



NSW
Therapeutic
Advisory
Group Inc.

Advancing
quality use
of medicines
in NSW

TAG Mail – 19 March 2020

NSW TAG ACTIVITIES

NSW TAG NQUM Surveys

The 3rd survey on the acute mental health care indicator set is coming soon.
The 2nd survey on the Antibiotic indicators set is now closed.

Survey Invitation – The Case for DUE 2020 - [link](#)

NSW TAG, in conjunction with the QLD Drug Use Evaluation Subcommittee (DUESC), is conducting a survey in order to understand the current status of drug use evaluation activities within NSW, ACT and QLD public hospitals including the identification of barriers, enablers and resource allocation. The survey is available until **25 March 2020**.

Please note re NSW TAG email discussions and other members' only resources: we are currently experiencing issues with our website. Please [contact](#) us if you wish to obtain a copy of any specific email discussions or other documents contained in the members' section. Thank you for your patience while we work on this problem.

COVID-19 RESOURCES & ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Australian

- **ABC** Coronacast - [link](#)
- **ACSQHC**: Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Infection Control - [link](#)
- **Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS)**: COVID-19 Guidelines (V.1) - [link](#)
- **Beyond Blue**: Looking after your mental health during the coronavirus outbreak - [link](#)
- **Clinical Information Access Portal (CIAP)**: COVID-19 Resources
- **Clinical Excellence Commission**: Coronavirus COVID-19 Resources - [link](#)
- **Department of Health**
 - Subscription service for COVID-19 newsletter for GPs now available - [link](#)
 - How to protect yourself and the people you are caring for from infection with COVID-19 - [link](#)
 - FAQs about coronavirus (COVID-19) - [link](#)
 - COVID-19 prevention guidelines issued to Aged Care providers - [link](#)
 - Webinar on COVID-19 aged care preparation for home environments - [link](#)
 - COVID-19 Home Medicines Service program to support delivery of medicines to patients - [link](#)
- **National Asthma Council**: COVID-19 and your asthma patients – [link](#)
- **NPS MedicineWise**: new [online educational program](#) which focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of childhood asthma
- **NSW Health**: Updated advice for health professionals as of 17 March 2020 - [link](#)
- **SHPA** COVID-19 member forum [home page](#), topics include medicine supply, staff deployment, clinical management in critical care and emergency departments. Key COVID-19 websites and resources are also listed on the forum home page.
- **TGA**
 - TGA response to coronavirus (COVID-19) - [link](#)
 - TGA cautions against over-buying medicines - [link](#)
- **The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)**
 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for GPs - [link](#)
 - Be wary of what you see on social media: RACGP - [link](#)
- **The Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists**
 - A message for pregnant women and their families (16 March 2020) - [link](#)
- **Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine**
 - VIFM Preparedness for COVID-19 - [link](#)

International

- Country statistics apps – case [link](#) – mortality [link](#) – noting case ascertainment varies with diagnostic facilities and health service access etc
- CDC: COVID-19 interim guidelines - [link](#); COVID-19: Disinfecting your home if someone is sick - [link](#)
- European Society of Cardiology: Advice to GPs not to switch patients off ACE-I or ARBs following [Lancet letter](#) - [link](#)
- IDstewardship.com: Resources for Pharmacists- [link](#)
- Medscape: [Practice Essentials](#) Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- NEJM: Podcast 256 Anthony Fauci: Talking with patients about COVID-19 - [link](#); Coronavirus Update – listen to recorded conversations - [link](#); Interview on new research on possible treatments for Covid-19 (19/3/20) - [link](#)
- Pharmaceutical Journal [Infographic](#): The race to stop COVID-19
- GOV.UK: COVID-19 guidance - [link](#); Advice on use of ibuprofen in patients with coronavirus (COVID 19) - [link](#)
- University of Liverpool: Prescribing [Resources](#) for the experimental agents in the treatment of COVID-19
- WHO
- WHO interim guidance 13 March 2020: Clinical management of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) when COVID-19 disease is suspected - [link](#)
- Staff deployment and quarantine resources – [link](#)
- Prescriber: UK sources of advice for healthcare professionals and the public on coronavirus - [link](#)

