

MONTHLY MEDICATION SAFETY UPDATE – December 2022

Information for health professionals in NSW public health organisations

Updates regarding current medication-specific safety and supply related issues are available via [the online portal](#) on the CEC website. Subscribe [HERE](#) to receive an email when there is new/updated information. This is a summary of medication safety and supply related issues affecting NSW public health facilities in December 2022.

Current projects with eHealthNSW

- Epic has been awarded the tender for the **Single Digital Patient Record (SDPR)**. Hunter New England LHD will be the first LHD to go live with the SDPR prior to rollout in the other 14 LHDs, 2 SHNs and all NSW Health pathology laboratories.
- The **VTE Worklist pilot** will commence at the end of February 2023.
- The CEC and eHealth NSW led project to develop an integrated **eMR solution for VTE prevention** has commenced. Exploration, documentation and prioritisation of solution requirements and usability testing of an early Assessment and Prescribing tool prototypes has taken place. The design and build phase of the project will begin in 2023.
- There is ongoing work to refine and enhance the functionality of the **NSW Medicines Formulary** online platform to facilitate the transition to the NSW Medicines Formulary. The next release is scheduled for February 2023 and will include functionality to submit new formulary submissions electronically.
- The CEC continues to work with eHealth NSW to ensure that the **eMR Prescribing Declaration PowerForms** for the oral antivirals and tixagevimab plus cilgavimab are up-to-date. The PowerForms are currently updated based on:
 - Amendments to the PBS listings for the oral antivirals on 1 January 2023
 - Updates to the tixagevimab plus cilgavimab [PI](#) (including provisional approval for the treatment, amendment of pre-exposure prophylaxis dose and repeat dosing).

For more information, email CEC-MedicationSafety@health.nsw.gov.au

Medication Safety and Supply Summary

35	SAFETY/SUPPLY ISSUES MADE APPARENT TO CEC
23	OF THESE REQUIRED FURTHER INVESTIGATION DUE TO POTENTIAL SAFETY CONCERNS
15	WERE REPORTED TO FRONTLINE DUE TO SAFETY RISK REQUIRING LOCAL MITIGATION
3	RESULTED IN FORMAL SAFETY COMMUNICATION
6	PREVIOUS ISSUES RESOLVED ON CEC ONLINE PORTAL

Safety Alerts/Notices/Information

[SN:023/22 Newly registered Australian product: Risks associated with lorazepam 4mg/1mL solution for injection](#) –
1 December 2022

[SA:008/22 Japanese Encephalitis Virus – Update for Clinicians](#) –
16 December 2022

Medication Safety Communications released

[Barium sulfate oral suspension products](#) – 20 December 2022
(updated)

Medications reported on online portal this month –

[amoxicillin](#), [azathioprine injection](#), [barium sulfate oral suspension products](#), [cefalexin oral liquid](#), [codeine linctus](#),
[flucloxacillin](#), [hyoscine butylbromide](#), [minoxidil](#),
[trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole tablets](#)

Medication safety issues under investigation

- Updates to the tixagevimab plus cilgavimab [PI](#) – CEC is updating Drug Guideline, Patient Information and other relevant supporting resources. Due for release late January.
- Disruption to supply of antibiotic liquid formulations – CEC continuing to liaise with HealthShare NSW to determine availability of alternatives. A memo was sent to Emergency Department staff in late December.

Relevant clinician information to note

TGA information

- [A Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument \(SSSI\) has been implemented to address the shortage of cefalexin medicines](#)
- [The SSSI for isosorbide mononitrate medicines has been extended](#)