



NSW
Therapeutic
Advisory
Group Inc.

Advancing
quality use
of medicines
in NSW

TAG Mail 31 January 2019

The purpose of TAGMail is to assist TAG members identify and share relevant information for their professional practice. Members are encouraged to routinely forward TAGMail to others who they believe would benefit from this information such as colleagues in the same hospital department if they are not already receiving TAGMail. TAGMail as a standing agenda item in clinical pharmacists' and other clinicians' meetings may help facilitate discussion of contemporary and emerging medicines and practice. NSW TAG may be contacted via email nswtag@stvincents.com.au or by calling 02 8382 2852.

NSW TAG ACTIVITIES

**Life Saving Drug Registers (LSDRs)

- The Antivenom and Antidote LSDRs (Bulk updated Dec 2018) are now available on our [website](#). Thank you to those hospitals who responded with their current stockholdings. Any outstanding sites to please provide an update to us as soon as possible.
It is recommended that members refer to the website for the latest version of the registers as the information may be updated from time to time before the next annual bulk update.

**Recent email discussions on website

- Documentation of IPU decision making in eMR
- New packaging of Nystatin Oral Drops

**DTC Decision-Making Register

- DTC decisions in NSW A1-A3 hospitals up to December 2018 uploaded to member's section of website

**Upcoming meetings

TAG General meeting Monday 11th February 2019, 3 - 5pm

TAGNet meeting Tuesday 12th February 2019, 11 – 12pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**The Sax Institute: Building successful partnerships for policy-relevant research: three-day course

5–7 March 2019, workspace365, Level 11, 66 Clarence Street, Sydney - [link](#)

**International Association of Risk Management in Medicine (IARMM) - The 8th World Congress of Clinical Safety (8WCCS)

2 – 4 October 2019, Grand Majestic Plaza hotel, Prague, Czech Republic – [link](#)

CONSULTATIONS (new additions in bold)

**ACI consultations

- Draft: **[CT contrast documents](#)** Consultation – Contact ACI Radiology Network Manager on 9464 4614 or ingrid.klobasa@health.nsw.gov.au - closes 20 February 2019

**CEC

- Draft: Health Literacy Framework - closes 14 February 2019 - [link](#)

**NHMRC

- Public consultation for following modules- provide [feedback](#) by 6 February 2019: Organisation and budgeting; Guideline Development Group; Forming the questions; Identifying the evidence; Synthesising evidence; Assessing risk of bias; Assessing certainty of evidence; Implementation; Dissemination.

**TGA

- [Consultation](#): Remaking Therapeutic Goods Order No. 78 - Standard for Tablets and Capsules and reintroducing pills into the remade Order - Closing date: 8 February 2019
- [Consultation](#): Review of Therapeutic Goods Order 54 - Standards for Disinfectants; and associated guidance Closing date: 12 February 2019
- [Consultation](#): Good Clinical Practice Inspections Program, Closes: 22 February 2019

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUSTRALIA

**Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association

Strategies for outcomes-focused and value-based healthcare: A Blueprint For A Post-2020 National Health Agreement - [link](#)

**Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW)

- National cancer screening programs participation data - [link](#)
- Indicators of socioeconomic inequalities in cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease - [link](#)

**TGA

- Review of the Narcotic Drugs Act 1967 - [Public meetings](#)
Meeting venues added: Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne
- AusPARs:
 - [Glecaprevir / pibrentasvir](#) (Maviret®) - indicated for the treatment of adult patients with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) genotype 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 infection with or without compensated cirrhosis.
 - [Ferric derisomaltose](#) (Monofer®) - indicated for the treatment of iron deficiency in adults, when oral iron preparations are ineffective or cannot be used and where there is a clinical need to deliver iron rapidly

**Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

- [Medicine Safety: Take Care](#)

**Productivity Commission

- Report on Government Services 2019-[primary and community health](#)

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – INTERNATIONAL

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) USA

- The impact of technology on safe medicines use and pharmacy practice in the US - [link](#)

** British Association for Sexual Health and HIV

- National guideline for the management of infection with Neisseria gonorrhoeae (2019) - [link](#)

**Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health

- Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs and Hypertension: Safety - [link](#)
- Decolonization for the Treatment of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines - [link](#)
- Chlorhexidine for Oral Care: A Review of Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines - [link](#)

** Department of Health & Social Care (UK)

- 20-year vision and 5-year national action plan on antimicrobial resistance - [link](#)

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA) USA

- New approvals:

- Ibrutinib (Imbruvica, Pharmacyclics and Janssen) in combination with obinutuzumab (Gazyva, Roche) for use in untreated patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma (CLL/SLL) - [link](#)

**Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand

- Acetylcysteine for the treatment of paracetamol overdose and toxicity – 2-bag dosing guidance - [link](#)

**Joint Commission

- Developing a reporting culture: learning from close calls and hazardous conditions - [link](#)

**MIMS.co.uk (Monthly Index of Medical Specialities)

- Buvidal™ ([buprenorphine](#)) once weekly or monthly injection is licensed for the treatment of opioid dependence in adults and adolescents aged 16 years or over, within a framework of medical, social and psychological treatment.

