



NSW
Therapeutic
Advisory
Group Inc.

Advancing
quality use
of medicines
in NSW

Group Discussion: Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) Thinksulin App

Date: July 2018

Question:

A member has made NSW TAG aware of a clinical decision tool, the Thinksulin app (free to download), which has recently been developed by the ACI ([link](#)).

NSW TAG and TAGNet members were asked to provide information as described below.

Responses:

Six responses were received from: Canterbury, Central Coast (CCLHD), Northern Beaches Health Service (NBHS), North Coast Local Health District (NCLHD), South East Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) and St Vincent's Hospital Sydney (St. Vs)

1. Is your hospital/district implementing the app?
 - a. Yes: CCLHD, NCAHS, SESLHD.
 - b. Other:
 - i. St. Vs – no decision yet to implement, but noted it is freely available to download.
 - ii. Canterbury - have forwarded information to Endocrinologist to consider, if supported then will likely go to the DTC for approval then we would form an implementation plan.
 - iii. NBHS – no formal implementation at this stage and clinicians able to freely download and use at their discretion and responsibility.

If yes to implementing the app:

2. What are the governance structures you have placed around implementation and use?
 - a. CCLHD: Training has been provided to medical staff.
 - b. NCLHD: We have consulted with the clinical governance unit, ACI and Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC).
 - c. SESLHD: Still under discussion.
3. Will it be implemented across the hospital or just in certain wards?
 - a. CCLHD: All of Gosford and Wyong Hospitals.
 - b. NCLHD: Across the LHD.
 - c. SESLHD: Across the district.
4. Is a procedure being developed locally around the app? How does it fit into their current inpatient insulin policy?
 - a. CCLHD: No procedure has been developed and we don't have a current inpatient insulin policy.
 - b. NCLHD: All guidelines/policies will align with the ACI.
 - c. SESLHD: Unlikely we will develop procedures. Review against current policy is needed and will be undertaken by Medicine Stream.

5. What is the implementation and education plan and who is responsible?
 - a. CCLHD: Diabetes Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) and an Advanced Trainee Registrar have been rolling out education e.g. Lunch and Learn meetings, joining in mandatory training for JMOs etc. It has also been promoted by the endocrinology team.
 - b. NCLHD: As per current LHD structure – issues developed locally will be addressed locally or escalated as per current structure.
 - c. SESLHD: It has been suggested that the endocrinologists should promote it but the approach is still under discussion.

6. It is only phone/tablet based with no PC version - are they requiring staff to use their own personal devices or does their organisation provide tablets?
 - a. CCLHD: Both personal and work phones.
 - b. NCAHS: No tablets will be provided for the app. Personal choice to use own device.
 - c. SESLHD: Own devices.

7. Other comments:
 - a. CCLHD: This app is available across the district. It is aimed at JMO and nursing staff; though is probably less accessible for nursing staff on a day to day basis as they do not use phones when at work. One of our concerns is the ability to update the content of the app and I have mentioned this to ACI (e.g. updating with new insulins).
 - b. SESLHD: We discussed this at our last QUM committee meeting. We agreed it should be promoted as a preferred resource for information on diabetes management. It was agreed that further governance around implementation and use is needed. It was referred to the district Medicine Stream Committee for further discussion.

Responses received as at 16 July 2018

Please note that all information and policies are only current at the time the response is sent and individual hospitals should be contacted to ascertain current policies and practices. The responses received are only representative of the hospitals participating in the discussion at the time and do not necessarily indicate a complete picture of current practices. Information sharing occurs on the understanding that due acknowledgement will be given to the original source and that the information will not be quoted or used out of the context of the discussion. Permission should be sought from the original source before any policy, protocol or guideline is used or applied in another setting.