



NSW
Therapeutic
Advisory
Group Inc.

Advancing
quality use
of medicines
in NSW

TAG Mail 2019 (January - current)

Cumulative Listing of Reports, Publications, Medication Safety Information and Papers of Interest

TAG Mail 19 March 2019

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUSTRALIA

**Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW)

- Alcohol and other drug use in regional and remote Australia: consumption, harms and access to treatment 2016–17 - [link](#)
- The health of Australia's females - [link](#)
- The health of Australia's males - [link](#)

**TGA

- Brexit - Implications for therapeutic goods in Australia - [link](#)
- Webinar: Permitted indications for listed medicines - [link](#)

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – INTERNATIONAL

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

- Highlights from AHRQ's Patient Safety Network - [link](#)
- New Video: Surveys on Patient Safety Culture Use in Different Care Settings - [link](#)
- [Question Builder App](#) - helps patients and caregivers prepare for medical appointments and maximise visit time

**EMA

- [Emicizumab](#) (Hemlibra™) licence extended for the prevention of bleeding episodes in people with severe haemophilia A without factor VIII inhibitors

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA) USA

- Nalmefene HCl injection granted fast track designation for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose - [link](#)
- Statement by FDA Commissioner on new strategies to modernize clinical trials to advance precision medicine, patient protections and more efficient product development - [link](#)

**NHS England

- Sepsis guidance implementation advice for adults - [link](#)

**National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) UK

- Delirium: prevention, diagnosis and management- Clinical guideline ([CG103](#)): update

Olanzapine removed from guideline regarding management of a person with delirium who is distressed or considered a risk to themselves or others and where verbal and non-verbal de-escalation techniques are ineffective or inappropriate.

**Scottish Intercollegiate Guideline Network (SIGN) UK

- Latest Issue # 157 - Risk reduction and management of delirium - [link](#)

**Specialist Pharmacy Services

- Chloramphenicol: is it safe in breastfeeding? - [link](#)

** World Health Organisation (WHO)

- Improving the quality of health services: tools and resources - [link](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

**electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) (UK)

- Revised SPCs

-- Halaven® ([eribulin](#)): Hypocalcaemia added as a common adverse reaction. Correct prior to initiating treatment; periodic monitoring is recommended during therapy.

--Keppra® ([levetiracetam](#)): Can be used during pregnancy, if after careful assessment it is considered clinically needed; lowest effective dose is recommended. Also, a bitter taste may be experienced after oral administration.

--[Prucalopride](#) : Migraine and vertigo added as uncommon adverse events.

--Otezla™ ([apremilast](#)): Updated with additional adverse drug reactions: angioedema (frequency unknown) and urticaria (uncommon frequency).

--[Ofloxacin](#): increased risk of aortic aneurysm and dissection after intake of fluoroquinolones, particularly in the older population reported. Use fluoroquinolones only after careful risk assessment.

--[Allopurinol](#): Anaphylactic reaction added as a very rare adverse drug reaction.

--Nuvaring™ ([etonogestrel and ethinylestradiol](#)) vaginal delivery system: updated re reports of ring breakage during concomitant use of intravaginal preparations, including antimycotic, antibiotic and lubricant products.

**Health Canada – MedEffect Notice

- [Atezolizumab](#) (Tecentriq®) – Risk of immune-related myositis

- [Tofacitinib](#) (Xeljanz™ or Xeljanz XR™)- Increased risk of blood clots in the lungs and of death in rheumatoid arthritis patients taking high dose

** 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](#)

PAPERS OF INTEREST

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

- Impact of hydrocodone reclassification on analgesic prescribing in the Veterans Health Administration - [link](#)

- Comparative effectiveness of pharmacist care delivery models for hepatitis C clinics - [link](#)

**Annals of Internal Medicine

- Comparative Efficacy of Therapies for Treatment of Depression for Patients Undergoing Maintenance Hemodialysis: A Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)

- A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Vaccination for Prevention of Herpes Zoster and Related Complications: Input for National Recommendations - [link](#)

- Predicting Bleeding Risk to Guide Aspirin Use for the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease: A Cohort Study - [link](#)

**British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology

- Efficacy and safety of sapropterin dihydrochloride in patients with phenylketonuria: A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials - [link](#)
- Five-year trends in acetaminophen use exceeding the recommended daily maximum dose - [link](#)

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

- Asymptomatic bacteriuria in pregnancy: systematic reviews of screening and treatment effectiveness and patient preferences - [link](#)
- Antithrombotic therapy in patients undergoing transcatheter aortic valve implantation - [link](#)
- Re-engineering the post-myocardial infarction medicines optimisation pathway: a retrospective analysis of a joint consultant pharmacist and cardiologist clinic model - [link](#)
- Criminalisation of unintentional error in healthcare in the UK: a perspective from New Zealand – [link](#)

****BMJ Quality and Safety**

- Bending the cost curve: time series analysis of a value transformation programme at an academic medical centre - [link](#)
- Variation in use and outcomes related to midline catheters: results from a multicentre pilot study - [link](#)
- Evolving quality improvement support strategies to improve Plan–Do–Study–Act cycle fidelity: a retrospective mixed-methods study - [link](#)
- Reinvigorating stagnant science: implementation laboratories and a meta-laboratory to efficiently advance the science of audit and feedback - [link](#)

****Circulation**

- 2019 ACC/AHA Guideline on the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease - [link](#)
- Effects of Canagliflozin on Heart Failure Outcomes Associated with Preserved and Reduced Ejection Fraction in Type 2 Diabetes: Results from the CANVAS Program - [link](#)

****Cochrane**

- Antioxidants for male subfertility - [link](#)
- Multiple-micronutrient supplementation for women during pregnancy - [link](#)

****Diabetes care**

- Long-term Effects of Metformin on Diabetes Prevention: Identification of Subgroups That Benefited Most in the Diabetes Prevention Program and Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study - [link](#)

****European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy**

- Fingolimod in multiple sclerosis: profile of use in habitual practice - [link](#)
- A retrospective analysis of plasma concentration monitoring of fluorouracil in patients with advanced colorectal cancer - [link](#)
- Prescription of proton pump inhibitors in older adults with complex polytherapy - [link](#)

****Health Informatics Journal**

- Essential activities for electronic health record safety: A qualitative study – [link](#)

****JAMA**

- Effect of Catheter Ablation vs Antiarrhythmic Drug Therapy on Mortality, Stroke, Bleeding, and Cardiac Arrest among Patients with Atrial Fibrillation - The CABANA Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)
- Effect of Catheter Ablation vs Medical Therapy on Quality of Life among Patients with Atrial Fibrillation - The CABANA Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)

****JAMA Cardiology**

- Electronic Health Record Data Quality Issues Are Not Remedied by Increasing Granularity of Diagnosis Codes - [link](#)

****JAMA Dermatology**

- Occurrence of Extensive Cutaneous Human Papillomavirus Infection after Initiation of Tofacitinib Therapy - [link](#)

****JAMA Internal Medicine**

- Association of Daily Aspirin Therapy with Risk of Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis B - [link](#)

****JAMA Network Open**

- Trends and Patterns of Geographic Variation in Opioid Prescribing Practices by State, United States, 2006-2017- [link](#)

****JAMA Neurology**

- Changes in the Risk of Reaching Multiple Sclerosis Disability Milestones in Recent Decades: A Nationwide Population-Based Cohort Study in Sweden - [link](#)

****JAMA Paediatrics**

- Survival Trends in Infants Undergoing Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplant- [link](#)
- Management of Pediatric Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease - [link](#)

****JAMIA**

- Evaluating visual analytics for health informatics applications: a systematic review from the American Medical Informatics Association Visual Analytics Working Group Task Force on Evaluation - [link](#)
- Patient free text reporting of symptomatic adverse events in cancer clinical research using the National Cancer Institute's Patient-Reported Outcomes version of the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (PRO-CTCAE) - [link](#)

****Lancet**

- Global, regional, and national burden of epilepsy, 1990–2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016 - [link](#)
- Remaining challenges for prevention and control of hand, foot, and mouth disease - [link](#)
- Recommendations for analytical antiretroviral treatment interruptions in HIV research trials—report of a consensus meeting - [link](#)
- Measuring quality of care for all women and newborns: how do we know if we are doing it right? A review of facility assessment tools - [link](#)
- Deferoxamine mesylate in patients with intracerebral haemorrhage (i-DEF): a multicentre, randomised, placebo-controlled, double-blind phase 2 trial - [link](#)
- Review: Management of opioid use disorder in the USA: present status and future directions - [link](#)
- Checkpoint inhibitor-induced insulin-dependent diabetes: an emerging syndrome - [link](#)

****New England Journal of Medicine**

- One Month of Rifapentine plus Isoniazid to Prevent HIV-Related Tuberculosis - [link](#)
- Comparison of Dual Therapies for Lowering Blood Pressure in Black Africans - [link](#)
- Antithrombotic Therapy after Acute Coronary Syndrome or PCI in Atrial Fibrillation- [link](#)
- Antibody-Based Ticagrelor Reversal Agent in Healthy Volunteers - [link](#)

****NPS MedicineWise**

- Anxiety disorders: use of evidence-based treatments - [link](#)

****Pediatrics**

- The Increasing Burden of Psychiatric Emergencies: A Call to Action - [link](#)
- The Effects of Early Nutritional Interventions on the Development of Atopic Disease in Infants and Children: The Role of Maternal Dietary Restriction, Breastfeeding, Hydrolyzed Formulas, and Timing of Introduction of Allergenic Complementary Foods - [link](#)

****Prescrire – French Medical Journal**

- March 2019 - [link](#)

****Therapeutics and Clinical Risk Management**

- Choosing the right inhaler for your asthma or COPD patient - [link](#)

- Barriers to achieving asthma control in adults: evidence for the role of tiotropium in current management strategies - [link](#)

**Thrombosis and haemostasis

- Direct oral anticoagulants in patients with venous thromboembolism and thrombophilia: a systematic review and meta-analysis - [link](#)

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REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUSTRALIA

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

- Certification framework for digital mental health services - [link](#)

**Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW)

- Child protection Australia 2017–18 - [link](#)

- The views of children and young people in out-of-home care: overview of indicator results from second national survey, 2018 - [link](#)

- Insights into vulnerabilities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 and over—in brief - [link](#)

**Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre

- Clinical practice guidelines and principles of care for people with dementia - [link](#)

- Diagnosis, treatment and care for people with dementia: [A consumer companion guide](#)

**NSW Health Intranet

- Influenza Vaccination Provider Toolkit - [link](#)

- NSW Health Data Governance Framework - [link](#)

**PBS

- Direct-acting Antivirals for Hepatitis C Outcome Statement - [link](#)

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – INTERNATIONAL

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

- Improving Access to and Usability of Systematic Review Data for Health Systems Guidelines Development - [link](#)

- Using electronic health records to identify adverse drug events in ambulatory care: a systematic review - [link](#)

- Prescribing in 2019: what are the safety concerns? - [link](#)

- Unintended patient safety risks due to wireless smart infusion pump library update delays - [link](#)

**Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health

- Inhaled Corticosteroids for Cystic Fibrosis: A Review of Clinical Effectiveness - [link](#)

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA) USA

- New drug approvals

-- Dupixent® ([dupilumab](#)) for moderate-to-severe Atopic Dermatitis in Adolescents

-- [Atezolizumab](#) (Tecentriq, Genentech/Roche) plus the chemotherapy nab-paclitaxel (Abraxane, Celgene) for the first-line treatment of unresectable locally advanced or metastatic, PD-L1-positive triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC).

-- [Netarsudil and latanoprost](#) ophthalmic solution (Rocklatan™) to decrease elevated intraocular pressure (IOP) in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension

**NHS England

- [Guidance document](#): Rescheduling of Gabapentin and Pregabalin as Schedule 3 Controlled Drugs

- NHS England Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Guidance for the initial management of self presenters from incidents involving hazardous materials - [link](#)

**National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) UK

- Tisagenlecleucel for treating relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma after 2 or more systemic therapies (guidance) [TA567](#)

**National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

- NIHR Signals

--Antimicrobial stewardship programmes reduce antibiotic use in long-term care homes - [link](#)

**Scottish Intercollegiate Guideline Network (SIGN) UK

- Risk reduction and management of delirium - [link](#)

**The King's Fund (UK)

- Public satisfaction with the NHS and social care in 2018: Results from the British Social Attitudes survey - [link](#)

- Payments and contracting for integrated care: The false promise of the self-improving health system - [link](#)

- Primary care networks explained - [link](#)

** World Health Organisation (WHO)

- WHO launches new global influenza strategy - [link](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

**electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) (UK)

- Revised SPCs

-- Entyvio™ ([vedolizumab](#)): should be discontinued by week 10 in patients with ulcerative colitis and week 14 in patients with Crohn's disease if no evidence of therapeutic \. Herpes zoster added as an uncommon adverse effect.

-- Remicade ([infliximab](#)): now includes acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) as a rare adverse effect.

**Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) USA

Medication Safety Alert! [March 14, 2019](#)

- ISMP Calls on FDA – No More Syringes for Vinca Alkaloids!

- Top 10 Tips for keeping pets safe around human medications

- Neuromuscular blocker storage

- Diluent given without vancomycin

- Package insert mistaken as label

** New safety information from Astra Zeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim and Merck Sharpe & Dohme distributed to Healthcare Professionals 25 February 2019: Risk of necrotising fasciitis of the perineum (Fournier's gangrene) with SGLT2 inhibitors.

(This letter was forwarded to TAG members - formal communication from TGA not currently available)

**Specialist Pharmacy Services

- New Product Evaluations [February 2019](#): abemaciclib; acalabrutinib, adstiladriin, axicabtagene ciloleucel, bevacizumab, BII092, buprenorphine depot (Buvidal), cabozantinib, dabrafenib, daratumumab, dexmedetomidine, dovirine, encorafenib, esketamine, eslicarbamazepine, lenalidomide, LY-900014 (ultra-rapid lispro), nivolumab, pembrolizumab, pioglitazone, relatimab, rivaroxaban, romiplostim, ropeginterferon alfa-2B, sacubitril valsartan, tisagenlecleucel, tofacitinib, venetoclax.

