The purpose of TAG Mail is to assist TAG members identify and share relevant information for their professional practice. **Members are encouraged to routinely forward TAG Mail to others who they believe would benefit from this information such as colleagues in the same hospital department if they are not already receiving TAG Mail.** TAG Mail 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**

**New email discussions**

**Recent email discussions uploaded to website**
- Management of tick bites in ED
- Formulary listing and use of silver sulfadiazine cream

**Life Saving Drug Registers (LSDRs)**
- The Antivenom and Antidote LSDRs (bulk updated Dec 2018, with updates from some hospitals in 2019) have had some formatting enhancements and are now available on our website. Features of the new LSDRs include: option to view stockholdings by individual drug, optimised viewing on mobile/tablet and more user friendly functions.

Please note: It is recommended that members refer to the website for the latest version of the registers as the information may be updated periodically. Lastly, a reminder for any outstanding sites (annotated as ‘data TBC’ in the current register) to please provide an update to NSW TAG as soon as possible.

**OTHER NEWS (new additions in bold)**

**Australian Prescriber**
- Podcast Episode 45 – Old antibiotics and resistant UTIs
- Nitrofurantoin and fosfomycin for resistant urinary tract infections: old drugs for emerging problems - [link](#)

**Pfizer has released a letter to inform clinicians of changes to the packaging of benzathine benzylpenicillin (Bicillin® L-A).**

Key points to note:
- Change in active ingredient name (to benzathine benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate)
- Change from mg/mL to units/mL
- Change in storage condition recommendations (Refrigerate; Allow Storage at 30°C, for a single period of 2 months prior to batch expiry)

Please ensure all health professionals are aware of the change, and its implications to safe medication practice. Changes to eMeds may be needed.

**Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC)**
- NSQHS Standards Assessor Orientation Course is freely available for anyone who would like to learn about the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards (second edition). - [link](#)

**MJA Podcasts**

**Episode 13: Antiretroviral therapy for HIV infections, with Prof Basil Donovan**

**NSW Health**
- The Cancer Institute NSW is inviting clinicians from across NSW Health services to participate in a Clinical Reference Group (CRG) for the Smoking Cessation Framework: eMR Enhancement Project (Stage 1 – Scoping). The role of the CRG is to recommend updates to the eMR system to support smoking cessation interventions. Email: louise.ross@health.nsw.gov.au by 29 March 2019 if interested.

**SLHD Centre for Education and Workforce Development**
- Pain Management 2 day Workshop 2019, 17-18 June 2019, Concord Hospital, register [here](#)

**The Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI) Macquarie University – Seminar Series**
- 11th April 2019, 12-1pm, Going back to Parsons: The GI-factor in Patient Safety
- 2nd May 2019, 12-1pm, Conflict of interest in the Canadian healthcare system

**The University of Sydney**
- Putting Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Skills into Practice (webinar training program, 7 sessions) - [link](#)

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

**Toxicology and Poisons Network Australasia (TAPNA) 2019 Scientific Meeting**
1st - 3rd May 2019, Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach, QLD - [link](#)

**The 2019 Women and Heart Disease Forum**
19 June 2019, Roundhouse, University of New South Wales, Anzac Parade, Kensington NSW - [link](#)

**CONSULTATIONS (new additions in bold)**

**Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC)**
- Consultation on the draft Cataract Clinical Care Standard – closes 5 April 2019 - [link](#)

**CEC**

**Pharmacy Board of Australia**
- Discussion paper - Public and stakeholder feedback on pharmacist prescribing – closes 15th April 2019

**TGA**
- Consultation: Whether the TGA should publish that a prescription medicine is under evaluation – closes 29 March 2019
- Consultation: Proposed criteria for Appendix M of the Poisons Standard to support rescheduling of substances from Schedule 4 (Prescription only) to Schedule 3 (Pharmacist only) - Closes 1 April 2019
- Consultation on adoption of European Union guidelines in Australia - Closes 29 April 2019

**REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUSTRALIA**

**Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW)**
- Cancer in Australia 2019 - link; in brief - link
- Mental health services in Australia - link

**PBS**
- PBAC Report now available - Options for listing PD-(L)1 checkpoint inhibitors for multiple cancer indications on the PBS - link

**TGA**
- Pharmacovigilance Inspection Program Metrics Report: Sep 2017 - Dec 2018 - link
- Listed and assessed listed medicines: Application and submission user guide - link
- ACSS public statement, 14-15 May 2018 - link
- New AusPARs:
  -- Live attenuated chimeric yellow fever dengue virus (serotypes 1 and 2 and 3 and 4) [Dengvaxia™] - link