**Specialist Pharmacy Services

- Triptans and SSRI or SNRI antidepressants – is there an interaction? - [link](#)

- Which oral vitamin D dosing regimens correct deficiency in pregnancy? - [link](#)

- What is the most appropriate antidepressant to use in people with epilepsy? - [link](#)

**The King's Fund (UK)

- The NHS long-term plan explained - [link](#)

** World Health Organisation (WHO)

- Medical management of abortion - [link](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

**electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) (UK)

- New products

-- Erleada™ ([apalutamide](#))- an orally administered, selective androgen receptor (AR) inhibitor that binds directly to the ligand-binding domain of the AR, for treatment of non-metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer in men at high risk of developing metastatic disease.

-- Namuscla™ ([mexiletine](#)), a sodium channel blocker, for the symptomatic treatment of myotonia in adult patients with non-dystrophic myotonic disorders.

- Revised SPCs

-- Selincro™ ([nalmefene](#)): angioedema, urticaria, pruritus, rash, erythema, and priapism added as adverse effects (frequency unknown).

-- [Gemfibrozil](#): contraindication of concomitant administration of gemfibrozil with selexipag added as co-administration doubled exposure (AUC) to selexipag and increased exposure to active metabolite by approximately 11-fold.

-- Onivyde™ ([irinotecan hydrochloride trihydrate](#)): use associated with thromboembolic events e.g. pulmonary embolism, venous thrombosis and arterial thromboembolism.

-- [Dexmedetomidine](#) hydrochloride: updated regarding hyperthermia- discontinue treatment in the event of a sustained unexplained fever and is not recommended for use in malignant hyperthermia-sensitive patients. Updated information regarding common symptoms of overdose.

-- Marvelon™ ([ethinylestradiol/ desogestrel](#)): depression, a known adverse effect of contraceptive use, is also a risk factor for suicidal behaviour and suicide. Women should be advised to contact their physician in case of mood changes and depressive symptoms.

-- RoActemra™ ([tocilizumab](#)) – hypofibrinogenaemia added as a common adverse drug reaction ($\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$).

-- Tamiflu™ ([oseltamivir](#)) – the recommended dose in immunocompromised adults is 75 mg twice daily for 10 days, initiated as soon as possible within the first two days of onset of symptoms of influenza. There are no studies of a shorter course of oseltamivir in this patient group.

-- Zepatier™ ([elbasvir/grazoprevir](#)): hypoglycaemia may occur during treatment. Glucose levels of patients with diabetes initiating therapy should be closely monitored, particularly within the first 3 months, and their medication modified when necessary.

- Ativan™ ([lorazepam](#)): use with caution in elderly due to the risk of sedation and/or musculoskeletal weakness that can increase risk of falls, with serious consequences. These patients should be given a reduced dose (50%) and titrated accordingly.
- Nimenrix™ ([meningococcal group A, C, W-135 and Y conjugate vaccine](#)): increased risk of invasive disease caused by Neisseria meningitidis group A, C, W-135 and Y.
- Rifadin™ ([rifampicin](#)): may cause vitamin K dependent coagulopathy and severe bleeding. Monitoring is recommended for patients at increased bleeding risk. Supplemental vitamin K should be considered when appropriate (vit K deficiency, hypoprothrombinemia). See UKMi comment
- Zostavax™ ([varicella-zoster virus, live, attenuated vaccine](#)) : large observational study did not indicate an increased risk for developing herpes zoster after concomitant administration of Zostavax and a 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine.

****Health Canada**

- Lartruvo® ([olaratumab](#)) - New clinical trial information: did not confirm the clinical benefit in prolonging lives of patients with advanced or metastatic soft tissue sarcoma when used in combination with doxorubicin compared to doxorubicin alone.

****Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) USA**

Medication Safety Alert! [January 31, 2019](#)

- Highlights from a Study of Residents' Electronic Medication Prescribing Errors
- Your Reports at Work: FDA tells pen injector needle manufacturers to improve patient instructions for use
- For medication orders, "fuzzy matching" is fuzzy illogical
- Acute Care Action Agenda (October – December 2018)

PAPERS OF INTEREST

****American Diabetes Association - Diabetes Care**

- A Randomized Controlled Trial on the Safety and Efficacy of Exenatide Therapy for the Inpatient Management of General Medicine and Surgery Patients With Type 2 Diabetes - [link](#)

****American Heart Association (AHA)**

- 2019 AHA/ACC/HRS Focused Update of the 2014 AHA/ACC/HRS Guideline for the Management of Patients with Atrial Fibrillation - [link](#)

****Australian Journal of Primary Health**

- Deprescribing for older adults in Australia: factors influencing GPs - [link](#)

****American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy (AHJP)**

- Understandability, actionability, and readability of online patient education materials about diabetes mellitus - [link](#)
- Implementation of a workflow system with electronic verification for preparation of oral syringes - [link](#)
- Development and implementation of a strategy to ensure outpatient access to medications started in the inpatient setting - [link](#)
- Hemorrhagic conversion after alteplase administration in a patient with vasculitis and acute ischemic stroke - [link](#)
- Development of a required longitudinal residency experience focused on deprescribing - [link](#)
- Musculoskeletal toxicities in patients receiving concomitant statin and daptomycin therapy - [link](#)
- Medication review in older adults: Importance of time to benefit - [link](#)
- Development and validation of a dynamic inpatient risk prediction model for clinically significant hypokalemia using electronic health record data - [link](#)
- Developing and evaluating a pharmacy technician home visit program - [link](#)
- Comparison of real-world outcomes in patients with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation treated with direct oral anticoagulant agents or warfarin - [link](#)

****British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology**

- Review: Antiresorptive agents' bone-protective and adjuvant effects in postmenopausal women with early breast cancer - [link](#)
- Ensuring continuity of patient care across the healthcare interface: Telephone follow-up post-hospitalization - [link](#)
- New steps in infliximab therapeutic drug monitoring in patients with inflammatory bowel diseases – [link](#)

****British Medical Journal (BMJ)**

- Comparative effectiveness of rituximab, abatacept, and tocilizumab in adults with rheumatoid arthritis and inadequate response to TNF inhibitors: prospective cohort study - [link](#)
- Reporting, presentation and wording of recommendations in clinical practice guideline for gout: a systematic analysis - [link](#)

****BMJ Heart**

- Review: Management of blood pressure in heart failure - [link](#)

****Cochrane**

- Digital interventions for the management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease - [link](#)
- Oral H1 antihistamines as 'add-on' therapy to topical treatment for eczema - [link](#)
- Pregabalin for neuropathic pain in adults - [link](#)
- Antibiotics for treating urogenital Chlamydia trachomatis infection in men and non-pregnant women - [link](#)
- Topiramate for juvenile myoclonic epilepsy - [link](#)
- Pharmacotherapies for cannabis dependence - [link](#)

****Dr Foster (UK)**

- Insight report: High intensity users of A&E departments – [link](#)

****European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy**

- Seizures and quinolone antibiotics in children: a systematic review of adverse events - [link](#)

****Health Technology Assessment**

- Vitamin D supplementation to prevent acute respiratory infections: individual participant data meta-analysis - [link](#)

****Internal Medicine Journal**

- Patterns of immunotherapy use and management of toxicities in regional and tertiary settings - [link](#)

****International Journal for Quality in Health Care Assurance**

- Effective quality systems: implementation in Australian public hospitals - [link](#)

****JAMA**

- Effect of Intensive vs Standard Blood Pressure Control on Probable Dementia - A Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)

****JAMA Dermatology**

- Association of HLA Antigen Mismatch with Risk of Developing Skin Cancer after Solid-Organ Transplant - [link](#)
- Safety and Efficacy of Methotrexate for Chinese Adults with Psoriasis With and Without Psoriatic Arthritis - [link](#)

****JAMA Internal Medicine**

- Association of Antibiotic Treatment with Outcomes in Patients Hospitalized for an Asthma Exacerbation Treated with Systemic Corticosteroids - [link](#)

****JAMA Network Open**

- Patterns in Outpatient Benzodiazepine Prescribing in the United States - [link](#)

- **JAMA Neurology
 - Prediction Tools for Psychiatric Adverse Effects after Levetiracetam Prescription - [link](#)

- **JAMA Psychiatry
 - Association of Aripiprazole with the Risk for Psychiatric Hospitalization, Self-harm, or Suicide - [link](#)

- **JAMIA (Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association)
 - An expandable approach for design and personalization of digital, just-in-time adaptive interventions - [link](#)

- **Journal of Pain Research
 - Safety of oral methylnaltrexone for opioid-induced constipation in patients with chronic noncancer pain - [link](#)

- **Lancet
 - Seminar: Osteoporosis - [link](#)
 - Seminar: Dengue - [link](#)
 - β -Blocker Therapy and Risk of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease – A Danish Nationwide Study of 1.3 Million Individuals - [link](#)