- Medicines Use and Safety Update [March 2019](#)

**TGA

- [Safety advisory](#) – Morphine Sulfate Injection BP 30 mg in 1 mL ampoule: Section 19A product not for epidural or intrathecal use

PAPERS OF INTEREST

**Journal of Addiction Medicine

- Patient-centered Outcomes in Participants of a Buprenorphine Monthly Depot (BUP-XR) Double-blind, Placebo-controlled, Multicenter, Phase 3 Study - [link](#)

**Arthritis and Rheumatology

- Chronic Opioid Use in Rheumatoid Arthritis: Prevalence and Predictors - [link](#)

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

- Novel tool supports appropriate outpatient antimicrobial use - [link](#)
- Midostaurin for the management of FLT3-mutated acute myeloid leukemia and advanced systemic mastocytosis - [link](#)
- Low-dose corticosteroids in septic shock: Has the pendulum shifted? - [link](#)
- Impact of a pharmacist-driven education initiative on treatment of asymptomatic bacteriuria - [link](#)
- The effect of an interprofessional pain service on nonmalignant pain control - [link](#)

**Annals of Internal Medicine

- Dual Receipt of Prescription Opioids from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Medicare Part D and Prescription Opioid Overdose Death Among Veterans: A Nested Case–Control Study - [link](#)

**British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology

- Relationship between allograft cyclosporin concentrations and P-glycoprotein expression in the 1st month following renal transplantation - [link](#)

**British Journal of General Practice

- Patients' understanding of cellulitis and their information needs: a mixed-methods study in primary and secondary care - [link](#)

**British Medical Journal (BMJ)

- Use of postmenopausal hormone therapy and risk of Alzheimer's disease in Finland: nationwide case-control study - [link](#)
- Joint association of urinary sodium and potassium excretion with cardiovascular events and mortality: prospective cohort study - [link](#)

**BMJ Heart

- Proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin 9 inhibitors in reducing cardiovascular outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis - [link](#)

**BMJ Quality and Safety

- Relationship between nursing home quality indicators and potentially preventable hospitalisation - [link](#)
- Development and performance evaluation of the Medicines Optimisation Assessment Tool (MOAT): a prognostic model to target hospital pharmacists' input to prevent medication-related problems - [link](#)

**Circulation

- Stroke Outcomes in the COMPASS Trial - [link](#)
- Anti-Inflammatory Therapy with Canakinumab for the Prevention of Hospitalization for Heart Failure - [link](#)

**Cochrane

- Probiotics to prevent infantile colic - [link](#)
- Early and late adverse renal effects after potentially nephrotoxic treatment for childhood cancer - [link](#)
- Once daily long-acting beta2-agonists and long-acting muscarinic antagonists in a combined inhaler versus placebo for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease - [link](#)

**** Diabetes Care**

- Underuse of Medications and Lifestyle Counseling to Prevent Cardiovascular Disease in Patients with Diabetes - [link](#)
- Efficacy and Safety of Empagliflozin in Renal Transplant Recipients with Post transplant Diabetes Mellitus - [link](#)

****Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism**

- Effect of SGLT2 inhibitors on cardiovascular, renal and safety outcomes in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus and chronic kidney disease: a systematic review and meta-analysis - [link](#)

****European Heart Journal**

- Pretreatment with P2Y12 receptor antagonists in ST-elevation myocardial infarction: a report from the Swedish Coronary Angiography and Angioplasty Registry - [link](#)
- Febuxostat for Cerebral and CaRdiorenovascular Events PrEvEntion StuDy - [link](#)

****European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy**

- The impact of implementing a pharmacy technician role as part of a nursing team in an acute admissions unit - [link](#)

****International Journal of Clinical Practice**

- Risk of cutaneous adverse reactions associated with allopurinol or febuxostat in real-world patients: A nationwide study - [link](#)

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

- A cluster randomised controlled feasibility study of nurse-initiated behavioural strategies to manage interruptions during medication administration - [link](#)

****JAMA**

- Association of Tramadol with All-Cause Mortality among Patients with Osteoarthritis - [link](#)

****JAMA Dermatology**

- Non-melanoma Skin Cancer Frequency and Risk Factors in Australian Heart and Lung Transplant Recipients - [link](#)

****JAMA Facial Plastic Surgery**

- Assessment of Persistent and Prolonged Postoperative Opioid Use among Patients Undergoing Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery - [link](#)

****JAMA Internal Medicine**

- Patient Outcomes after Hospital Discharge to Home with Home Health Care vs to a Skilled Nursing Facility - [link](#)

****JAMA Network Open**

- Combined Association of Body Mass Index and Alcohol Consumption With Biomarkers for Liver Injury and Incidence of Liver Disease - A Mendelian Randomization Study - [link](#)
- Assessment of Risk of Harm Associated with Intensive Blood Pressure Management among Patients with Hypertension Who Smoke - A Secondary Analysis of the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial - [link](#)

****JAMIA (Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association)**

- Can lay-people identify a drug-induced QT interval prolongation? A psychophysical and eye-tracking experiment examining the ability of non-experts to interpret an ECG - [link](#)
- Disconnected: a survey of users and nonusers of telehealth and their use of primary care - [link](#)
- Novel displays of patient information in critical care settings: a systematic review - [link](#)

**** Journal of the American College of Cardiology**

- Effects of Sacubitril/Valsartan on Biomarkers of Extracellular Matrix Regulation in Patients With HFrEF - [link](#)

- Dual Antiplatelet Therapy Duration Based on Ischemic and Bleeding Risks after Coronary Stenting - [link](#)

** Journal of the Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association

- Going digital: a checklist in preparing for hospital-wide electronic medical record implementation and digital transformation - [link](#)

- Model for integrated care for chronic disease in the Australian context: Western Sydney Integrated Care Program - [link](#)

- Failure to access prescribed pharmaceuticals by older patients with chronic conditions - [link](#)

- Readmissions following hospitalisations for cardiovascular disease: a scoping review of the Australian literature - [link](#)

** Journal of Patient Safety

- "I Am Administering Medication—Please Do Not Interrupt Me": Red Tabards Preventing Interruptions as Perceived by Surgical Patients - [link](#)

** Journal of Patient Safety and Risk Management

- Engineering a foundation for partnership to improve medication safety during care transitions - [link](#)

- 'You feel like you haven't got any control': A qualitative study of side effects from medicines - [link](#)

- High-risk medications identified from the Danish Patient Safety Database and the challenge of dissemination - [link](#)

** Lancet

- Management of epilepsy in women - [link](#)

- Heart failure drug treatment - [link](#)

- Efficacy and safety of intravenous ceftriaxone at home versus intravenous flucloxacillin in hospital for children with cellulitis (CHOICE): a single-centre, open-label, randomised, controlled, non-inferiority trial - [link](#)

- A mobile device application to reduce medication errors and time to drug delivery during simulated paediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation: a multicentre, randomised, controlled, crossover trial - [link](#)

** Medical Journal of Australia

- Deprescribing cholinesterase inhibitors and memantine in dementia: guideline summary - [link](#)

- Identifying the cultural heritage of patients during clinical handover and in hospital medical records - [link](#)

- Seroprevalence of Q fever among metropolitan and non-metropolitan blood donors in New South Wales and Queensland, 2014–2015 - [link](#)

- The burden of pancreatic cancer in Australia attributable to smoking - [link](#)

** New England Journal of Medicine

- A Trial of a Shorter Regimen for Rifampin-Resistant Tuberculosis - [link](#)

- Randomized Trial of Four Treatment Approaches for Actinic Keratosis - [link](#)

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REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUSTRALIA

** ACI

- Lymphoedema: A guide for clinical services - [link](#)

- February 2019 Clinician Connect - [link](#)

- Strategic Plan 2019–2022 - [link](#)

** Bureau of Health Information

- [Healthcare Quarterly](#) - Activity and Performance for Emergency Department Care, Elective Surgery and Ambulance Services, October to December

**Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW)

- People in short-term or emergency accommodation: a profile of Specialist Homelessness Services clients - [link](#)

**NSW Health

- NSW Immunisation Schedule (March 2019) - [link](#)

**TGA

- AusPARs

-- [Abatacept](#) (Orencia®) extension of indications to for the treatment of active psoriatic arthritis (PsA) in adults when the response to previous disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) therapy has been inadequate. Orencia can be used with or without non-biologic DMARDs.

- Registration of [new or extended uses of registered medicines](#)

-- mepolizumab (Nucala™) as an add-on treatment for relapsing or refractory Eosinophilic Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (EGPA) in adult patients aged 18 years and over.

-- daptomycin (Cubicin™) for staphylococcus aureus Bloodstream Infections (Bacteraemia)

-- rivaroxaban (Xarelto™) in combination with aspirin for the prevention of major cardiovascular events in patients with coronary artery disease (CAD) and/or peripheral artery disease (PAD).

-- cinnarizine/dimenhydrinate, (Cizigo™, Cizinate™, Cizere™) for short-term, symptomatic treatment of vertigo of various causes, in adults who have not responded to alternative treatments.

- Registration of [New Chemical Entities \(NCEs\), 2019](#)

-- lanadelumab (Takhzyro™) is indicated for routine prevention of recurrent attacks of hereditary angioedema (C1-Esterase-inhibitor deficiency or dysfunction) in patients aged 12 years and older.

-- lifitegrast (Xiidra™) eye drops for moderate to severe dry eye disease in adults for whom prior use of artificial tears has not been sufficient

-- binimetinib (Mektovi™) in combination with encorafenib (Braftovi™) for the treatment of adult patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma with a BRAF V600E or V600K mutation, as detected by a validated test.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – INTERNATIONAL

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

- Assessment of the FDA Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy for transmucosal immediate-release fentanyl products - [link](#)

- Screening for adverse drug events: a randomized trial of automated calls coupled with phone-based pharmacist counselling - [link](#)

**British National Formulary (BNF)

- February BNF [eNewsletter](#)

**Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health

- Tetrasodium Ethylenediaminetetraacetic Acid for Locking Central Venous Access Devices in Parenteral Feeding: Clinical Effectiveness, Cost-Effectiveness, and Guidelines - [link](#)

- Tiered Care for Chronic Non-Malignant Pain: A Review of Clinical Effectiveness, Cost-Effectiveness, and Guidelines - [link](#)

**Diabetes UK

- Factsheet: Us, diabetes and a lot of facts and stats - [link](#)

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA) USA

New drug approvals

- Spravato™ ([esketamine](#)) nasal spray medication for treatment-resistant depression

- Tremfya™ ([guselkumab](#)) One-Press Patient-controlled Injector for Adults with Moderate-to-Severe Plaque Psoriasis
- Gloperba™ ([colchicine](#)) oral solution 0.6 mg/5 mL, the first liquid formulation of colchicine, for prophylaxis of gout flares in adults

****GOV.UK**

- Guidance: Influenza post exposure prophylaxis and treatment: Patient group direction (PGD) templates - [link](#)

****Health Canada**

- Health Product InfoWatch, [February 2019](#)

****Institute for Healthcare Improvement**

- Selected Resources: Improving Opioid and Pain Management - [link](#)
- "Conversation Ready": A Framework for Improving End-of-Life Care (Second Edition) - [link](#)

****New Zealand Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority – MEDSAFE**

- Prescriber Update - [March 2019](#)

****NHS Improvement**

- Never Events data - [link](#)

****National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) UK**

- Abemaciclib with an aromatase inhibitor for previously untreated, hormone receptor-positive, HER2-negative, locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer - technology appraisal guidance ([TA563](#))
- Encorafenib with binimetinib for unresectable or metastatic BRAF V600 mutation-positive melanoma – technology appraisal guidance ([TA562](#))
- Venetoclax with rituximab for previously treated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia - Technology appraisal guidance ([TA561](#))
- Benralizumab for treating severe eosinophilic asthma ([TA565](#)) – guidance
- Intrapartum care for women with existing medical conditions or obstetric complications and their babies ([NG121](#)) – guidance
- Alcohol Withdrawal Management for acute admissions to hospital - [link](#)

****Royal Pharmaceutical Society**

- Medication errors: where do they happen? - [link](#)

****Specialist Pharmacy Services**

- What is the sodium content of medicines? - [link](#)

****World Health Organisation (WHO)**

- A healthier humanity: the WHO investment case for 2019-2023 - [link](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

****electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) (UK)**

- Revised SPCs
 - Velcade® ([bortezomib](#)): thrombotic microangiopathy (rare), chalazion and blepharitis (uncommon) added as adverse effects.
 - Zytiga™ ([abiraterone](#)): treatment with prednisone/prednisolone in combination with Ra-223 is contraindicated due to an increased risk of fractures and trend for increased mortality among asymptomatic/mildly symptomatic patients.
 - Proleukin™ ([aldesleukin](#)): hyponatraemia, hypophosphataemia and influenza like illness added as common adverse events.
 - Tecentriq™ ([atezolizumab](#)): Immune related nephritis added as a potential adverse effect. Monitor for changes in renal function. Withhold treatment in Grade 2 nephritis and start systemic corticosteroids (1-2mg/kg/day of prednisone or equivalent).

