



NSW  
Therapeutic  
Advisory  
Group Inc.

Advancing  
quality use  
of medicines  
in NSW

## **Group Discussion: Guidance for patient self-administration whilst an inpatient**

Date: August 2018

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### **Question**

NSW TAG received a request to help identify whether there are any existing guidance documents for patient self-administration whilst an inpatient.

NSW TAG and TAGNet members were asked to provide any information or relevant guidelines or procedures documents.

### **Background**

Some basic information is found in the NSW Health Policy Directive: Medication Handling in NSW Public Health Facilities ([PD2013\\_043](#)) under section 7.10 Patient Self-Administration and Time-Critical Medications.

### **Responses**

Six responses were received from Canterbury, Concord, Northern Beaches Health Service, Port Macquarie & Kempsey and Tweed.

Two sites had documents relating to patient self-administration and provided these, one site states they had one but it was rescinded and the other three sites states they didn't have one and expressed their interest in the outcome of the final email discussion.

- Concord Hospital provided their Self Medication procedure (Policy No: CRG\_PR2017\_9075) outlining the process required for patients, generally for training and assessment purposes to enable discharge planning. The procedure provides guidance for self-administration in some circumstances where timing of medication is critical e.g. Parkinson's medications.
- Nepean Hospital provided their Self-Administration Medication Program pilot project procedure. The program is tailored to supporting patients to self-administer medications on the rehabilitation ward.

*Responses received as at 6<sup>th</sup> August 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.*