Peer-reviewed Articles

- BMJ: Doctors' wellbeing: self-care during the covid-19 pandemic - [link](#); Editorial: Video consultations for covid-19 - [link](#)
- European Heart Journal - Coronaviruses and the cardiovascular system: acute and long-term implications - [link](#)
- JAMA clinical update: Care for Critically Ill Patients With COVID-19 - [link](#)
- JAMA Pediatrics: What Does the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Mean for Families? - [link](#)
- Kidney International: The Novel Coronavirus 2019 epidemic and kidneys - [link](#)
- Lancet: Clinical course and risk factors for mortality of adult inpatients with COVID-19 in Wuhan, China: a retrospective cohort study – [link](#)
- Lancet: Early dynamics of transmission and control of COVID-19:mathematical modelling study - [link](#)
- MJA: Pre-emptive low cost social distancing and enhanced hygiene implemented before local COVID-19 transmission could decrease the number and severity of cases - [link](#)
- MJA: Early clinical response to a high consequence infectious disease outbreak at the Royal Melbourne Hospital Emergency Department – insights from COVID-19 - [link](#)
- MJA: Consensus statement: Safe Airway Society principles of airway management and tracheal intubation specific to the COVID-19 adult patient group - [link](#)
- MJA: COVID-19 precautions – easier said than done when patients are homeless - [link](#)
- NEJM: A Trial of Lopinavir–Ritonavir in Adults Hospitalized with Severe Covid-19 - [link](#)
- NEJM: Aerosol and Surface Stability of SARS-CoV-2 as Compared with SARS-CoV-1 - [link](#)
- Pediatrics: COVID-19 in Children: Initial Characterization of the Pediatric Disease - [link](#)
- Pediatrics: Epidemiological Characteristics of 2143 Pediatric Patients with 2019 Coronavirus Disease in China - [link](#)

OTHER NEWS (new additions in bold)

NSW Health

- **A virtual pharmacy trial to reduce real-world medication errors in rural and remote areas - [link](#)**
- **Electronic National Residential Medication Chart Trials - [link](#)**

Pharmacy Board of Australia

- **Pharmacy Intern Experience Survey report published - [link](#)**

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUSTRALIA

Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW)

- Indigenous injury deaths 2011-2015 to 2015-2016 - [link](#)
- Child protection Australia: children in the child protection system - [link](#)
- Child protection Australia 2018 -19 - [link](#)
- Infographic: child protection Australia 2018-2019 stats mat - [link](#)

NSW Health Intranet

- Your Training and Wellbeing Matters Survey Poster 2020 - [link](#)
- Influenza Surveillance Report - [link](#)

PBS

- Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) Outcome Statement - [link](#)
- Post-market review of medicines for smoking cessation - [link](#)

TGA

- Update on proposed clarification that certain sports supplements are therapeutic goods - [link](#)
- Changes to the Permissible Ingredients Determination - [link](#)
- Planning vital when using patient handling slings - [link](#)
- Surgical staplers: TGA reviews device incident reports - [link](#)
- Consider the whole picture when testing troponin levels - [link](#)
- Updated cleaning instructions for long-term nasogastric tubes - [link](#)
- 2020 seasonal influenza vaccines - [link](#)

AusPARs:

- [Doravine](#) and doravine/lamivudine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate – for HIV-1 infection in adults who are antiretroviral therapy (ART)-naïve with no known substitutions associated with resistance to doravirine, lamivudine, or tenofovir
- [Mecasermin](#) – for long-term treatment of growth failure in children and adolescents from 2 to 18 years with severe primary insulin-like growth factor 1 deficiency (Primary IGFD)

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – INTERNATIONAL

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) USA

- Making Healthcare Safer III: A Critical Analysis of Existing and Emerging Patient Safety Practices – [link](#)
- Network of Patient Safety Databases Chartbook - [link](#)
- A Decade of Patient Safety 2020-2030 - [link](#)
- Prevalence, nature and predictors of omitted medication doses in mental health hospitals: a multi-centre study - [link](#)
- Interventions to reduce adverse drug event-related outcomes in older adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis - [link](#)
- How does the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist fit with existing perioperative risk management strategies? An ethnographic study across surgical specialties - [link](#)
- Overprescribing of opioids to adults by dentists in the U.S., 2011-2015 – [link](#)
- Ensuring successful implementation of communication-and-resolution programmes - [link](#)
- A review of adverse event reports from emergency departments in the Veterans Health Administration - [link](#)
- Analysis of pharmacist-identified medication-related problems at two United Kingdom hospitals: a prospective observational study – [link](#)
- A systematic review exploring the content and outcomes of interventions to improve psychological safety, speaking up and voice behaviour - [link](#)
- Adverse outcomes of polypharmacy in older people: systematic review of reviews - [link](#)
- Potentially Preventable Readmissions: Conceptual Framework to Rethink the Role of Primary Care: Final Report - [link](#)

Care Quality Commission (UK)

- Getting safer faster: key areas for improvement in maternity services - [link](#)

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) USA

- New Drug approvals

-- Combination of [nivolumab and ipilimumab](#) as treatment for hepatocellular carcinoma in patients who have been previously treated with sorafenib

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) UK

- Tinnitus: assessment and management [NG155] - [link](#)
- Antihypertensive drug treatment: does bedtime administration improve cardiovascular risk reduction? (medicines evidence commentary) - [link](#)