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

- Initiating Combined Hormonal Contraception - [link](#)
- Rise in drug shortages 'causing patient harm', say GPs - [link](#)

****National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)**

- NIHR Signals
- Medication to reduce stomach acid may increase risk of hip fractures - [link](#)

PAPERS OF INTEREST

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

- Tool offers non opioid options for acute migraine in the emergency department - [link](#)
- Intervention capture helps guide Veterans Affairs pharmacy expansion - [link](#)

****Annals of Internal Medicine**

- Measles, Mumps, Rubella Vaccination and Autism: A Nationwide Cohort Study - [link](#)
- Summaries for patients: The MMR Vaccine Is Not Associated with Risk for Autism - [link](#)
- Use of Low-Dose Aspirin and Mortality after Prostate Cancer Diagnosis: A Nationwide Cohort Study - [link](#)

****British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology**

- Under-representation of elderly in clinical trials: An analysis of the initial approval documents in the Food and Drug Administration database - [link](#)
- Associations of statin use with glycaemic traits and incident type 2 diabetes - [link](#)

****British Journal of General Practice**

- Prescribing benzodiazepines in general practice - [link](#)

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

- Which drugs are best for treating severe hypertension in pregnancy? - [link](#)
- Acute dual antiplatelet therapy for minor ischaemic stroke or transient ischaemic attack - [link](#)
- Association of genetically predicted testosterone with thromboembolism, heart failure, and myocardial infarction: Mendelian randomisation study in UK Biobank - [link](#)
- Use of postmenopausal hormone therapy and risk of Alzheimer's disease in Finland: nationwide case-control study - [link](#)

****British Journal of Psychiatry**

- Changes in prescribing for bipolar disorder between 2009 and 2016: national-level data linkage study in Scotland - [link](#)

****BMJ Quality and Safety**

- Quality & safety in the literature: May 2019 - [link](#)

****Cochrane**

- Antiamoebic drugs for treating amoebic colitis - [link](#)
- Potentiators (specific therapies for class III and IV mutations) for cystic fibrosis - [link](#)
- Print-based self-help interventions for smoking cessation - [link](#)
- Adjuvant gonadotropin-releasing hormone analogues for the prevention of chemotherapy-induced premature ovarian failure in premenopausal women - [link](#)
- Epidural analgesia for adults undergoing cardiac surgery with or without cardiopulmonary bypass - [link](#)
- Outpatient versus inpatient treatment for acute pulmonary embolism - [link](#)

****Diabetes Care**

- Long-term Association of Depression Symptoms and Antidepressant Medication Use with Incident Cardiovascular Events in the Look AHEAD (Action for Health in Diabetes) Clinical Trial of Weight Loss in Type 2 Diabetes - [link](#)
- Improved Time in Range and Glycemic Variability with Sotagliflozin in Combination with Insulin in Adults With Type 1 Diabetes: A Pooled Analysis of 24-Week Continuous Glucose Monitoring Data From the inTandem Program - [link](#)

**** Drug Safety**

- The Prevalence of Dose Errors Among Paediatric Patients in Hospital Wards with and without Health Information Technology: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis - [link](#)

****European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy**

- The impact of implementing a pharmacy technician role as part of a nursing team in an acute admissions unit - [link](#)

****JAMA Cardiology**

- Association of Initial and Serial C-Reactive Protein Levels With Adverse Cardiovascular Events and Death After Acute Coronary Syndrome – A Secondary Analysis of the VISTA-16 Trial - [link](#)

****JAMA Dermatology**

- Use of Antibiotics for Dermatologic Procedures From 2008 to 2016 - [link](#)
- Development and Validation of a Risk Prediction Model for In-Hospital Mortality among Patients with Stevens-Johnson Syndrome/Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis—ABCD-10 - [link](#)

****JAMA Internal Medicine**

- Association of Adding Aspirin to Warfarin Therapy without an Apparent Indication with Bleeding and Other Adverse Events - [link](#)
- Association of Urinary Oxalate Excretion with the Risk of Chronic Kidney Disease Progression - [link](#)
- Measuring Hospital-Acquired Complications Associated with Low-Value Care - [link](#)

****JAMA Network Open**

- Association of Long-term Use of Low-Dose Aspirin as Chemoprevention with Risk of Lung Cancer - [link](#)
- Association of Antidementia Therapies with Time to Skilled Nursing Facility Admission and Cardiovascular Events among Elderly Adults with Alzheimer Disease - [link](#)
- Factors Associated with Acute Pain Estimation, Postoperative Pain Resolution, Opioid Cessation, and Recovery – Secondary Analysis of a Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)

****JAMA Oncology**

- Patient page: Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy - [link](#)

****JAMIA (Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association)**

- The impact of mobile technology on teamwork and communication in hospitals: a systematic review - [link](#)

****Journal of Palliative Medicine**

- Relationship of Cannabis Use to Patient-Reported Symptoms in Cancer Patients Seeking Supportive/Palliative Care - [link](#)

****Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research (JPPR)**

- Prescribing errors and adverse drug reaction documentation before and after implementation of e-prescribing using the Enterprise Patient Administration System - [link](#)
- Hospital discharge opioid guidelines and policies: a Victorian survey - [link](#)

****Lancet**

- Tapering of SSRI treatment to mitigate withdrawal symptoms - [link](#)
- Antibiotic prescription for febrile children in European emergency departments: a cross-sectional, observational study - [link](#)
- Semaglutide once weekly as add-on to SGLT-2 inhibitor therapy in type 2 diabetes (SUSTAIN 9): a randomised, placebo-controlled trial - [link](#)
- Association between urinary community-acquired fluoroquinolone-resistant Escherichia coli and neighbourhood antibiotic consumption: a population-based case-control study - [link](#)
- Quantitative contribution of efflux to multi-drug resistance of clinical Escherichia coli and Pseudomonas aeruginosa strains - [link](#)

****NPS MedicineWise**

- March 2019 new listings wrap-up - [link](#)

****Prescrire – French Medical Journal**

- Prescrire International issue 202 March 2019 - [link](#)
- Melatonin: significant adverse effects - [link](#)
- High-strength insulins: think and act in units of insulin to prevent errors - [link](#)

****Thrombosis and Haemostasis**

- Improving the Prescription of Oral Anticoagulants in Atrial Fibrillation: A Systematic Review - [link](#)
- PCSK9 in Haemostasis and Thrombosis: Possible Pleiotropic Effects of PCSK9 Inhibitors in Cardiovascular Prevention - [link](#)

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REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUSTRALIA

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

- National Standard Medication Chart (NSMC) Audit System User Guide - [link](#)

****Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW)**

- GEN Aged Care Data: Government spending on aged care - [link](#)
- GEN Aged Care Data: Services and places in aged care - [link](#)
- Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment: Oral Health Program July 2012 to December 2017 - [link](#)
- National Social Housing Survey 2018: Key results - [link](#)

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – INTERNATIONAL

****Institute for Healthcare Improvement**

- Advancing the Safety of Acute Pain Management - [link](#)

****FDA**

- New approvals
- [Trifluridine/tipiracil](#) (Lonsurf™) for adults with previously treated advanced gastric or gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma
- [Turoctocog alfa pegol](#) (Esperoct™) for patients with hemophilia A

****GOV.UK**

- Guidance: Widening the availability of naloxone - [link](#)
- Policy paper: Dementia 2020 challenge: progress review - [link](#)

****Royal Pharmaceutical Society**

- The Carter review: how are hospitals measuring up? - [link](#)

****Specialist Pharmacy Services**

- NICE Bites – COPD - [link](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

****electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) (UK)**

- Revised SPCs
- Coversyl™ ([perindopril arginine](#)): Raynaud's Phenomenon added as adverse effect (unknown frequency).
- Lonquex™ ([lipegfilgrastim](#)): Haemoptysis (common) and pulmonary haemorrhage (uncommon) added as adverse effects.

- Sutent ([sunitinib](#)): Cases of aortic aneurysm and/or dissection have been reported. Consider risk in patients with risk factors such as hypertension or history of aneurysm. Colitis added as uncommon ADR.
- Advagraf™ and Modigraf™ ([tacrolimus](#)): The effect of switching ciclosporin to tacrolimus and its effect on mycophenolic acid exposure added. Updated to include thrombotic microangiopathy, and optic neuropathy as adverse effects, advises increased risk of viral hepatitis.
- Cerazette ([desogestrel](#)): Depressed mood and depression are well known ADRs- can be serious and is a well-known risk factor for suicidal behaviour and suicide. Users advised to contact their physician in case of mood changes.

****Food and Drug Administration (FDA) USA**

- Statement from FDA Commissioner on the Agency's 2019 policy and regulatory agenda for continued action to forcefully address the epidemic of opioid abuse - [link](#)
- Increased risk of death with [febuxostat](#): Health care professionals advised to reserve febuxostat for use only in patients who have failed or do not tolerate allopurinol.
- Safety trial finds increased risk of pulmonary embolus and death with higher dose of [tofacitinib](#) in rheumatoid arthritis patients.

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

- Medication Safety Alert! [February 28, 2019](#)
- Your Attention Please... Designing Effective Warnings
- Enoxaparin syringe failures
- Mix-ups between dexamethasone and dexmedetomidine
- Administration of wrong vaccine prepared by another
- Worth repeating... High-alert medication stickers may not improve safety

****TGA**

- TGA laboratory testing: Survey of human insulin products - [link](#)
- Notification of a new proprietary ingredient - [link](#)
- 'Sartan' blood pressure medicines - TGA investigation - potential contamination with N-nitroso compounds - [link](#)

PAPERS OF INTEREST

****Arthritis and Rheumatology**

- Derivation and Validation of a Major Toxicity Risk Score Among NSAID Users Based on Data from a Randomized Controlled Trial - [link](#)

****Annals of Internal Medicine**

- Comparative Efficacy of Therapies for Treatment of Depression for Patients Undergoing Maintenance Hemodialysis: A Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)
- Predicting Bleeding Risk to Guide Aspirin Use for the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease: A Cohort Study - [link](#)

****British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology**

- Discontinuation of medications at the end of life: A population study in Belgium, based on linked administrative databases - [link](#)
- The skeletal impact of cancer therapies - [link](#)
- Health care professionals' attitudes towards deprescribing in older patients with limited life expectancy: A systematic review – [link](#)
- Population pharmacokinetics of lenalidomide in patients with B-cell malignancies - [link](#)

****British Journal of General Practice**

- GPs' management of polypharmacy and therapeutic dilemma in patients with multimorbidity: a cross-sectional survey of GPs in France - [link](#)

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

- Management of perinatal depression with non-drug interventions - [link](#)

- Duration of antibiotic treatment for common infections in English primary care: cross sectional analysis and comparison with guidelines - [link](#)
 - Antibiotic management of urinary tract infection in elderly patients in primary care and its association with bloodstream infections and all-cause mortality: population based cohort study - [link](#)
 - Practice: How to prescribe loop diuretics in oedema - [link](#)
- **BMJ Quality and Safety**
- Contribution of adverse events to death of hospitalised patients - [link](#)
- **Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ)**
- Associations between low- and high-dose oral fluconazole and pregnancy outcomes: 3 nested case-control studies - [link](#)
- **Circulation**
- Cardiovascular Risk Reduction in High-Risk Pediatric Patients: A Scientific Statement from the American Heart Association - [link](#)
 - Management of Cardiovascular Disease in Women with Breast Cancer - [link](#)
 - Comparison of the Effects of Glucagon-Like Peptide Receptor Agonists and Sodium-Glucose Co-Transporter 2 Inhibitors for Prevention of Major Adverse Cardiovascular and Renal Outcomes in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Cardiovascular Outcomes Trials - [link](#)
 - Cardiovascular Disease-Related Morbidity and Mortality in Women with a History of Pregnancy Complications - Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis - [link](#)
- **Cochrane**
- Phosphodiesterase 5 inhibitors for pulmonary hypertension - [link](#)
 - Intermittent iron supplementation for reducing anaemia and its associated impairments in adolescent and adult menstruating women - [link](#)
 - Parenteral versus oral iron therapy for adults and children with chronic kidney disease - [link](#)
 - Antimicrobial agents for preventing urinary tract infections in adults undergoing cystoscopy - [link](#)
 - Corticosteroids as adjunctive therapy in the treatment of influenza - [link](#)
 - Paracetamol versus placebo for knee and hip osteoarthritis - [link](#)
- **European Heart Journal**
- Dabigatran dual therapy with ticagrelor or clopidogrel after percutaneous coronary intervention in atrial fibrillation patients with or without acute coronary syndrome: a subgroup analysis from the RE-DUAL PCI trial - [link](#)
- **European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy**
- Review of economic data on closed system transfer drug for preparation and administration of hazardous drugs - [link](#)
 - [Usefulness of therapeutic drug monitoring of piperacillin and meropenem in routine clinical practice: a prospective cohort study in critically ill patients](#) - [link](#)
 - [Position paper: Biosimilar medicines](#) - [link](#)
- **JAMA**
- Effect of Patient-Centered Transitional Care Services on Clinical Outcomes in Patients Hospitalized for Heart Failure. The PACT-HF Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)
- **JAMA Dermatology**
- Analysis of Readmissions Following Hospitalization for Cellulitis in the United States - [link](#)
- **JAMA Neurology**
- Antiplatelet Therapy vs Anticoagulation Therapy in Cervical Artery Dissection - The Cervical Artery Dissection in Stroke Study (CADISS) Randomized Clinical Trial Final Results - [link](#)
- **JAMA Psychiatry**

- Association of Delirium Response and Safety of Pharmacological Interventions for the Management and Prevention of Delirium. A Network Meta-analysis - [link](#)

****JAMA Surgery**

- Association between Long-term Opioid Use in Family Members and Persistent Opioid Use after Surgery among Adolescents and Young Adults - [link](#)

****JAMIA (Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association)**

- A systematic review of the effects of implementing clinical pathways supported by health information technologies - [link](#)

****Journal of the American Geriatrics Society**

- Effect of Monthly High-Dose Vitamin D on Mental Health in Older Adults: Secondary Analysis of a RCT - [link](#)

- Pharmacological Management of Delirium in the Intensive Care Unit: A Randomized Pragmatic Clinical Trial - [link](#)

****Lancet**

- Automated insulin dosing guidance to optimise insulin management in patients with type 2 diabetes: a multicentre, randomised controlled trial - [link](#)

- A mobile device application to reduce medication errors and time to drug delivery during simulated paediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation: a multicentre, randomised, controlled, crossover trial - [link](#)

- Use of metformin to treat pregnant women with polycystic ovary syndrome (PregMet2): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial - [link](#)

