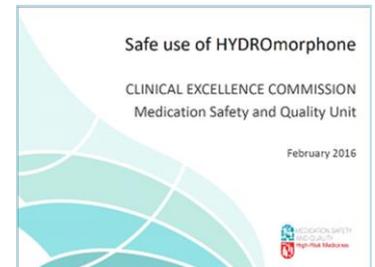
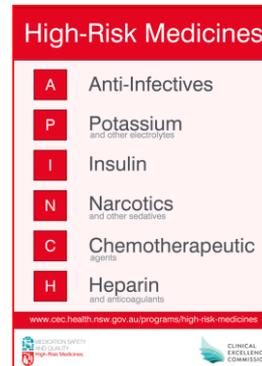


Photo: CEC Medication Safety & Quality team – (from left) Selina Boughton, Fiona Bailey, Selvana Awad, Dr Harvey Lander (Director), Nina Muscillo (Manager), Lillian George

High-Risk Medicines Program

The current focus of our High-Risk Medicines program is anticoagulant medicines. Statewide NOAC anticoagulant guidelines have been developed in conjunction with an Anticoagulant Medicines Working Party. The Guidelines and supporting documents including point-of-care guideline summaries and NOAC patient/ carer information will be available soon on the High-Risk medicines webpage.

An updated High-Risk Medicines webpage is now available on the CEC website. New high-risk medicine resources including a poster and PowerPoint presentations are available for download. There is a Non-vitamin-K antagonist anticoagulant (NOAC) PowerPoint available which can be used to provide clinicians with rudimentary education and highlight awareness of NOACs. Failure to recognise NOACs as anticoagulants has led to incidents associated with their use. A Hydromorphone Safety PowerPoint is also available which can be used to provide education to clinicians on strategies to improve safe handling of hydromorphone.



Examples of high-risk medicine resources available for download

Noticeboard

Links

National Standard for User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines
Visit: www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/safer-naming-labelling-and-packaging-of-medicines/user-applied-labelling/

Therapeutic Goods Administration - Updating of Medicine Names
Visit: www.tga.gov.au/updating-medicine-ingredient-names

New MSQ Resources

High-Risk Medicines webpage

Visit: www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/programs/high-risk-medicines

- High-Risk Medicine poster
- Hydromorphone Safety PowerPoint presentation
- Non-vitamin-K antagonist oral anticoagulant (NOAC) PowerPoint presentation
- High-Risk Medicine Management Policy Directive Implementation Checklists

Medication Safety Self Assessment

- Medication Safety Self Assessment® for Australian Hospitals (2015)
Visit: www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/programs/mssa/mssa-australian-hospitals#navigation

Events

NPS MedicineWise National Medicines Symposium 19-20 May
Visit: www.nps.org.au/about-us/what-we-do/campaigns-events/national-medicines-symposium

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

For further information on the Medication Safety and Quality Program visit: www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/programs/medication-safety

2015 Medication Safety Self Assessment (MSSA)

The 2015 version of the Medication Safety Self Assessment (MSSA) for Australian Hospitals was released in December 2015. Over 100 hospitals from across the country have already obtained access to the 2015 version. The MSSA is a useful diagnostic tool for assessing and improving medication safety systems and practices. It allows hospitals to systematically pinpoint specific areas of weakness in their medication management systems and implement improvement efforts accordingly.

The new MSSA is divided into 10 key elements and 302 self-assessment items that can significantly influence safe medication use. Their value in reducing errors is grounded in scientific research and/ or expert analysis of medication errors and their causes.

A new account is required to access the online database for the new version of the MSSA. To create an account, please contact the CEC by emailing CEC-MSSA@health.nsw.gov.au. Hospitals are encouraged to submit data to the 2015 MSSA online database during 2016 to participate in establishing a national baseline for the comparison of future results. Data submitted to the 2007 MSSA can be viewed in a read-only format via the 2007 MSSA online database portal.



VTE Prevention Program

The VTE Prevention Program team is continuing to work with LHDs and Speciality Health Networks (SHNs) to raise awareness of VTE and develop a standardised means of preventing hospital-associated VTE across NSW. Program Leads representing all LHDs and SHNs have been invited to participate in regular teleconferences to provide a platform for sharing and collaboration across sites. The CEC is currently focusing on a number of aspects, including finalising the Maternity VTE Risk Assessment Tool which has been piloted and awaiting wider consultation; commencing pilot of a dedicated Emergency Department VTE Risk Assessment Tool for patients discharged with lower leg immobilisation; and collaborative review of the Adult Inpatient VTE Risk Assessment Tool.

Continuity of Medication Management Program

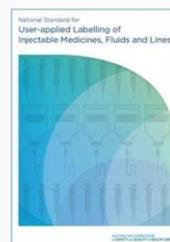
The CEC has been supporting Medication Reconciliation LHD and SHN leads through regular teleconference meetings, creating an online HSNet Group, site visits, a feedback survey, and collaborating with NSW eHealth to progress development of a patient friendly medication list within the eMM systems. Future plans include utilising the Quality Audit Reporting System (QARS) to centralise statewide data collection of snapshot audits assessing Medication Reconciliation processes, developing education and training materials to support nursing and midwifery staff and exploring patient and carer engagement. Recent site visits included Blacktown Hospital (February) and Long Bay Hospital (March), with a future site visit scheduled for Wagga Wagga Base Hospital (May).

Updating of Medicine Names

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) will be updating some medicine ingredient names used in Australia to align with names used internationally. A list of medicine ingredient names that will be changing is available from the [TGA](#). There will be a transition period for changes to medicine ingredient names, from April 2016 to April 2020. Advice on how to minimise the risk of medication error will be provided during May 2016.

National Standard for User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines

In 2015 the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) published the National Standard for User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines. The Standard replaces the National Recommendations for User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines (2012). The Labelling Standard, Labelling Standard labels and implementation resources are available on the ACSQHC website.



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