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – INTERNATIONAL

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) USA**
- Improving Opioid Management - link
- Highlights from AHRQ's Patient Safety Network - link
- Current Issue - link

**British Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation (BACPR)**
- The BACPR Standards and Core Components for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Rehabilitation 2017 (3rd Edition) - link

**Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health**
- Combination Agents for Multiple Myeloma: Comparative Clinical Effectiveness - link
- Intranasal Corticosteroids for the Management of Chronic Rhinosinusitis or Nasal Polyposis in Cystic Fibrosis: A Review of Clinical Effectiveness - link
- Ivabradine for Adults with Stable Chronic Heart Failure: Clinical Effectiveness - link

**MHRA**
- New products/indications
  -- Mabthera™ (rituximab): Now licensed for the treatment of moderate to severe pemphigus vulgaris. The entire SPC has been updated to include relevant information for this indication.
  -- Praluent™ (alirocumab): License extension for alirocumab to reduce cardiovascular risk by lowering LDL-C levels, as an adjunct, in adults with established atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

**GOV.UK**
- Guidance:
  -- Psychotropic drugs and people with learning disabilities or autism - link
  -- Productive healthy ageing: interventions for quality of life. Interventions that can be made by pharmacy teams, to improve quality of life for older people - link

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA) USA**
- New approvals/indications
  -- Brexanolone (Zulresso®) for post-partum depression - link
  -- License extension of atezolizumab (Tecentriq®) in combination with chemotherapy as first-line treatment for extensive-stage small cell lung cancer
  -- Prograf® Granules (tacrolimus for oral suspension) approved for pediatric liver, heart, and kidney transplant patients

**National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine**
- Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Save Lives – consensus study report - link

**National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) UK**
- Shared Learning Database: Consensus based national antimicrobial stewardship competencies for UK undergraduate healthcare professional education - [link](#)

**Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**
- Antimicrobial Resistance - Tackling the Burden in the European Union - [link](#)

**Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory**
- Drug Shortages: Shortchanging Quality and Safe Patient Care - [link](#)
- Exploring Vulnerability to Patient Safety Events along the Age Continuum - [link](#)

**Royal Pharmaceutical Society**
- Calls for greater pharmacist role in prescription drug dependency - [link](#)
- Building up the pharmacy workforce - [link](#)

**Specialist Pharmacy Services**
- Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee Newsletter Issue 2 2019 - [link](#)

**World Health Organisation (WHO)**
- Improving the quality of health services: tools and resources - [link](#)

### MEDICATION SAFETY

**electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) (UK)**
- Educational Risk Minimisation Materials to help reduce the risk associated with using carbimazole or thiamazole containing products
- Educational Risk Minimisation Guide to help reduce the risk associated with using Namuscla® (mexiletine hydrochloride)
- Educational Risk Minimisation Materials to help reduce the risk associated with using Zessly® (infliximab)
- Revised SPCs
- FEIBA™ (Factor VIII Inhibitor Bypassing Activity) : advises isohemagglutinins may interfere with serological tests; and, increased risk of thrombotic microangiopathy with FEIBA in patients receiving emicizumab prophylaxis.
- Revolade™ (eltrombopag) : updated with information related to liver functions tests, thrombotic and thromboembolic complications and myelodysplastic syndrome.

**EMA**
- Increased risk of blood clots in lungs and death with higher dose of Xeljanz (tofacitinib) for rheumatoid arthritis - [link](#)

**MHRA**
- Letters and drug alerts sent to healthcare professionals in February 2019 - [link](#)
- Medicines with teratogenic potential: what is effective contraception and how often is pregnancy testing needed? [link](#)
- Onivyde (irinotecan, liposomal formulations): reports of serious and fatal thromboembolic events - [link](#)
- Fluoroquinolone antibiotics: new restrictions and precautions for use due to very rare reports of disabling and potentially long-lasting or irreversible side effects - [link](#)

**Medsafe (New Zealand Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority)**
- Outcome of the consultation on the proposed warning statement regarding a fire hazard on the labels of paraffin-based skin products - [link](#)

**TGA**
- Tofacitinib Safety Alert: Clinical study finds increased risk of blood clots in the lungs and of death in rheumatoid arthritis patients on high dose
- Breast implant associated cancer (BIA-ALCL) - [link](#)
- Consumer information: Understanding the harms of selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMs) - link

PAPERS OF INTEREST
**American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy (AHJP)
- Implementation of pharmacy morbidity, mortality, and process improvement rounds - link
- Summaries of safety labeling changes approved by FDA—Boxed warnings highlights, October–December 2018 - link