****Medical Journal of Australia**

- Victoria's voluntary assisted dying law: clinical implementation as the next challenge - [link](#)

****New England Journal of Medicine**

- Rivaroxaban for Thromboprophylaxis in High-Risk Ambulatory Patients with Cancer - [link](#)

****National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)**

- NIHR Signals

- Updated evidence on progesterone to prevent preterm birth in at-risk pregnancies - [link](#)

- Treating vitamin D deficiency may reduce exacerbations of COPD - [link](#)

- Prolonging anticoagulant treatment after abdominal cancer surgery reduces clot risk - [link](#)

****NPS MedicineWise**

- Can vitamin C help type 2 diabetes? - [link](#)

****Thrombosis and Haemostasis**

- Antiplatelet Therapy versus Anticoagulation after Surgical Bioprosthetic Aortic Valve Replacement: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis - [link](#)

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REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUSTRALIA

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

- Revised Fact Sheet 7: Governing body attestation statement - [link](#)

- CARAlert Data Update 10 – 1 November to 31 December 2018 - [link](#) (CAR=Critical Antimicrobial Resistances)

****AHHA**

- The Health Advocate - February 2019 - [link](#)

****Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW)**

- Data sources for monitoring overweight and obesity in Australia - [link](#)

- MyHospitals: Healthcare-associated Staphylococcus aureus bloodstream infections in public and private hospitals in 2017–18 - [link](#)
- Bloodstream infections associated with hospital care 2017–18: Australian hospital statistics - [link](#)
- Hospitalised injury among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 2011–12 to 2015–16 - [link](#)

****NSW Health Intranet**

- Health News Summer Edition 2019 - [link](#)

****TGA**

- AusPARs:
 - [Everolimus](#) (Afinitor®) - Major variation (new indication) - Adjunctive treatment of patients ≥ 2 years with Tubular Sclerosis Complex (TSC) and associated refractory seizures.
 - [Recombinant varicella zoster virus glycoprotein E antigen](#) (Shingrix®) - for prevention of herpes zoster and post herpetic neuralgia in adults 50 years of age or older

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – INTERNATIONAL

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

- Addressing Social Isolation to Improve the Health of Older Adults: A Rapid Review - [link](#)
- Patient involvement in evaluation of safety in oral antineoplastic treatment: a failure mode and effects analysis in patients and health care professionals - [link](#)
- Evaluation of an electronic dosing calculator to reduce pediatric medication errors - [link](#)
- Implementation of bar-code medication administration to reduce patient harm - [link](#)

****Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health**

- Tiered Care for Chronic Non-Malignant Pain: A Review of Clinical Effectiveness, Cost-Effectiveness, and Guidelines - [link](#)
- Ulipristal versus Levonorgestrel for Emergency Contraception: A Review of Comparative Cost Effectiveness - [link](#)
- CADTH Pharmaceutical Reviews Update — [Issue 5](#)

****Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand**

- Zero seclusion measurement: A family of measures - [link](#)

****Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership**

- Clinically Integrated Supply Chain Infrastructure in Health Systems: The Opportunity to Improve Quality and Safety - [link](#)

****GOV.UK**

- Case Study: Pharmacist-led virtual clinics to optimise anticoagulation in AF - [link](#)

****National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) UK**

- Opioid dependence: buprenorphine prolonged-release injection (Buvidal)-evidence summary ([ES19](#))
- Serious eye disorders- quality standard ([QS180](#))
- Antenatal care for uncomplicated pregnancies - Clinical guideline ([CG62](#))

****Specialist Pharmacy Services**

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

****Therapeutics Initiative Canada**

- [117] Gabapentin and pregabalin: Are high doses justified? - [link](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

****electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) (UK)**

- Revised SPCs

- Dacogen™ ([decitabine](#)): cases of cardiomyopathy with cardiac decompensation, sometimes reversible after treatment discontinuation, dose reduction or corrective treatment, reported in postmarketing setting. Patients should be monitored for heart failure signs and symptoms.
- [Gemfibrozil](#): addition of enzalutamide to the existing list of CYP2C8 substrates that can interact with gemfibrozil; and co-administration of gemfibrozil with enzalutamide may increase the risk of seizures.
- [Indapamide](#): concomitant treatment may increase the incidence of hypersensitivity reactions to allopurinol.
- [Rifampicin](#) containing products: may cause vitamin K dependent coagulopathy and severe bleeding. Monitor occurrence of coagulopathy in patients at bleeding risk.
- [Eluxadoline](#): potential for mild induction of CYP3A4; reduced systemic exposure to medicinal products metabolised by CYP3A4 when co-administered with eluxadoline

****Food and Drug Administration (FDA) USA**

- New drug approval: [triclabendazole](#) (Egaten™) to treat fascioliasis in patients >6 years

****Health Canada – MedEffect Notice**

- Health Canada recommends that children and youth not use cough and cold products that contain opioids - [link](#)

****Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) UK**

- Drug Safety Updates:

- [Carbimazole](#) - increased risk of congenital malformations; strengthened advice on contraception when used during pregnancy, particularly in first trimester and at high doses (>15mg carbimazole daily). Women of childbearing potential should use effective contraception during treatment with carbimazole.
- [Carbimazole](#) and risk of acute pancreatitis – cases reported very infrequently; if acute pancreatitis occurs, treatment should be discontinued immediately. Re-exposure may result in life-threatening acute pancreatitis.
- [SGLT2 inhibitors](#) and reports of Fournier’s gangrene. If suspected, cease SGLT2 inhibitor and start treatment urgently. Advise patients to seek urgent medical attention if they experience severe pain, tenderness, erythema, or swelling in genital or perineal area, accompanied by fever or malaise.
- Letter to healthcare professionals advising no new patients to be started on [olaratumab](#) (Lartruvo™) - clinical studies in patients with advanced soft tissue sarcoma showed no survival benefit.

****NSW Health Safety Notice**

- [SN:002/12](#) Morphine sulfate 30mg/ml injection - disruption to supply (Supersedes SN:007/18)
- [SN 001/19](#) Thiopental injection (Pentothal®) disruption to supply – update: at the time of writing the safety notice, there was no stock availability of any brand. This situation has now changed and there is limited emergency stock available, only for patients where no other alternatives are suitable.

****TGA safety alert**

- Jurnista™ (hydromorphone hydrochloride) prolonged-release - Product defect correction - [potentially damaged tablets](#)

PAPERS OF INTEREST

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

- Efficacy and Safety of Apixaban versus Warfarin in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation and Extremes in Body Weight: Insights from the ARISTOTLE Trial - [link](#)

****American Journal of Medicine**

- Concomitant Use of Direct Oral Anticoagulants with Antiplatelet Agents and the Risk of Major Bleeding in Patients with Nonvalvular Atrial Fibrillation - [link](#)

- **American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy (AHJP)**
- Development and implementation of a strategy to ensure outpatient access to medications started in the inpatient setting - [link](#)
 - Safety of high-dose intravenous labetalol in hypertensive crisis - [link](#)
 - Use of a tablet computer application to engage patients in updating their medication list - [link](#)
 - Adverse drug reactions in the Veterans Affairs healthcare system: Frequency, severity, and causative medications analyzed by patient age - [link](#)
- **Annals of Internal Medicine**
- A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Vaccination for Prevention of Herpes Zoster and Related Complications: Input for National Recommendations - [link](#)
- **British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology**
- Clinical and translational pharmacology of drugs for the prevention and treatment of bone metastases and cancer-induced bone loss - [link](#)
 - Post-marketing dosing changes in the label of biologicals - [link](#)
- **British Medical Journal (BMJ)**
- Effectiveness and safety of electronically delivered prescribing feedback and decision support on antibiotic use for respiratory illness in primary care: REDUCE cluster randomised trial - [link](#)
 - Enterovirus as trigger of coeliac disease: nested case-control study within prospective birth cohort - [link](#)
 - Trends in survival after a diagnosis of heart failure in the United Kingdom 2000-2017: population based cohort study - [link](#)
 - Association between statin use and herpes zoster: systematic review and meta-analysis - [link](#)
 - Increased risk of bisphosphonate-related osteonecrosis of the jaw in patients with Sjögren's syndrome: nationwide population-based cohort study - [link](#)
- **BMJ Annals of Rheumatic Diseases**
- Risk of serious infections in tocilizumab versus other biologic drugs in patients with rheumatoid arthritis: a multidatabase cohort study - [link](#)
- **BMJ Quality and Safety**
- A qualitative positive deviance study to explore exceptionally safe care on medical wards for older people - [link](#)
- ** Canadian Journal of Cardiology**
- Marijuana Lollipop-Induced Myocardial Infarction - [link](#)
- **Cochrane**
- Antibiotic treatment for newborns with congenital syphilis - [link](#)
 - Calcium antagonists for acute ischemic stroke - [link](#)
 - Desmopressin acetate (DDAVP) for preventing and treating acute bleeds during pregnancy in women with congenital bleeding disorders - [link](#)
- **European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy**
- Council of Europe Resolution CM/Res (2016)2: a major contribution to patient safety from reconstituted injectable medicines? - [link](#)
 - Effect of Roux-en-Y gastric bypass on the bioavailability of metoprolol from immediate and controlled release tablets: a single oral dose study before and after surgery - [link](#)
 - Relapse prevention interventions for smoking cessation - [link](#)
 - Current situation of carboplatin desensitisation protocols in the hospitals of Spain - [link](#)
 - Vancomycin pharmacokinetics in critically ill neonates receiving extracorporeal membrane oxygenation - [link](#)
- **Internal Medicine Journal**
- The effects of empagliflozin treatment on cardiac function and structure in patients with type 2 diabetes – a cardiac MR study - [link](#)

- Cognitive function during exacerbations of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease - [link](#)
- Impact of access to novel therapies on the initial management of castrate-resistant prostate cancer: an Australian multicentre study - [link](#)
- Decision-making for older patients by Australian and New Zealand doctors with Advance Care Directives: A vignette based study - [link](#)

**International Journal for Quality in Health Care

- Developing medical record-based, healthcare quality indicators for psychiatric hospitals in China: a modified Delphi-Analytic Hierarchy Process study - [link](#)

**JAMA

- Effect of a Resuscitation Strategy Targeting Peripheral Perfusion Status vs Serum Lactate Levels on 28-Day Mortality among Patients with Septic Shock – The ANDROMEDA-SHOCK Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)
- Effect of Intravenous Acetaminophen vs Placebo Combined with Propofol or Dexmedetomidine on Postoperative Delirium among Older Patients Following Cardiac Surgery - The DEXACET Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)

**JAMA Cardiology

- Association of Statin Adherence with Mortality in Patients With Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease - [link](#)

**JAMA Dermatology

- Association of Systemic Antibiotic Treatment of Acne with Skin Microbiota Characteristics - [link](#)

**JAMA Internal Medicine

- Factors Associated with High-Quality Guidelines for the Pharmacologic Management of Chronic Diseases in Primary Care – A Systematic Review - [link](#)

**JAMA Network Open

- Risk Assessment After a Severe Hospital-Acquired Infection Associated With Carbapenemase-Producing Pseudomonas aeruginosa - [link](#)
- Prevalence, Underlying Causes, and Preventability of Sepsis-Associated Mortality in US Acute Care Hospitals - [link](#)
- Association of Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drug Prescriptions with Kidney Disease among Active Young and Middle-aged Adults - [link](#)
- Use of Prescription Opioids and Initiation of Fatal 2-Vehicle Crashes - [link](#)
- Analysis of Benefit of Intensive Care Unit Transfer for Deteriorating Ward Patients – A Patient-Centered Approach to Clinical Evaluation - [link](#)

**JAMA Neurology

- Association Between ABCB1 Polymorphisms and Outcomes of Clopidogrel Treatment in Patients with Minor Stroke or Transient Ischemic Attack – Secondary Analysis of a Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)
- Clinical Outcomes of Escalation vs Early Intensive Disease-Modifying Therapy in Patients with Multiple Sclerosis - [link](#)

**JAMA Oncology

- Therapeutic Options for Neuroendocrine Tumors – A Systematic Review and Network Meta-analysis - [link](#)

**JAMA Paediatrics

- A Clinical Prediction Rule to Identify Febrile Infants 60 Days and Younger at Low Risk for Serious Bacterial Infections - [link](#)
- 2018 Update on Pediatric Medical Overuse – A Review - [link](#)

**JAMA Psychiatry

- Association of Cannabis Use in Adolescence and Risk of Depression, Anxiety, and Suicidality in Young Adulthood – A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis - [link](#)

- Comparative Effectiveness of Adjunctive Psychotropic Medications in Patients with Schizophrenia - [link](#)
- Association of Antipsychotic Polypharmacy vs Monotherapy with Psychiatric Rehospitalization among Adults with Schizophrenia - [link](#)

- **JAMA Surgery
 - Does This Patient Have a Severe Snake Envenomation? – The Rational Clinical Examination Systematic Review - [link](#)

- **JAMIA (Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association)
 - Robust clinical marker identification for diabetic kidney disease with ensemble feature selection - [link](#)

- ** Journal of Pain and Symptom Management
 - Safe and Appropriate Use of Methadone in Hospice and Palliative Care: Expert Consensus White Paper - [link](#)

- ** Journal of Patient Experience
 - Standardising the collection of patient-reported experience measures to facilitate benchmarking and drive service improvement - [link](#)
 - Developing the first pan-Canadian acute care patient experiences survey - [link](#)
 - Improving the patient experience through patient portals: Insights from experienced portal users - [link](#)
 - What older adults want from their health care providers - [link](#)

- **Lancet
 - Efficacy and safety of a monthly buprenorphine depot injection for opioid use disorder: a multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial - [link](#)
 - Use of metformin to treat pregnant women with polycystic ovary syndrome (PregMet2): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial - [link](#)
 - Global, regional, and national burden of epilepsy, 1990–2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016 - [link](#)
 - Trends in hospitalisation rates for inflammatory bowel disease in western versus newly industrialised countries: a population-based study of countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - [link](#)
 - Association of Community Factors with Hospital-onset Clostridioides (Clostridium) difficile Infection: A Population Based U.S.-wide Study - [link](#)
 - Seminar: Ebola virus disease - [link](#)
 - Review Article: Aspiration Pneumonia - [link](#)
 - Review Article: Glycaemic variability in diabetes: clinical and therapeutic implications - [link](#)