Royal Pharmaceutical Society

- New guide helps people keep safe when getting medicines or treatment online - [link](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) (UK) - Revised SPCs

-- Ameluz® ([5-aminolevulinic acid hydrochloride](#)) updated regarding treatment of body regions other than face and scalp for actinic keratoses
-- Venclyxto® ([venetoclax](#)) updated with new indication of use in combination with obinutuzumab for the treatment of adult patients with previously untreated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia. Serious infections including sepsis with fatal outcome added.
-- Efexor XL® ([venlafaxine](#)) updated with the addition of 'takotsubo cardiomyopathy' adverse reaction.
-- Maviret® ([glecaprevir and pibrentasvir](#)) - revised to shorten treatment duration in treatment-naïve subjects with compensated cirrhosis and HCV GT3 infection, from 12 to 8 weeks.
-- Brintellix® ([vortioxetine](#)) - now states sexual dysfunction showed no difference to placebo with doses of 5 to 15mg but 20 mg dose associated with increase in sexual dysfunction in clinical studies.
-- Immodium® ([loperamide](#)) - now details that overdose can unmask existing Brugada syndrome: patients should not exceed the recommended dose and/or the recommended duration of treatment.

EMA

- Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee highlights - [link](#)
-- review starting of certain ifosfamide cancer medicines
-- new testing and treatment recommendations for fluorouracil, capecitabine, tegafur and flucytosine
-- recommends suspension of ulipristal acetate during ongoing review of liver injury risk

Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand

- Medication alert 18: Thrombolysis for acute ischaemic stroke - [link](#)

Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) USA

- Medication Safety Alert! [March 12, 2020](#)
-- Do You Know What Doses Are Being Programmed in the OR? Make it an Expectation to Use Smart Infusion Pumps with DERS - [link](#)
-- You need to relabel this generic insulin pen - [link](#)
-- Potential harm from tablet mix-ups due to similar imprints and appearance - [link](#)

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) UK

- Class 2 drug alert, action within 48 hours, patient level recall Esmya® 5mg tablets ([ulipristal acetate](#))

TGA

- Dragon 'Wolverine' tablets - [link](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Services

- Administration of [tobramycin via a nebuliser](#): If it is necessary to administer tobramycin injection via nebuliser instead of licensed nebuliser solution then it is critical a phenol-free formulation of injection is used. This document outlines risks linked to using injection instead of nebuliser solution for this indication.

PAPERS OF INTEREST

American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy (AHJP)

- A framework to increase prescription capture from health-system clinics - [link](#)

Annals of Internal Medicine

- Editorial: Combined Antiplatelet and Anticoagulant Therapy in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation Undergoing Percutaneous Coronary Intervention: Navigating between Scylla and Charybdis - [link](#)
- Dual Versus Triple Therapy for Atrial Fibrillation after Percutaneous Coronary Intervention: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis – [link](#)

-Australian Journal of General Practice

- Long-term management of elderly patients taking immunosuppressive medications - [link](#)

BMJ Quality and Safety

- Estimating misclassification error in a binary performance indicator: case study of low value care in Australian hospitals – [link](#)

British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology

- Development of a structured clinical pharmacology review for specialist support for management of complex polypharmacy in primary care - [link](#)
- Quality of clinical direct oral anticoagulant prescribing and identification of risk factors for inappropriate prescriptions - [link](#)
- Effect of ciclosporin on safety, lymphocyte kinetics and left ventricular remodeling in acute myocardial infarction - [link](#)

British Medical Journal (BMJ)

- Perioperative interventions for prevention of postoperative pulmonary complications: systematic review and meta-analysis - [link](#)
- Egg consumption and risk of cardiovascular disease: three large prospective US cohort studies, systematic review, and updated meta-analysis - [link](#)
- DTB select: Can a point-of-care CRP test reduce antibiotic use in COPD? - [link](#)

Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ)

- Clinical guideline for homeless and vulnerably housed people, and people with lived homelessness experience - [link](#)

Circulation

- Rivaroxaban Plus Aspirin Versus Aspirin Alone in Patients with Prior Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (COMPASS-PCI) - [link](#)

Cochrane

- Topical benzoyl peroxide for acne - [link](#)
- Immunosuppressive agents for treating IgA nephropathy - [link](#)
- Pharmacological interventions for preventing clotting of extracorporeal circuits during continuous renal replacement therapy - [link](#)

Diabetes Care

- Incidence and Associations of Chronic Kidney Disease in Community Participants with Diabetes: A 5-Year Prospective Analysis of the EXTEND45 Study - [link](#)

European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy

- An investigation into prescribing errors made by independent pharmacist prescribers and medical prescribers at a large acute NHS hospital trust: a cross-sectional study – [link](#)