**Annals of Internal Medicine
- Acute Illness Associated with Cannabis Use, by Route of Exposure: An Observational Study- link

**British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology
- Clinical implications of the association between fluoroquinolones and tendon rupture: The magnitude of the effect with and without corticosteroids - link

**BMC Health Services Research
- The impact of implementing a hospital electronic prescribing and administration system on clinical pharmacists' activities - a mixed methods study - link

**British Medical Journal (BMJ)
- Does fluoxetine improve recovery after stroke? - link

**BMJ Quality and Safety
- Variation in use and outcomes related to midline catheters: results from a multicentre pilot study - link
- Standardising hospitalist practice in sepsis and COPD care - link

**Cochrane
- Systemic corticosteroids for the management of cancer-related breathlessness (dyspnoea) in adults - link
- Hydroxyurea (hydroxycarbamide) for transfusion-dependent β-thalassaemia - link
- Second-generation antidepressants for preventing seasonal affective disorder in adults - link
- Palliative interventions for controlling vaginal bleeding in advanced cervical cancer - link
- Outpatient treatment for people with cancer who develop a low-risk febrile neutropaenic event - link
- Electroconvulsive therapy for treatment-resistant schizophrenia - link
- Linezolid for drug-resistant pulmonary tuberculosis - link
- Memantine for dementia - link

**European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy
- Safety, time and cost evaluation of automated and semi-automated drug distribution systems in hospitals: a systematic review - link

**Internal Medicine Journal
- Improving survival in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma related to chronic hepatitis C and B but not in those related to non-alcoholic steatohepatitis or alcoholic liver disease: a 20-year experience from a national programme - link
- Management of Stroke in the Australian Indigenous Population: From Hospitals to Communities - link
- A retrospective pharmaceutical financial benefits and cost avoidance analysis of clinical trial participation in the Australian haematology setting - link

**JAMA
- Effect of Additional Oral Semaglutide vs Sitagliptin on Glycated Hemoglobin in Adults with Type 2 Diabetes Uncontrolled with Metformin Alone or With Sulfonylurea - link
- The Future of the GLP-1 Receptor Agonists - link
- Management of Patients with Severe Aortic Stenosis with Transcatheter Valve Replacement - [link]
- The Uncertain Effect of Financial Incentives to Improve Health Behaviours - [link]

**JAMA Cardiology**
- JAMA Cardiology—The Year in Review, 2018 - [link]
- Risk of Cardiovascular Disease and Mortality in Young Adults with End-stage Renal Disease - [link]

**JAMA Dermatology**
- Evaluation of Low-Dose, Low-Frequency Oral Psoralen–UV-A Treatment With or Without Maintenance on Early-Stage Mycosis Fungoides - [link]
- Psoralen Plus UV-A Therapy in the 21st Century - [link]
- JAMA Dermatology—The Year in Review, 2018 - [link]

**JAMA Internal Medicine**
- What Should I Know About Opioids? - [link]
- Aspirin Use and Risk of Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Hepatitis B - [link]
- A Clinical Overview of Off-label Use of Gabapentinoid Drugs - [link]
- JAMA Internal Medicine—The Year in Review, 2018 - [link]

**JAMA Oncology**
- JAMA Oncology—The Year in Review, 2018 - [link]
- Implications of the Parenteral Opioid Shortage for Prescription Patterns and Pain Control among Hospitalized Patients With Cancer Referred to Palliative Care - [link]

**JAMA Ophthalmology**
- Age-Related Eye Disease Study Report 39 - [link]
- JAMA Ophthalmology—The Year in Review, 2018 - [link]

**JAMA Psychiatry**
- JAMA Psychiatry—The Year in Review, 2018- [link]

**Journal of General Internal Medicine**
- Associations between Polypharmacy, Symptom Burden, and Quality of Life in Patients with Advanced, Life-Limiting Illness - [link]

**Lancet**
- When ethics and politics collide in donor-funded global health research - [link]
- Long-term efficacy and safety of obeticholic acid for patients with primary biliary cholangitis: 3-year results of an international open-label extension study - [link]

**Medical Journal of Australia**
- Volume 210 Issue 5 - [link]
- Guideline Summary: The Thrombosis and Haemostasis Society of Australia and New Zealand guidelines for the diagnosis of venous thromboembolism
- Identifying the cultural heritage of patients during clinical handover and in hospital medical records
- The burden of pancreatic cancer in Australia attributable to smoking

**New England Journal of Medicine**
- Volatile Anesthetics versus Total Intravenous Anesthesia for Cardiac Surgery - [link]

**National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) UK**
- Management of labour - [link]

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