- **New England Journal of Medicine
 - Decolonization to Reduce Postdischarge Infection Risk among MRSA Carriers - [link](#)

- **National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)- Signals
 - Honey may help painful mouth inflammation caused by cancer treatments - [link](#)
 - A high omega-6 fatty acid diet is unlikely to prevent cardiovascular disease or deaths - [link](#)

- **Pediatrics (American Academy of Pediatrics)
 - Opioid-Related Critical Care Resource Use in US Children’s Hospitals - [link](#)
 - Length of Stay and Cost of Pediatric Readmissions - [link](#)
 - Poverty, Transportation Access, and Medication Nonadherence - [link](#)

- **Prescriber UK
 - Drug management in patients with reduced kidney function - [link](#)
 - Prescribing for patients with chronic fatigue syndrome - [link](#)
 - Benefits of a comprehensive COPD inhaler identification aid - [link](#)
 - Ixekizumab: targeting plaque psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis - [link](#)

- ** Therapeutics and Clinical Risk Management

- Risk and incidence of fatal adverse events associated with immune checkpoint inhibitors: a systematic review and meta-analysis - [link](#)

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REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUSTRALIA

**Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW)

- Improving national reporting on diabetes in pregnancy: technical report - [link](#)
- Diabetes in pregnancy 2014–2015 - [link](#)

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – INTERNATIONAL

**Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health

- Management of Acute Withdrawal and Detoxification for Adults who Misuse Methamphetamine: A Review of the Clinical Evidence and Guidelines - [link](#)
- Chlorhexidine Gluconate for Skin Preparation during Stereotactic Core Biopsy of the Breast: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines - [link](#)
- Combination Therapy for the Treatment of Central Nervous System Malignancies: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines - [link](#)

**electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) (UK)

- Revised SPCs
- Privenge™ ([human normal immunoglobulin](#)): new indication: treatment of secondary immunodeficiencies in patients who suffer from severe or recurrent infections, ineffective antimicrobial treatment and either proven specific antibody failure or serum level of <4 g/L.

**EMA

- Biosimilar medicines: Overview - [link](#)

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA) USA

- Cablivi™ ([caplacizumab-yhdp](#)) approved for the treatment of adults with acquired thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (aTTP)
- FDA Panels Endorse Ketamine Nasal Spray for Resistant Depression - [link](#)

**Joint Commission

- Sentinel Event Data Summary - [link](#)

**NHS England

- Rescheduling of Gabapentin and Pregabalin as Schedule 3 Controlled Drugs - [Briefing Note](#)

**National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) UK

- Cough (acute): antimicrobial prescribing- guidance ([NG120](#))
- Shared learning database:
 - Improving baseline assessment for newly diagnosed hypertensive patients and optimising therapy - [link](#)
 - Improving educational resources for people with back pain in Sheffield – [link](#)

**Scottish Medicine Consortium

- [Rivaroxaban](#) (Xarelto) is accepted for restricted use within NHS Scotland for prevention of atherothrombotic events

**Specialist Pharmacy Services

- Maintaining Patency of Central Venous Catheters in Adults: [RMOC Position Statement](#) advises that there is no role for routine use of heparinised saline lock for the purpose of maintaining patency of a central venous catheter (CVC) in adults, and that sodium chloride 0.9% is suitable for locking CVCs in the majority of adult patients.

MEDICATION SAFETY

**electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) (UK)

- Revised SPCs

-- Adenocor™ ([adenosine](#)): reports of cerebrovascular accident/TIA, secondary to the haemodynamic effects of adenosine, and myocardial infarction shortly after use

-- [Tacrolimus](#) (Prograf™) -various preparations

Now includes viral hepatitis as a potential opportunistic infection that patients taking immunosuppressants, including tacrolimus, may be at increased risk of developing.

-- [Cetirizine](#) preparations

Nightmares (very rare), arthralgia (frequency unknown) and acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (very rare) are now listed as potential adverse effects of treatment.

**EMA

- EMA start review of study on bleeding risk with direct oral anticoagulants - [link](#)

**Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) USA

- Medication Safety Alert! [February 14, 2019](#)

--Another Round of the Blame Game: A Paralyzing Criminal Indictment that Recklessly "Overrides" Just Culture

--Sidebar 1: System vulnerabilities that contributed to the error

--Sidebar 2: When did human error become a crime?

--Sidebar 3: Updated Guidelines for the Safe Use of Automated Dispensing Cabinets

--More on fuzzy matching

**Specialist Pharmacy Service

- Shortage of urokinase injection (Syner-KINASE®) 10,000 IU, 25,000 IU and 100,000 IU Powder for solution for injection or infusion - memo advises on managing existing stock and alternative treatment options - [link](#)

**TGA safety alert

- Jurnista™ (hydromorphone hydrochloride) prolonged-release - Product defect correction - [potentially damaged tablets](#)

PAPERS OF INTEREST

**American Heart Association – Stroke

- Canagliflozin and Stroke in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus – [link](#)

**British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology

- Gabapentin and pregabalin to treat aggressivity in dementia: a systematic review and illustrative case report - [link](#)

- Optimising infliximab induction dosing for patients with ulcerative colitis - [link](#)

**British Journal of General Practice

- Efficiency versus thoroughness in medication review: a qualitative interview study in UK primary care - [link](#)

**British Medical Journal (BMJ)

- Pharmacological interventions for prevention and management of delirium in intensive care patients: a systematic overview of reviews and meta-analyses - [link](#)

- Effectiveness and safety of electronically delivered prescribing feedback and decision support on antibiotic use for respiratory illness in primary care: REDUCE cluster randomised trial - [link](#)

- Practice: Chronic rhinosinusitis - [link](#)

- Review: Overview of Gilbert's syndrome - [link](#)

- Review: Management for women with subclinical hypothyroidism in pregnancy - [link](#)

**BMJ Heart

- Re-engineering the post-myocardial infarction medicines optimisation pathway: a retrospective analysis of a joint consultant pharmacist and cardiologist clinic model - [link](#)

****BMJ Quality and Safety**

- Are more experienced clinicians better able to tolerate uncertainty and manage risks? A vignette study of doctors in three NHS emergency departments in England - [link](#)

****Cochrane**

- N-acetylcysteine as an adjuvant therapy for Helicobacter pylori eradication - [link](#)
- Combined hormonal contraceptives for heavy menstrual bleeding - [link](#)
- Antibiotics for induction and maintenance of remission in Crohn's disease - [link](#)

****Diabetes Care**

- International Consensus on Risk Management of Diabetic Ketoacidosis in Patients with Type 1 Diabetes Treated with Sodium-Glucose Cotransporter (SGLT) Inhibitors - [link](#)
- Association of Insulin Dose, Cardiometabolic Risk Factors, and Cardiovascular Disease in Type 1 Diabetes during 30 Years of Follow-up in the DCCT/EDIC Study - [link](#)
- Association of Diabetes and Glycated Hemoglobin with the Risk of Intracerebral Hemorrhage: A Population-Based Cohort Study - [link](#)

****JAMA**

- Effect of Combination of Paracetamol (Acetaminophen) and Ibuprofen vs Either Alone on Patient-Controlled Morphine Consumption in the First 24 Hours after Total Hip Arthroplasty – The PANSOID Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)

****JAMA Internal Medicine**

- Assessment of Racial/Ethnic and Income Disparities in the Prescription of Opioids and Other Controlled Medications in California - [link](#)

****JAMA Network Open**

- Assessment of a Personalized Approach to Predicting Postprandial Glycemic Responses to Food Among Individuals without Diabetes - [link](#)

****JAMA Neurology**

- Pioglitazone Therapy in Patients with Stroke and Prediabetes – A Post Hoc Analysis of the IRIS Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)
- Association Between ABCB1 Polymorphisms and Outcomes of Clopidogrel Treatment in Patients with Minor Stroke or Transient Ischemic Attack – Secondary Analysis of a Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)

****JAMA Oncology**

- Safety and Efficacy of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy in Patients with HIV Infection and Advanced-Stage Cancer: A Systematic Review - [link](#)

****JAMA Paediatrics**

- Global Case-Fatality Rates in Pediatric Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock – A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis - [link](#)

****JAMIA (Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association)**

- Speech recognition for clinical documentation from 1990 to 2018: a systematic review - [link](#)

****Journal of the American College of Cardiology**

- Rivaroxaban, Aspirin, or Both to Prevent Early Coronary Bypass Graft Occlusion: The COMPASS-CABG Study – [link](#)

****Journal of the Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association**

- Factors associated with unplanned readmissions in a major Australian health service - [link](#)
- Financial costs associated with monopolies on biologic medicines in Australia - [link](#)

****Lancet**

- Intensive blood pressure reduction with intravenous thrombolysis therapy for acute ischaemic stroke (ENCHANTED): an international, randomised, open-label, blinded-endpoint, phase 3 trial - [link](#)
- Clinical outcomes in patients with chronic hepatitis C after direct-acting antiviral treatment: a prospective cohort study - [link](#)
- Increasing the dose intensity of chemotherapy by more frequent administration or sequential scheduling: a patient-level meta-analysis of 37 298 women with early breast cancer in 26 randomised trials - [link](#)
- Trends in hospitalisation rates for inflammatory bowel disease in western versus newly industrialised countries: a population-based study of countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - [link](#)
- Neuropsychiatric symptoms in Tanzanian HIV-infected children receiving long-term efavirenz treatment: a multicentre, cross-sectional, observational study - [link](#)
- Drug susceptibility testing and mortality in patients treated for tuberculosis in high-burden countries: a multicentre cohort study - [link](#)
- Protection against varicella with two doses of combined measles-mumps-rubella-varicella vaccine or one dose of monovalent varicella vaccine: 10-year follow-up of a phase 3 multicentre, observer-blind, randomised, controlled trial - [link](#)
- Pembrolizumab plus trastuzumab in trastuzumab-resistant, advanced, HER2-positive breast cancer (PANACEA): a single-arm, multicentre, phase 1b–2 trial - [link](#)
- Patient-reported outcomes following enzalutamide or placebo in men with non-metastatic, castration-resistant prostate cancer (PROSPER): a multicentre, randomised, double-blind, phase 3 trial - [link](#)
- Comparison of prasugrel and clopidogrel in patients with non-cardioembolic ischaemic stroke: a phase 3, randomised, non-inferiority trial (PRASTRO-I) - [link](#)

****Longwoods Healthcare Quarterly**

- Safety and Quality of Care for Seniors Living with Dementia - [link](#)
- Putting a Population Health Lens to Multimorbidity in Ontario - [link](#)

****Medical Journal of Australia**

- New guidelines from the Thrombosis and Haemostasis Society of Australia and New Zealand for the diagnosis and management of venous thromboembolism - [link](#)
- Current thinking in the health care management of children with cerebral palsy - [link](#)

****New England Journal of Medicine**

- Full Study Report of Andexanet Alfa for Bleeding Associated with Factor Xa Inhibitors - [link](#)

****National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)**

- NIHR Signals
- Decontamination of the mouth or digestive tract was not linked to reductions in drug-resistant bloodstream infections in the intensive care unit - [link](#)
- Treatments for depression may help irritable bowel symptoms - [link](#)
- A commonly-used antidepressant doesn't improve recovery after stroke - [link](#)

****Pediatrics (American Academy of Pediatrics)**

- Antibiotic Prescribing for Children in United States Emergency Departments: 2009–2014 - [link](#)
- Trends in Pediatric Hospitalizations and Readmissions: 2010–2016 - [link](#)
- Human Papillomavirus Vaccine Effectiveness and Herd Protection in Young Women - [link](#)
- Questions and Concerns about HPV Vaccine: A Communication Experiment - [link](#)
- Live Attenuated and Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness - [link](#)
- Factors Associated With Rotavirus Vaccine Coverage - [link](#)

****Prescrire International in English**

- Prescrire International issue 201 February 2019: includes review of midostaurin in mastocytosis and some types of acute myeloid leukaemia; dinutuximab for neuroblastoma with accompanying editorial commentary; drug-induced cholelithiasis; gadolinium, MRI and pregnancy; dolutegravir and pregnancy; reviews of simple febrile seizures in a child and post-partum haemorrhage- [link](#)

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REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUSTRALIA

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

- Australian Sentinel Events List – [Version 2](#)
- The Third Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation 2018 - [link](#)

**AHHA

- State of the Australian Healthcare Industry Report: Top Trends Transforming Australia's healthcare sector in 2019 and Beyond (survey of 116 Australian and New Zealand senior healthcare professionals to find out what they think are the major innovations, challenges and opportunities that will fundamentally transform healthcare in the coming years) - [link](#)

**Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW)

- Towards estimating the prevalence of female genital mutilation/cutting in Australia - [link](#)
- Indicators of socioeconomic inequalities in cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease - [link](#)
- Potentially preventable hospitalisations in Australia by small geographic areas - [link](#)
- Musculoskeletal conditions and comorbidity in Australia - [link](#)

**PBS

- Biosimilar Uptake Drivers - [link](#)

**Queensland Health

- Guideline for the Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) in Adult Hospitalised Patients December 2018 – [link](#)
- Guideline overview flow chart: Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) in Adult Hospitalised Patients - [link](#)

**TGA

- Evidence guidelines: Guidelines on the evidence required to support indications for listed complementary medicines - [link](#)

**Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine

- Future Leaders Communiqué - [January edition](#)

