

# MSQ CONNECT

ISSUE 6  
June 2017

Welcome to the sixth issue of our Medication Safety and Quality Program Newsletter, 'MSQ Connect'. In this issue, we report on medication safety team activity.

Patricia Conaghan has recently joined the team as a Medication Safety & Quality Officer, replacing Selina Boughton who is on maternity leave. Patricia is currently on secondment from Concord Hospital, where she was the Education & Training Pharmacist.

## Continuity of Medication Management Program

Piloting of the education package to support nursing and midwifery staff in undertaking medication reconciliation tasks is underway across five NSW health facilities. Feedback from the pilot sites so far has been largely positive; staff involved have a very "can-do" attitude and the pre- and post- workshop surveys indicate that staff feel much more confident in being able to perform medication reconciliation tasks.

When all pilot sites have completed the package the Medication Reconciliation Education Package Working Party will review and finalise the content. Our aim is to complete the pilot report and release the education package for use across NSW by September 2017.



Photo: Pilot Medication Reconciliation Nursing and Midwifery Workshop – Cobar District Hospital, WNSWLHD

## Noticeboard

### MSQ Resources

#### Antimicrobial Stewardship

- [Antimicrobial resistance: Turn the Tide](#) is now available on My Health Learning (course code: 137891572).
- Receiving antibiotics in hospital – information for patients and carers (available in 6 languages)  
[www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/medication-safety/antimicrobial-stewardship/quah](http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/medication-safety/antimicrobial-stewardship/quah)

#### High-Risk Medicines

- NOAC Patient and Carer Information (available in 6 languages)
- HYDROMORPHONE Safety PowerPoint presentation  
<http://cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/medication-safety/high-risk-medicines>

#### VTE Prevention

[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)

#### Policy

User-Applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines  
[www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/Pages/doc.aspx?dn=PD2016\\_058](http://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/Pages/doc.aspx?dn=PD2016_058)

### Upcoming Events

Second NSW Antimicrobial Stewardship Forum  
Sydney CBD - 18 August 2017

[www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/events-and-webinars/upcoming-events/second-nsw-antimicrobial-stewardship-forum](http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/events-and-webinars/upcoming-events/second-nsw-antimicrobial-stewardship-forum)

Second Combined Medication Safety Workshop for the Continuity of Medication Management and VTE Prevention programs – September 2017 (Date to be confirmed)

More details to follow!

### 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)

#### Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare

- National Standard Medication Charts 2017 online course  
Visit: <http://learn.nps.org.au/>
- User-Applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines  
[www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/safer-naming-labelling-and-packaging-of-medicines/user-applied-labelling/](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/safer-naming-labelling-and-packaging-of-medicines/user-applied-labelling/)



Photo: Pilot Medication Reconciliation Nursing and Midwifery Education Workshop - Milton Ulladulla Hospital, ISLHD

The CMM program continues to advocate with eHealth NSW regarding the development of a Patient Friendly Medication List (PFML) within the electronic medication management system. At the May Continuity of Medication Management Expert Advisory Group meeting members accepted the approach taken by eHealth NSW to progress ongoing work with the Cerner PFML.

Along with other subject matter experts, the CMM program has been working with the Health and Education Training Institute (HETI) on rebuilding the Continuity of Medication Management modules.

### Antimicrobial Stewardship

The second NSW Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Forum will be held on 18 August 2017 in Sydney CBD. It is a one day event designed to bring together physicians, pharmacists, microbiologists and nurses with responsibilities for AMS, provide high quality education and support networking and collaboration. It is also an opportunity for staff from selected hospitals and organisations to share their achievements in AMS, so that others can learn from their experience.

The Clinical Excellence Commission's publication, *Receiving antibiotics in hospital – information for*

*patients and carers* is now available in six other languages: Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Greek and Italian. This resource provides basic information to health consumers about receiving antibiotics in a hospital environment. It is intended and encouraged for use as a counselling aid when speaking to patients who are commencing (or have recently commenced) inpatient antibiotic therapy.



Image: Arabic - Receiving antibiotics in hospital – information for patients and carers

The Quality Use of Antimicrobials in Healthcare Program has worked together with HETI to develop an e-Learning module on antimicrobial resistance for NSW Health clinicians. It is an innovative video focusing on the health care worker's role in improving appropriate use of antimicrobials, and emphasises a team approach to antimicrobial stewardship. It includes a moving patient story illustrating the impact of antimicrobial resistance on a patient's quality of life. It also features interviews with a range of hospital staff members who share their experiences, answer questions about what antimicrobial stewardship is and why it is important, and describe how all staff can help improve the way antibiotics are used in hospitals.