International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy

- The effect of inpatient pharmaceutical care on nephrotic syndrome patients after discharge: a randomized controlled trial - [link](#)
- Risk of major bleeding in elderly patients with atrial fibrillation on direct oral anticoagulants: real world experience - [link](#)
- Home medicines reviews and residential medication management reviews in Western Australia - [link](#)

International Journal for Quality in Health Care

- It's time to step it up. Why safety investigations in healthcare should look more to safety science - [link](#)

- Using Safety-II and resilient healthcare principles to learn from Never Events - [link](#)

JAMA Cardiology

- Association of the Duration of Ideal Cardiovascular Health through Adulthood with Cardiometabolic Outcomes and Mortality in the Framingham Offspring Study – [link](#)

JAMA Internal Medicine

- Development and Validation of a Penicillin Allergy Clinical Decision Rule - [link](#)

JAMA Otolaryngology

- Intratympanic vs Systemic Corticosteroids in First-line Treatment of Idiopathic Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss. A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis - [link](#)

JAMA Pediatrics

- Association Between Proton Pump Inhibitor Use and Risk of Fracture in Children - [link](#)

JAMA Psychiatry

- Review: Prevention of Psychosis: Advances in Detection, Prognosis, and Intervention - [link](#)

JAMA Surgery

- Viewpoint: Disappointing Early Results from Opioid Prescribing Limits for Acute Pain - [link](#)
- Recommendations for the Prescription of Opioids at Discharge after Abdominopelvic Surgery
A Systematic Review - [link](#)

Journal of Palliative Medicine

- Topical Ketamine with Other Adjuvants: Underutilized for Refractory Cancer Pain? A Case Series and Suggested Revision of the World Health Organization Stepladder for Cancer Pain – [link](#)

Lancet

- Triple artemisinin-based combination therapies versus artemisinin-based combination therapies for uncomplicated Plasmodium falciparum malaria: a multicentre, open-label, randomised clinical trial - [link](#)
- Guselkumab in patients with active psoriatic arthritis who were biologic-naive or had previously received TNF α inhibitor treatment (DISCOVER-1): a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled phase 3 trial - [link](#)
- Guselkumab in biologic-naive patients with active psoriatic arthritis (DISCOVER-2): a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled phase 3 trial - [link](#)
- Efficacy of a tetravalent dengue vaccine in healthy children aged 4–16 years: a randomised, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial - [link](#)
- Pertuzumab, trastuzumab, and docetaxel for HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer (CLEOPATRA): end-of-study results from a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled, phase 3 study - [link](#)
- Psychiatric symptoms caused by cannabis constituents: a systematic review and meta-analysis - [link](#)
- Drug-associated adverse events in the treatment of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis: an individual patient data meta-analysis - [link](#)
- Results from the first English stool bank using faecal microbiota transplant as a medicinal product for the treatment of Clostridioides difficile infection - [link](#)

Medical Journal of Australia

- Antidepressant-induced sexual dysfunction - [link](#)
- Cardiovascular disease risk assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged under 35 years: a consensus statement - [link](#)

Molecular Diversity Preservation International (MDPI) – Pharmacy Journal

- Effects of a Remote Antimicrobial Stewardship Program on Antimicrobial Use in a Regional Hospital System – [link](#)
- Advancing Pharmacy Practice through an Innovative Ambulatory Care Transitions Program at an Academic Medical Center – [link](#)

New England Journal of Medicine

- Association of Aspirin with Hepatocellular Carcinoma and Liver-Related Mortality - [link](#)

Patient Education and Counseling

- Engaging patients and families in communication across transitions of care: integrative review - [link](#)

Pediatrics

- Commentary: Benzalkonium Chloride in Albuterol Solutions: Time for a Change? - [link](#)
- Antibiotic Use and Outcomes in Children in the Emergency Department with Suspected Pneumonia - [link](#)

Public Health Research & Practice

- Improving palliative and end-of-life care for rural and remote Australians - [link](#)

Public Library of Science (PLOS)

- Prevalence, nature and predictors of omitted medication doses in mental health hospitals: a multi-centre study - [link](#)
- How readable are Australian multilingual diabetes patient education materials? An evaluation of national English-language source texts - [link](#)
- Predictors of ceasing or reducing statin medication following a large increase in the consumer copayment for medications: a retrospective observational study - [link](#)
- Examining the use of antiviral prophylaxis for influenza outbreaks in residential aged care facilities in NSW, Australia - [link](#)

CONSULTATIONS (new additions in bold)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC)

- Draft NSQHS Standards on care for migrant and refugee patients, **closes 15 May 2020** - [link](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

(New additions listed in TAGMail - click [here](#) for the running list of other events)

Nil new events – several events have been postponed due to COVID-19 please check relevant event websites for further information.