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – INTERNATIONAL

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

- Systematic review of computerized prescriber order entry and clinical decision support - [link](#)
- Quality improvement priorities for safer out-of-hours palliative care: lessons from a mixed-methods analysis of a national incident-reporting database - [link](#)
- A partially structured postoperative handoff protocol improves communication in 2 mixed surgical intensive care units: findings from the Handoffs and Transitions in Critical Care (HATRICC) prospective cohort study - [link](#)
- Data omission by physician trainees on ICU rounds - [link](#)

**Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health

- Switching from Herceptin or other trastuzumab biosimilars to biosimilar Ogviri - [link](#)
- CADTH and NICE: new collaboration to offer parallel scientific advice to pharmaceutical companies to facilitate evidence generation for the Canadian and English markets- [link](#)

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA) USA

- New drug approvals
- [Caplacizumab](#) (Cablivi™) as the first specific therapy for adults with acquired thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (aTTP)
- [PrabotulinumtoxinA-xvfs](#) (Jeuveau™) an acetylcholine release inhibitor and a neuromuscular blocking agent indicated for the temporary improvement in the appearance of moderate to

severe glabellar lines associated with corrugator and/or procerus muscle activity in adult patients

****EMA**

- Public consultation on key principles for the electronic product information of EU medicines Share - [link](#)
- Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) of the EMA has recommended an additional indication for dapagliflozin for use in adults with type 1 diabetes who meet certain criteria - [link](#)

****Health Canada**

- Health Product InfoWatch – [January 2019](#)

****Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand**

- Evidence review to inform development of the mental health and addiction quality improvement programme 'Learning from adverse events and consumer experience' project - [link](#)

****GOV.UK**

- UK One Health Report: antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance in animals and humans - [link](#)

****NHS England**

- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS FT: Improving initial sepsis management - [link](#)

****Royal Pharmaceutical Society**

- Polypharmacy: Getting our medicines right - [link](#)

****U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**

- Draft Report on Pain Management Best Practices: Updates, Gaps, Inconsistencies, and Recommendations – [link](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

****electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) (UK)**

- Revised SPCs
- Gilenya™ ([fingolimod hydrochloride](#)): post-marketing reports of rare cases of tumefactive lesions associated with multiple sclerosis relapse and hence, in cases of severe relapse, perform MRI to exclude tumefactive lesions. Consider discontinuation on a case-by-case basis.
- [Jardiance \(empagliflozin\) and Synjardy \(empagliflozin/metformin\) tablets](#) – warning added about necrotising fasciitis of the perineum (Fournier's gangrene; frequency not known), a rare but serious and potentially life-threatening event that requires urgent surgical intervention and antibiotic treatment.
- Lumigan™ ([bimatoprost](#)) eye drops: The following ADRs were added: dizziness, ocular discomfort, photophobia, skin discoloration (periocular) and hypertension (frequency not known).
- Rifadin™ ([rifampicin](#)): Now warns that rifampicin may cause vitamin K dependent coagulopathy and severe bleeding. Monitoring recommended for patients with bleeding risk. Consider supplemental vitamin K when relevant (vit K deficiency, hypoprothrombinemia).

****Health Canada – Recalls & Safety alerts**

- Hydrochlorothiazide and the risk of non-melanoma skin cancer - [link](#)

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

- Guidelines for Safe Electronic Communication of Medication Information - [link](#)

PAPERS OF INTEREST

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

- ASHP Statement on Advocacy as a Professional Obligation - [link](#)

- Quality indicators to measure the effect of opioid stewardship interventions in hospital and emergency department settings - [link](#)

****Annals of Internal Medicine**

- Compounded Topical Pain Creams to Treat Localized Chronic Pain: A Randomized Controlled Trial - [link](#)
- Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule, United States, 2019 - [link](#)

****British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology**

- Ischaemic colitis associated with intravitreal administration of aflibercept: A first case report - [link](#)
- Systematic external evaluation of published population pharmacokinetic models of mycophenolate mofetil in adult kidney transplant recipients co-administered with tacrolimus - [link](#)

****British Journal of Psychiatry**

- Effect of antidepressant switching between nortriptyline and escitalopram after a failed first antidepressant treatment among patients with major depressive disorder - [link](#)

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

- Clinical review: Peripartum cardiomyopathy - [link](#)
- Acute care assessment of older adults living with frailty - [link](#)
- Doxylamine/pyridoxine for nausea and vomiting in pregnancy – [link](#)
- Economic impact of potentially inappropriate prescribing and related adverse events in older people: a cost-utility analysis using Markov models - [link](#)
- Maximising the impact of patient reported outcome assessment for patients and society - [link](#)
- Is failure to act on discharge summaries causing harm in general practice? - [link](#)
- Assessing the readability and patient comprehension of rheumatology medicine information sheets: a cross-sectional Health Literacy Study- [link](#)

****BMJ Heart**

- Hospital-based quality improvement interventions for patients with heart failure: a systematic review - [link](#)

****Cochrane**

- Interventions to promote patient utilisation of cardiac rehabilitation - [link](#)
- Interventions for treating urinary incontinence after stroke in adults - [link](#)

****Drug Safety**

- Evaluation of Harm Associated with High Dose-Range Clinical Decision Support Overrides in the Intensive Care Unit - [link](#)

****European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy**

- Microbiological validation of a robot for the sterile compounding of injectable non-hazardous medications in a hospital environment - [link](#)
- Results of EAHP's 2018 Survey on Medicines Shortages - [link](#)

****Health Affairs**

- A Transitioning Epidemic: How the Opioid Crisis is Driving the Rise in Hepatitis C - [link](#)

****Heart, Lung and Circulation**

- Changes in Statin Prescription Patterns in Patients Admitted to an Australian Geriatric Subacute Unit - [link](#)
- Cost-Effectiveness of Ivabradine in the Treatment of Chronic Heart Failure - [link](#)
- Development of Acute Decompensated Heart Failure among Hospital Inpatients: Incidence, Causes and Outcomes - [link](#)

****Health Expectations**

- A 5-facet framework to describe patient engagement in patient safety - [link](#)

- Enacting person-centredness in integrated care: A qualitative study of practice and perspectives within multidisciplinary groups in the care of older people - [link](#)
- What's the problem with patient experience feedback? A macro and micro understanding, based on findings from a three-site UK qualitative study - [link](#)
- Current trends in patient and public involvement in cancer research: A systematic review - [link](#)

****Health Informatics Journal**

- Current challenges in health information technology–related patient safety - [link](#)

****Human Factors: The Journal of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society**

- The Effect of Cognitive Load and Task Complexity on Automation Bias in Electronic Prescribing - [link](#)

****Internal Medicine Journal**

- Is there a role for proton pump inhibitor prophylaxis in haematology patients? - [link](#)

****JAMA**

- Clinical Guidelines Synopsis: Management of Blood Cholesterol (AHA/ACC/AACVPR/AAPA/ABC/ACPM/ADA/AGS/APhA/ASPC/NLA/PCNA Guideline on the Management of Blood Cholesterol) - [link](#)
- Association of Pharmaceutical Industry Marketing of Opioid Products with Mortality from Opioid-Related Overdoses - [link](#)
- Effect of Electroencephalography-Guided Anesthetic Administration on Postoperative Delirium among Older Adults Undergoing Major Surgery - The ENGAGES Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)
- Reducing the Expert Halo Effect on Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committees - [link](#)

****JAMA Internal Medicine**

- 2018 Update on Medical Overuse - [link](#)

****JAMA Network Open**

- Prevention of Prescription Opioid Misuse and Projected Overdose Deaths in the United States - [link](#)

****JAMA Oncology**

- Derivation of Anthracycline and Anthraquinone Equivalence Ratios to Doxorubicin for Late-Onset Cardiotoxicity - [link](#)

****JAMA Paediatrics**

- Long-term Association of 13-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Implementation With Rates of Community-Acquired Pneumonia in Children - [link](#)

****JAMIA (Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association)**

- Spell checker for consumer language (CSpell) - [link](#)

****Lancet**

- Efficacy and safety of statin therapy in older people: a meta-analysis of individual participant data from 28 randomised controlled trials - [link](#)
- Pharmacological treatments for generalised anxiety disorder: a systematic review and network meta-analysis - [link](#)
- Prehospital transdermal glyceryl trinitrate in patients with ultra-acute presumed stroke (RIGHT-2): an ambulance-based, randomised, sham-controlled, blinded, phase 3 trial - [link](#)
- Emerging cancer trends among young adults in the USA: analysis of a population-based cancer registry - [link](#)
- Pharmacologic management of cognitive impairment induced by cancer therapy - [link](#)

****Medical Journal of Australia**

- Research

- Pregabalin misuse-related ambulance attendances in Victoria, 2012–2017: characteristics of patients and attendances - [link](#)
- Intensive lipid-lowering therapy in the 12 months after an acute coronary syndrome in Australia: an observational analysis- [link](#)
- Perspectives
- Improving drug allergy management in Australia: education, communication and accurate information- [link](#)
- Let's talk about cytotoxic chemotherapy dosing: unravelling adjustments and off-protocol prescribing- [link](#)
- Editorials
- Pregabalin misuse: the next wave of prescription medication problems- [link](#)
- High intensity lipid-lowering therapy after acute coronary syndromes: room for improvement- [link](#)

****New England Journal of Medicine**

- Acute Infection and Myocardial Infarction - [link](#)
- A Randomized Trial of E-Cigarettes versus Nicotine-Replacement Therapy - [link](#)
- Omadacycline for Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia - [link](#)
- Omadacycline for Acute Bacterial Skin and Skin-Structure Infections - [link](#)

**** Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) iLibrary**

- Health literacy for people-centred care - [link](#)

****Therapeutics and Clinical Risk Management**

- Risk of immune-related adverse events associated with ipilimumab-plus-nivolumab and nivolumab therapy in cancer patients - [link](#)

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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](#)

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REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUSTRALIA

**AHHA

- Call for the establishment of a primary health care national minimum data set - [link](#)

**NSW Health Intranet

- Thiopental injection (Pentothal®) disruption to supply - [link](#)

- Management of people with HIV who risk infecting others - [link](#)

**TGA

- AusPARs:

- [Trametinib and Dabrafenib](#) (Mekinist™ and Tafinlar™) - Extension of indication for the combination of both drugs to be used for the adjuvant treatment of patients with Stage III melanoma with a BRAF V600 mutation, following complete resection.

- [Influenza virus haemagglutinin](#) (Afluria Quad™) - Extension of indication for use in persons aged 5 years and over

**The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)

- Five steps towards excellent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healthcare - [link](#)

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – INTERNATIONAL

**Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand

- Open Book: Dispensing errors: Learning from the national primary care patient experience survey (Jan 2019) - [link](#)

**New Zealand Ministry of Health

- Passing of the Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Amendment Act means some products containing cannabidiol (CBD) are now prescription medicines only - [link](#)

**Royal Pharmaceutical Society

- Brexit update: President responds - [link](#)

- We talk to Channel 5 about medicine shortages - [link](#)

- Medicine shortages in the news - [link](#)

** World Health Organisation (WHO)

- Country profiles of mental health resources published - [link](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

**electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) (UK)

- New products

-- Prevymis™ ([letermovir](#)) for prophylaxis of CMV reactivation and disease in adult CMV-seropositive recipients of allogeneic haematopoietic stem cell transplant

-- [Hydrocortisone](#) 10mg Soluble Tablets licensed for replacement therapy in congenital adrenal hyperplasia in children; and also for the emergency treatment of severe bronchial asthma, drug hypersensitivity reactions, serum sickness, angioneurotic oedema and anaphylaxis in adults and children.

- Revised SPCs

-- Latuda™ ([lurasidone](#)): warns that co-administration of lurasidone and posaconazole (PS), a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor, resulted in ~ 4-5 fold increase in lurasidone exposure and effect continued up to 2-3 weeks after cessation of posaconazole co-administration.

-- Stelara™ ([ustekinumab](#)): advises of cases of allergic alveolitis and eosinophilic pneumonia during post-approval use of ustekinumab. If infection has been excluded and diagnosis is confirmed, ustekinumab should be discontinued and appropriate treatment instituted.

-- Alimta™ ([pemetrexed](#)): advises infectious and non-infectious disorders of the dermis, the hypodermis and/or the subcutaneous tissue e.g. acute bacterial dermo-hypodermatitis, pseudocellulitis, dermatitis have been reported (unknown frequency).

-- Xgeva™ ([denosumab](#)): advises atypical femoral fracture reclassified as an uncommon adverse reaction ($\geq 1/1,000$ to $< 1/100$; previously classified as rare; $\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1,000$)

-- Juluca™ ([rilpivirine hydrochloride/dolutegravir sodium](#)): includes preliminary data suggesting an increased incidence of neural tube defects (0.9%) in mothers exposed to dolutegravir at the time of conception vs non-dolutegravir containing regimens (0.1%). Use of dolutegravir not recommended in pregnancy.

-- Keytruda™ ([pembrolizumab](#)): pure red cell aplasia and Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada syndrome (a multisystem autoimmune disease) added as rare adverse effects ($\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1,000$).