## VTE Prevention Program

The VTE Prevention Program continues to grow and progress, with the support and input of our Expert Advisory Group members and Program Leads.

The NSW Maternity Risk Assessment Tool has now been released for state-wide use. Use of the tool is encouraged, especially in facilities that do not currently have a standardised VTE prevention process for pregnant and post-partum women. Resources to support implementation and raise awareness are also available. The resources and risk assessment tool ordering details are available on the CEC webpage.



Images: Maternity VTE risk assessment resources

Work on the Emergency Department (ED) VTE Prevention Pilot continues with new pilot sites commencing work. Discussions have also taken place with Health Pathways to progress a guidance pathway for GPs for management of patients in the community setting.

The Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism Policy Directive has been revised and is pending release. The revision is in light of the rescindment of the *NHMRC Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Prevention of VTE in Patients Admitted to Australian Hospitals* and contains

minor adjustments to guidance and referencing.

Due to the rescindment of the guidelines, work has also commenced to revise the NSW Adult Inpatient VTE Risk Assessment Tool in collaboration with our Expert Advisory Group. Again, only minor adjustments to prescribing recommendations have been identified as necessary during review of international best evidence.

Lillian George, the CEC program lead for VTE prevention is the jurisdictional representative on the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare's (ACSQHC) VTE Clinical Care Standard Topic Working Group. This group is in the process of developing a national clinical care standard on VTE prevention for all Australian public and private health services. This has provided the opportunity to network with other experts, learn from their experiences, and share the great progress NSW has been able to achieve.

The Electronic VTE Risk Assessment Tool is now available for implementation in local Electronic Medical Records (eMR2). The tool, which is based on the paper version, provides guidance to medical officers on the assessment and management of VTE risk in adult inpatients.

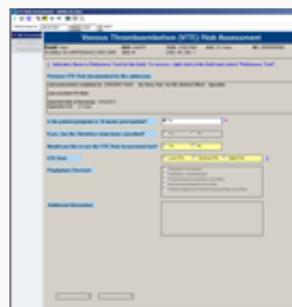


Image: Screen shot of Electronic VTE Risk Assessment Tool

## High-Risk Medicines Program

The Clinical Excellence Commission's NOAC (dabigatran, apixaban and rivaroxaban) *Information for Patients, Families & Carers* leaflets are now available in six other languages: Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Greek, Korean and Vietnamese. These documents provide basic information on the medicines to health consumers and are available on the High-Risk Medicines webpage. The development of guidelines for the perioperative management of anticoagulant and antiplatelet agents is well underway. It is anticipated that the guidelines will be available during late 2017.



Image: NOAC resources

Along with other subject matter experts, the High-Risk Medicines program is commencing work with HETI on a hydromorphone education resource. There is also a Hydromorphone Safety PowerPoint presentation available on the High-Risk Medicines webpage. The presentation is targeted at clinicians including nurses, midwives, pharmacists and junior medical officers, and provides education on strategies that promote safe handling of hydromorphone.



Image: Safe Use of Hydromorphone PowerPoint presentation

## 2015 Medication Safety Self Assessment (MSSA)

A further 66 hospitals have registered for the new 2015 Medication Safety Self Assessment® for Australian Hospitals over the past six months bringing the total to 325 hospitals (150 from NSW). 220 hospitals (109 from NSW) have completed the self-assessment and 37 (12 from NSW) are currently in progress.

## User-Applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines

The NSW Health User-applied labelling of injectable medicines, fluids and lines (PD2016\_058) was released in December 2016. This Policy Directive sets out the requirements for user-applied labelling of injectable medicines, fluids and lines in NSW Public Health Organisations and NSW Ambulance.

The ACSQHC released a National Standard for User-applied Labelling of Injectable Medicines, Fluids and Lines Issues Register in May 2017. Labelling Standard implementation resources including a PowerPoint presentation are available on the ACSQHC webpage.

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/patient-safety-programs/medication-safety/medication-safety-and-quality](http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/patient-safety-programs/medication-safety/medication-safety-and-quality)

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