- **New England Journal of Medicine
 - Review Article: Opioid Tolerance in Critical Illness - [link](#)
 - Effect of Adding Azithromycin to Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention - [link](#)
 - Dapagliflozin and Cardiovascular Outcomes in Type 2 Diabetes - [link](#)
 - Oral versus Intravenous Antibiotics for Bone and Joint Infection - [link](#)

- **National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)
 - NIHR Signals
 - Lifestyle changes may be more important than drugs for mild hypertension - [link](#)
 - Warfarin and newer anticoagulants equally effective for long-term treatment of blood clots - [link](#)
 - Several antibiotics appear effective against early-stage Lyme disease - [link](#)

- **NPS MedicineWise
 - Dolutegravir + rilpivirine fixed-dose combination (Juluca®): new antiretroviral available on PBS - [link](#)

- **Pain Medicine
 - Does Opioid Tapering in Chronic Pain Patients Result in Improved Pain or Same Pain vs Increased Pain at Taper Completion? A Structured Evidence-Based Systematic Review - [link](#)

- **Pediatrics (American Academy of Pediatrics)
 - Continuous Versus Intermittent Vancomycin Infusions in Infants: A Randomized Controlled Trial - [link](#)
 - Trends in Outpatient Antibiotic Use in 3 Health Plans - [link](#)

- **Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
 - Pediatric Antibiotic Stewardship Program (ASP) Toolkit - [link](#)

- **Palliative Medicine
 - Quality improvement priorities for safer out-of-hours palliative care: Lessons from a mixed-methods analysis of a national incident-reporting database - [link](#)

- **Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy
 - The proportion, conditions, and predictors of emergency department visits that can be potentially managed by pharmacists with expanded scope of practice – [link](#)

- **Therapeutics and Clinical Risk Management
 - New therapies for the treatment of heart failure: a summary of recent accomplishments - [link](#)

OTHER NEWS (new additions in bold)

****Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI) Seminar Series 2019**

Held at: Seminar Room, Level 1, 75 Talavera Road, Macquarie University, North Ryde, NSW
- Coping with Complexity In Healthcare: Guidelines And Innovative Methods with Dr Tarcisio Abreu Saurin

Thursday 14 February 2019, 12 – 1pm, - [link](#)

- NSW Bureau of Health Information: Opportunities for Research and Collaboration with Dr Diane Watson

Thursday 21 February 2019, 12 - 1pm - [link](#)

- The Use of Big Data For Health Research: Building And Maintaining Social Licence with Carolyn Adams

Tuesday 5 March 2019, 12 - 1pm - [link](#)

****Cardiac Rehabilitation for Aboriginal People Webinar by NSW Health, AH&MRC and the Heart Foundation**

Thursday 28th February 1-2pm – register [here](#) or email Samantha.milat@racgp.org.au with name, email address and organisation

****CEC**

-CEC and Emergency Care Institute, ACI

- Recommended naloxone supplies to treat carfentanil overdoses: memo to Local Health Districts/ Specialty Health Networks to ensure facilities with Emergency Departments have adequate stock of naloxone to treat patients with carfentanil overdose. Doses of up to 10 mg of naloxone may be required.

- Job opportunity - REQ88192 - Project Officer, Community Pharmacy Palliative Care Initiative, closing date 3 Feb 2019 - [link](#)

****Centre of Research Excellence in Severe Asthma**

- Lung Function Assessment of Severe Asthma

22 Feb 2019, 1-2 PM, Webinar (and aired in Caves Theatre, HMRI, Newcastle) - [link](#)

****Health Services Research Association Australian and New Zealand**

- The Pros and Cons of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) and Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREMs) – [link](#)

****icare foundation**

- Quality of Life Fund — Grants available - [link](#)

****MedicinesComplete**

- Palliative Care Formulary launches on MedicinesComplete – [link](#)

****MJA Podcasts**

- MJA Podcasts 2019 [Episode 3](#): Nicotine e-liquid poisonings, with Carol Wylie

****Musculoskeletal Australia Free Webinar Series, register [here](#) for several topics**

****National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship - Journal Club**

Registration for the [2019 NCAS Journal Club webinar series](#) is now open

****PBS**

- Cost Recovery and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Process Improvements Information Forums in Melbourne and Sydney (31/1/19) - [link](#)

****The University of Sydney - Webinar Skills Training In Pain Management**

- Putting Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Skills into Practice – 7 webinars sessions available [here](#)

****TGA**

- Review of the Narcotic Drugs Act 1967 - [public meetings](#) - Sydney 5 Feb, Brisbane 6 Feb, Melbourne 8 Feb
- [Webinar](#): The role of the TGA in digital health - 7 February

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