-- Meronem™ ([meropenem](#)): warning about severe cutaneous adverse reactions and acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (unknown frequency) added

-- Otezla™ ([apremilast](#)): angioedema (unknown frequency) and urticaria (uncommon) added

-- [Amphotericin B Lipid Complex](#) Infusion: nephrogenic diabetes insipidus added as potential adverse effect (frequency unknown)

**EMA

- Erleada™ ([apalutamide](#)) for non-metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer where there is a high risk of developing metastatic disease

**Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) USA

- Medication Safety Alert! [January 17, 2019](#)

-- Safety Enhancements Every Hospital Must Consider in Wake of Another Tragic Neuromuscular Blocker Event

-- Finalized guidelines for electronic communication

-- Flavoring should not be part of a drug name

PAPERS OF INTEREST

**Age and Ageing

- The electronic frailty index as an indicator of community healthcare service utilisation in the older population - [link](#)

**American Journal of Medical Quality

- A Dashboard for Monitoring Opioid-Related Adverse Drug Events Following Surgery Using a National Administrative Database - [link](#)

- Introduction of a Mobile Adverse Event Reporting System Is Associated with Participation in Adverse Event Reporting - [link](#)
- An Innovative Perioperative Pain Program for Chronic Opioid Users: An Academic Medical Center's Response to the Opioid Crisis - [link](#)

****Arthritis and Rheumatology**

- Efficacy and Safety of Febuxostat Extended and Immediate Release in Patients with Gout and Renal Impairment: A Phase III Placebo-Controlled Study - [link](#)

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

- ASHP Foundation Pharmacy Forecast 2019: Strategic Planning Advice for Pharmacy Departments in Hospitals and Health Systems - [link](#)
- New drugs and dosage forms - [link](#)

****BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology**

- Nifedipine alone or combined with sildenafil citrate for management of threatened preterm labour: a randomised trial - [link](#)

****British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology**

- A population pharmacokinetic model to predict the individual starting dose of tacrolimus in adult renal transplant recipients - [link](#)

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

- Clinical updates: Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG): a practical approach for long term management - [link](#)
- How to get started in quality improvement - [link](#)
- Benefits and harms of pregabalin in the management of neuropathic pain: a rapid review and meta-analysis of randomised clinical trials - [link](#)
- Appropriateness of outpatient antibiotic prescribing among privately insured US patients: ICD-10-CM based cross sectional study - [link](#)

****BMJ Quality and Safety**

- Evaluation of an electronic health record structured discharge summary to provide real time adverse event reporting in thoracic surgery - [link](#)

****Circulation**

- Stroke Outcomes in the Cardiovascular Outcomes for People using Anticoagulation Strategies (COMPASS) Trial - [link](#)

****Cochrane**

- Disease management interventions for heart failure - [link](#)
- Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors for prevention or delay of type 2 diabetes mellitus and its associated complications in people at increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes mellitus - [link](#)
- Gonadotrophins for ovulation induction in women with polycystic ovary syndrome - [link](#)
- Adrenaline and vasopressin for cardiac arrest - [link](#)
- Methotrexate for psoriatic arthritis - [link](#)
- Adverse events in people taking macrolide antibiotics versus placebo for any indication - [link](#)
- Interventions for emergency contraception - [link](#)
- Oral H1 antihistamines as 'add-on' therapy to topical treatment for eczema - [link](#)

****Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism**

- Exenatide use and incidence of pancreatic and thyroid cancer: A retrospective cohort study - [link](#)

****European Heart Journal**

- Efficacy and safety of aspirin for primary prevention of cardiovascular events: a meta-analysis and trial sequential analysis of randomized controlled trials - [link](#)

****European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy**

- Analysis of the impact of antimicrobial management and rational use of antibiotics - [link](#)

- **Internal Medicine Journal
 - Immediate Cephalosporin Allergy - [link](#)

- **JAMA
 - Reducing the Expert Halo Effect on Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committees - [link](#)
 - Breast Cancer Treatment - A Review - [link](#)
 - Association of Aspirin Use for Primary Prevention with Cardiovascular Events and Bleeding Events - A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis - [link](#)

- **JAMA Cardiology
 - Cardiovascular Risk Factors Associated With Venous Thromboembolism - [link](#)
 - Cost-effectiveness of Canakinumab for Prevention of Recurrent Cardiovascular Events - [link](#)

- **JAMA Dermatology
 - Trends in Oral Antibiotic Prescription in Dermatology, 2008 to 2016 - [link](#)

- **JAMA Internal Medicine
 - Association of 30-Day Mortality with Oral Step-Down vs Continued Intravenous Therapy in Patients Hospitalized with Enterobacteriaceae Bacteremia - [link](#)

- **JAMA Network Open
 - Trends in Opioid Use in Pediatric Patients in US Emergency Departments From 2006 to 2015 - [link](#)
 - Association of Pharmaceutical Industry Marketing of Opioid Products With Mortality From Opioid-Related Overdoses - [link](#)

- **JAMA Paediatrics
 - Diagnosis and Management of Kawasaki Disease - [link](#)

- **JAMA Psychiatry
 - Exploring Comorbidity Within Mental Disorders Among a Danish National Population - [link](#)

- **JAMA Surgery
 - Association between Postoperative Delirium and Long-term Cognitive Function after Major Nonemergent Surgery - [link](#)

- **JAMIA (Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association)
 - Measuring the rate of manual transcription error in outpatient point-of-care testing - [link](#)
 - Spell checker for consumer language (CSpell) - [link](#)

- ** Journal for Healthcare Quality
 - Subsequent Fracture Prevention in Patients 50 Years and Older With Fragility Fractures A Quality Improvement Initiative - [link](#)
 - Improving Geriatric Care Processes on Two Medical-Surgical Acute Care Units A Pilot Study - [link](#)
 - Decreasing the Time to Administration of First Dose of Antibiotics in Children with Severe Sepsis - [link](#)

- **Lancet
 - Efficacy and safety of oral basal insulin versus subcutaneous insulin glargine in type 2 diabetes: a randomised, double-blind, phase 2 trial - [link](#)
 - Safety and efficacy of CVT-301 (levodopa inhalation powder) on motor function during off periods in patients with Parkinson's disease: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 3 trial - [link](#)
 - Inhaled liposomal ciprofloxacin in patients with non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis and chronic lung infection with Pseudomonas aeruginosa (ORBIT-3 and ORBIT-4): two phase 3, randomised controlled trials - [link](#)
 - Confronting the most challenging risk factor: non-adherence - [link](#)

**New England Journal of Medicine

- Single-Dose Tafenoquine to Prevent Relapse of Plasmodium vivax Malaria - [link](#)
- Randomized Delayed-Start Trial of Levodopa in Parkinson's Disease – [link](#)

**National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

- Reviewing inhaler technique for older people with COPD can improve disease control - [link](#)
- Antibiotics may be an alternative first-line treatment for uncomplicated appendicitis - [link](#)

**Prescriber UK

- Large variation in management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy - [link](#)
 - National Osteoporosis Society publishes new guidance on vitamin D - [link](#)
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REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUSTRALIA

**Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) NSW

- New resources for VTE Risk Assessment:
 - HETI learning module on the electronic VTE Risk Assessment Tool in the Cerner eMR (course code: 212082420)
 - An [updated paper VTE Risk Assessment Tool](#) (changes made) now available for order

**PBS

- Improving Access to medicines - Improved Payment Administration - [link](#)

**TGA

- Video: About the Therapeutic Goods Administration - [link](#)
- AusPAR [Ixekizumab](#) (Taltz®) extended indication for active psoriatic arthritis in adult patients who have responded inadequately, or who are intolerant, to previous DMARD therapy. Taltz® may be used as monotherapy or in combination with a conventional DMARD.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – INTERNATIONAL

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

- The effect of cognitive load and task complexity on automation bias in electronic prescribing - [link](#)

**EMA

- EMA has published a revision of its guideline on the evaluation of human medicines indicated for the treatment of bacterial infections - [link](#)

**Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand

- 5 Questions to ask about your medications – consumer safety poster - [link](#)
- Mental health and addiction tools and resources – [link](#)

**London: Department of Health & Social Care

- The Women's Mental Health Taskforce: final report - [link](#)

**New York: The Commonwealth Fund

- What is the status of women's health and care in the U.S. compared to ten other countries? - [link](#)

**National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) UK

- Regorafenib for previously treated advanced hepatocellular carcinoma – guidance ([TA555](#))
 - Pembrolizumab with pemetrexed and platinum chemotherapy for untreated, metastatic, non-squamous non-small-cell lung cancer- guidance ([TA557](#))
-

- Cerebral palsy in adults- guidance ([NG119](#))

**Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory

- Perioperative Medication Errors: Uncovering Risk from Behind the Drapes - [link](#)

**Public Health England

- Health matters: reducing health inequalities in mental illness - [link](#)

- Guidance: Cardiovascular disease prevention: applying All Our Health - [link](#)

**Specialist Pharmacy Services

- New Product Evaluations December 2018 - [link](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

**electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC) (UK)

- New Product: Steglatro™ ([ertugliflozin](#)) tablets

- Revised SPCs

-- Nuelin™ ([theophylline](#)): recent myocardial infarction and acute tachyarrhythmia added as contra-indications, and hyperglycaemia, hyperuricaemia and electrolyte imbalance added as potential adverse effects.

-- Oncaspar™ ([pegaspargase](#)): embolism (including pulmonary embolism, venous thromboembolism, limb venous thrombosis and superficial thrombosis) added as a very common adverse effect.

-- Dantrium™ ([dantrolene](#)): updated on the potential risk for undissolved crystals in the reconstituted product. To minimise this risk, a filtration device should be used after reconstitution.

-- Zimovane™ ([zopiclone](#)): reinforced warnings on the risks of abuse and dependence with long term therapy. Risk of abuse and dependence is also greater in psychiatric disorders and/or alcohol, substance or drug abuse. Treatment should not exceed 4 weeks including the period of tapering off.

-- [Propofol](#): Updated with respect to use in sedation in the ICU- treatment should immediately be discontinued should organ system failure or significant metabolic derangements develop.

-- Effient™ ([prasugrel](#)): updated to advise of a delayed and decreased exposure to oral P2Y12 inhibitors, including prasugrel and active metabolite, in patients with ACS treated with morphine. This interaction may be related to reduced GI motility and apply to other opioids

- Lipitor™ ([atorvastatin](#)) tablets

Updated to advise that co-administration with products containing glecaprevir or pibrentasvir is contraindicated; and in patients taking hepatitis C antiviral agents elbasvir/grazoprevir, dose of atorvastatin should not exceed 20 mg/day.

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA) USA

-Drug Approvals

-- [Cabozantinib](#) (Cabometyx™) for use in patients with liver cancer (new indication)

**Health Canada – MedEffect Notice

- [Ulipristal acetate](#) - Assessing the potential risk of rare but serious liver injury

**Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) UK

- Ipilimumab (Yervoy): reports of cytomegalovirus (CMV) gastrointestinal infection or reactivation - [link](#)

- Tapentadol (Palexia): risk of seizures and reports of serotonin syndrome when co-administered with other medicines - [link](#)

PAPERS OF INTEREST

**American Society of Hematology

- ASH Clinical Practice Guidelines on Venous Thromboembolism - [link](#)

**British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology

- Antibiotic allergy labels in hospitalized and critically ill adults: A review of current impacts of inaccurate labelling - [link](#)

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

- Review: Herpes zoster infection - [link](#)
- Review: Sepsis associated acute kidney injury - [link](#)
- Use of hormone replacement therapy and risk of venous thromboembolism: nested case-control studies using the QResearch and CPRD databases - [link](#)

****BMJ Thorax**

- Vitamin D to prevent exacerbations of COPD: systematic review and meta-analysis of individual participant data from randomised controlled trials - [link](#)

****BMJ Quality and Safety**

- Impact of a national QI programme on reducing electronic health record notifications to clinicians - [link](#)

****Canadian Journal of Anaesthesia**

- The perioperative patient on buprenorphine: a systematic review of perioperative management strategies and patient outcomes - [link](#)

****CHEST journal - American College of Chest Physicians**

- Inhaled Tranexamic Acid for Hemoptysis Treatment - [link](#)

****Circulation**

- Linagliptin Effects on Heart Failure and Related Outcomes in Individuals with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus at High Cardiovascular and Renal Risk in CARMELINA - [link](#)
- Medication Discontinuation in the IMPROVE-IT Trial - [link](#)

****Cochrane**

- Inhaled steroids with and without regular salmeterol for asthma: serious adverse events - [link](#)
- Treatment of epilepsy for people with Alzheimer's disease - [link](#)

****Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism**

- Sustained 52-week efficacy and safety of triple therapy with dapagliflozin plus saxagliptin versus dual therapy with sitagliptin added to metformin in patients with uncontrolled type 2 diabetes - [link](#)
- PCSK9 inhibitor therapy: A systematic review and meta-analysis of metabolic and cardiovascular outcomes in patients with diabetes - [link](#)

****European Heart Journal**

- Relationship between body mass index and outcomes in patients with atrial fibrillation treated with edoxaban or warfarin in the ENGAGE AF-TIMI 48 trial - [link](#)
- Prediction of individual life-years gained without cardiovascular events from lipid, blood pressure, glucose, and aspirin treatment based on data of more than 500 000 patients with Type 2 diabetes mellitus - [link](#)

****European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy**

- Guide to undertaking person-centred inpatient (ward) outpatient (clinic) and dispensary-based pharmacy consultations - [link](#)
- Pilot study to evaluate knowledge of person-centred care, before and after a skill development programme, in a cohort of preregistration pharmacists within a large London hospital - [link](#)
- Application of vancomycin in patients with augmented renal clearance - [link](#)
- Investigation of meropenem stability after reconstitution: the influence of buffering and challenges to meet the NHS Yellow Cover Document compliance for continuous infusions in an outpatient setting - [link](#)

****Health Affairs**

- Divergence In Recent Trends In Deaths From Intentional And Unintentional Poisoning - [link](#)

**International Journal for Quality in Health Care

- The future of health systems to 2030: a roadmap for global progress and sustainability - [link](#)
- Reduction and follow-up of hospital discharge letter delay using Little's law - [link](#)

**JAMA

- Effect of Low-Dose Intracoronary Alteplase during Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention on Microvascular Obstruction in Patients with Acute Myocardial Infarction - A Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)
- Evaluation and Management of Penicillin Allergy: A Review - [link](#)

**JAMA Dermatology

- Association of Dipeptidyl Peptidase 4 Inhibitor Use with Risk of Bullous Pemphigoid in Patients with Diabetes - [link](#)

**JAMA Internal Medicine

- Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide Monoclonal Antibody Treatments for Migraine - [link](#)

**JAMA Ophthalmology

- Association of Statin Therapy With Prevention of Vision-Threatening Diabetic Retinopathy - [link](#)

**Journal of Health Services Research & Policy

- The challenge of determining appropriate care in the era of patient-centered care and rising health care costs - [link](#)

**Medical Journal of Australia

- The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy infant feeding for allergy prevention guidelines - [link](#)

**National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) - NIHR Signals

- Adding low dose theophylline to inhaled corticosteroids does not reduce COPD exacerbations - [link](#)
- Combining mirtazapine with other antidepressants is not effective for treatment-resistant depression - [link](#)
- The benefits of commonly used blood pressure and cholesterol lowering treatment can last 16 years - [link](#)

**Pediatrics

- Ranitidine-Induced Delirium in a 7-Year-Old Girl: A Case Report - [link](#)

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REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUSTRALIA

- Guidelines on Perioperative Management of Anticoagulant and Antiplatelet Agents - [link](#)
- Intravenous Unfractionated Heparin Recommended Standard - [link](#)

**MIMS Monthly Update - [January 2019](#)

- New medications:

-- Avanafil (Spedra®) for erectile dysfunction in adult males.
-- Cerliponase alfa (rch) for CLN2 disease, also known as TPP1 deficiency
-- Durvalumab (rch) (Imfinzi®) for locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma with disease progression during or following platinum-containing chemotherapy, or disease progression within 12 months of neoadjuvant or adjuvant treatment with platinum-containing chemotherapy.

- Safinamide (mesilate) (Xadago®) for fluctuating idiopathic Parkinson's disease (PD) in adults as add-on therapy to a regimen that includes levodopa.
- Tafenoquine (succinate) (Kodatef®): antimalarial that kills the developing asexual, developing exoerythrocytic, and latent hypnozoites of malaria parasites

****NSW Health Intranet**

- [Safety Notice 021/18](#): Discontinuation of nifedipine (twice daily products) and patient safety risks with alternative

****Pharmacy Council of NSW**

- [Amendment to the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008](#) to regulate the following as Type A drugs of addiction:
 1. cannabis (when in Schedule 8)
 2. tetrahydrocannabinols (when in Schedule 8)
 3. unregistered drugs of addiction (including compounded Schedule 8 medicines).

****TGA**

- Medicine shortages guidance and resources - Information for sponsors and health professionals - [link](#)
- New AusPARs:
- [Peramivir](#) (Rapivab®) indicated for the treatment of acute influenza infection in adults and children 2 years and older who have been symptomatic for no more than two days.

****Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine**

- Clinical Communiqué – [December](#)

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – INTERNATIONAL

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

- A web application to involve patients in the medication reconciliation process: a user-centered usability and usefulness study - [link](#)

****BNF/BNFC eNewsletter [December 2018](#)**

- Three new drug monographs have been added to BNF as well as dose changes for: antibiotics for Lyme disease, dabigatran, gabapentin, influenza vaccine, roflumilast, and tapentadol. Updated guidance on management of Lyme disease and rheumatoid arthritis also included.

****Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health**

- Rapid Sequence Intubation Agents for Emergency Intubation: Comparative Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines - [link](#)
- Strategies for the Management of Latent or Previously Treated Tuberculosis: Clinical Effectiveness, Cost-Effectiveness, and Guidelines - [link](#)
- Continuous Glucose Monitoring for Patients with All Diabetes Types: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines - [link](#)
- Atypical Injectable Antipsychotics for Schizophrenia or Bipolar Disorder: A Review of Clinical Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness - [link](#)
- Subcutaneous Butterfly Lines for Medication Administration: Clinical Effectiveness, Cost-Effectiveness, and Guidelines - [link](#)

****European Medicines Agency (EMA)**

- Human medicines highlights 2018 - [link](#)

****Health Canada**

- Health Product InfoWatch - [December 2018](#)

****National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) UK**

- Lenvatinib for untreated advanced hepatocellular carcinoma – guidance ([TA551](#))
- Liposomal cytarabine–daunorubicin for untreated acute myeloid leukaemia – guidance ([TA552](#))

- Pembrolizumab for adjuvant treatment of resected melanoma with high risk of recurrence – guidance ([TA553](#))
- Pancreatic cancer- Quality standard ([QS177](#))
- Tisagenlecleucel for treating relapsed or refractory B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in people aged up to 25 years – guidance ([TA554](#))
- Bronchiectasis (non-cystic fibrosis), acute exacerbation: antimicrobial prescribing- guidance ([NG117](#))
- Renal and ureteric stones: assessment and management- guidance ([NG118](#))

**Royal College of General Practitioners UK (RCGP)

- Guidance for GPs on cannabis-based medicines and products - [link](#)

**Specialist Pharmacy Services

- New Medicines Newsletter December 2018 - [link](#)
- Medicines Use and Safety Update January 2019 - [link](#)
- Which opioids can be used in renal impairment? - [link](#)
- What is the risk of interaction between opioids and monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs)? - [link](#)
- What is the first choice antidepressant for patients with renal impairment? - [link](#)
- NICE Bites: Prostatitis - [link](#)
- Which medicines require extra care when switching between liquid and tablet/capsule formulations? - [link](#)
- NOACs and Antidepressants – What are the risks of using these together and how should these risks be managed? - [link](#)

**Therapeutics Initiative Canada

- New drug for cystic fibrosis: Regulatory approval, clinical uncertainty? - [link](#)

MEDICATION SAFETY

**electronic Medicines Compendium (eMC)

- Revised SPCs
- [Ciprofloxacin](#): epidemiologic studies report an increased risk of aortic aneurysm and dissection after intake of fluoroquinolones, particularly in the older population.
- [Valproic acid](#) / sodium valproate: Haemorrhage (common) and vasculitis (uncommon) listed as potential adverse effects.
- Kisplyx™ and Lenvima™ ([lenvatinib mesilate](#)): Pneumothorax and nephrotic syndrome added as new adverse drug reactions (uncommon frequency).
- Cerezyme™ ([imiglucerase](#)): Advises that no case of overdose has been reported. Doses up to 240 U/kg body weight once every two weeks have been used.
- Diprivan™ ([propofol](#)): Section 4.5 corrected to state that profound hypotension (not hypertension as in previous SPC) has been reported following anaesthetic with propofol in patients treated with rifampicin.

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA) USA

- FDA safety announcement about increased risk of ruptures or tears in the aorta blood vessel with [fluoroquinolone antibiotics](#) in certain patients. FDA now require a new warning about this risk be added to the prescribing information and patient Medication Guide for all fluoroquinolones
- New approvals
- First and Only Digital Inhaler with Built-In Sensors – ProAir® Digihaler™ ([albuterol sulfate](#) 117 mcg) Inhalation Powder
- [Tagraxofusp-erzs](#) (Elzonris™) for the treatment of blastic plasmacytoid dendritic cell neoplasm
- [Levodopa](#) inhalation powder (Inbrija™) for intermittent treatment of "off" episodes in people with Parkinson's disease who are already taking an oral carbidopa-levodopa regimen
- [Andexanet alfa](#) (Andexxa™) a factor Xa reversal agent

**Health Canada – MedEffect Notice

- Xarelto® ([rivaroxaban](#)) - Increase in all-cause mortality, thromboembolic and bleeding events in patients after transcatheter aortic valve replacement

**MIMS Monthly Update - [January 2019](#)

- New Contraindications

-- Atazanavir (sulfate)/cobicistat (Evotaz®) should not be used in combination with glecaprevir/pibrentasvir because of the increased risk of ALT elevations due to an increase in glecaprevir and pibrentasvir plasma concentrations. Coadministration of Evotaz® with the antipsychotic lurasidone is contraindicated due to the potential for serious and/or life-threatening events or loss of virologic response and possible resistance.

-- Doxycycline hyclate (hydrochloride) (Doryx®): concurrent use of tetracycline and methoxyflurane has been reported to result in fatal renal toxicity.

-- Fosamprenavir (calcium) (Telzir)/ritonavir: must not be administered concomitantly with lurasidone.

-- Imipramine hydrochloride (Tofranil®): contraindicated in children under 18 years of age for the treatment of depression or other psychiatric disorders.

PAPERS OF INTEREST

**American Journal of Cardiology

- Meta-Analysis of Effects of Digoxin on Survival in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation or Heart Failure: An Update - [link](#)

**Anesthesia and Analgesia

- Regional Analgesia Added to General Anesthesia Compared with General Anesthesia Plus Systemic Analgesia for Cardiac Surgery in Children: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Randomized Clinical Trials - [link](#)

**Annals of Intensive Care

- Caring for the critically ill patients over 80: a narrative review - [link](#)

**Annals of Internal Medicine

- Fracture Risk after Initiation of Use of Canagliflozin: A Cohort Study - [link](#)

- Cost-Effectiveness of Alirocumab: A Just-in-Time Analysis based on the ODYSSEY Outcomes Trial - [link](#)

**British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology

- A systematic review of clinicians' views and experiences of direct-acting oral anticoagulants in the management of nonvalvular atrial fibrillation - [link](#)

- The influence of heart failure on the pharmacokinetics of cardiovascular and non-cardiovascular drugs: a critical appraisal of the evidence - [link](#)

- The journey of metformin from glycaemic control to mTOR inhibition and the suppression of tumour growth - [link](#)

- Anticholinergic exposure and cognitive decline in older adults: effect of anticholinergic exposure definitions in a 3-year analysis of the multidomain Alzheimer preventive trial (MAPT) study - [link](#)

- Prevalence and incidence of prescription opioid analgesic use in Australia - [link](#)

- Comparative safety and effectiveness of direct oral anticoagulants in patients with atrial fibrillation in clinical practice in Scotland - [link](#)

- A clinical trial on the acute effects of methadone and buprenorphine on actual driving and cognitive function of healthy volunteers - [link](#)

- The impact of tacrolimus exposure on extrarenal adverse effects in adult renal transplant recipients - [link](#)

- Identification of behaviour change techniques in deprescribing interventions: a systematic review and meta-analysis - [link](#)

**British Medical Journal (BMJ)

- Dual antiplatelet therapy with aspirin and clopidogrel for acute high risk transient ischaemic attack and minor ischaemic stroke: a clinical practice guideline - [link](#)

- Use of C-reactive protein to tailor antibiotic use: a systematic review and meta-analysis - [link](#)

- Update on the evidence for oral B12 supplements to treat deficiency - [link](#)

- Triple inhaled therapy versus dual inhaled therapy for COPD - [link](#)

- Stopping, rationalising or optimising antipsychotic drug treatment in people with intellectual disability and/or autism - [link](#)
- MI risk associated with naproxen and diclofenac in spondyloarthritis - [link](#)
- Association of a label of penicillin allergy with increased risk of MRSA and Clostridium difficile infection - [link](#)

**Circulation

- Metformin Improves Insulin Sensitivity and Vascular Health in Youth with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus - [link](#)
- Tailoring Antiplatelet Therapy Intensity to Ischemic and Bleeding Risk - [link](#)
- Clinical Utility of Patient-Reported Outcome Measurement Information System Domain Scales - [link](#)

**Cochrane

- Dual combination therapy versus long-acting bronchodilators alone for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD): a systematic review and network meta-analysis - [link](#)
- Inhaled steroids with and without regular salmeterol for asthma: serious adverse events - [link](#)
- Betahistine for tinnitus - [link](#)
- Tranexamic acid for patients with nasal haemorrhage (epistaxis) - [link](#)
- Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors for prevention or delay of type 2 diabetes mellitus and its associated complications in people at increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes mellitus - [link](#)
- Perioperative intravenous ketamine for acute postoperative pain in adults - [link](#)
- Uterotonic agents for preventing postpartum haemorrhage: a network meta-analysis - [link](#)
- Early discontinuation of antibiotics for febrile neutropenia versus continuation until neutropenia resolution in people with cancer - [link](#)
- Iron for the treatment of restless legs syndrome - [link](#)
- Acetyl-L-carnitine for patients with hepatic encephalopathy - [link](#)
- Disease management interventions for heart failure - [link](#)
- Cognitive behavioural therapy plus standard care versus standard care for people with schizophrenia - [link](#)
- Psychological therapies for anxiety and depression in children and adolescents with long-term physical conditions - [link](#)
- Restriction of salt, caffeine and alcohol intake for the treatment of Ménière's disease or syndrome - [link](#)

**European Heart Journal

- β -blockers, calcium antagonists, and mortality in stable coronary artery disease: an international cohort study - [link](#)
- When is it appropriate to stop non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants before catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation? A multicentre prospective randomized study - [link](#)
- Efficacy and safety of reduced-dose non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants in patients with atrial fibrillation: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials - [link](#)
- Clinical outcomes, edoxaban concentration, and anti-factor Xa activity of Asian patients with atrial fibrillation compared with non-Asians in the ENGAGE AF-TIMI 48 trial - [link](#)

**European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy

- A case report of photodermatoses induced by the antifungal drug terbinafine - [link](#)
- Inpatients' satisfaction towards information received about medicine - [link](#)

**European Journal of Preventive Cardiology

- Depression, antidepressants, and the risk of non-valvular atrial fibrillation: A nationwide Danish matched cohort study - [link](#)

**European Respiratory Journal

- Triple therapy versus single and dual long-acting bronchodilator therapy in COPD: a systematic review and meta-analysis - [link](#)

**Internal Medicine Journal

- The Use of Biologic Agents in the Management of Uveitis - [link](#)

****JAMA**

- Rethinking How Antibiotics Are Prescribed - Incorporating the 4 Moments of Antibiotic Decision Making into Clinical Practice - [link](#)
- Association of Pharmacological Treatments with Long-term Pain Control in Patients with Knee Osteoarthritis - A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis - [link](#)
- Clinical Update - Perioperative Glucose Control in Patients with Diabetes Undergoing Elective Surgery - [link](#)

****JAMA Cardiology**

- Interindividual Variation in Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol Level Reduction with Evolocumab - An Analysis of FOURIER Trial Data - [link](#)
- Estimated 5-Year Number Needed to Treat to Prevent Cardiovascular Death or Heart Failure Hospitalization with Angiotensin Receptor-Nepriylsin Inhibition vs Standard Therapy for Patients With Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction: An Analysis of Data From the PARADIGM-HF Trial - [link](#)

****JAMA Internal Medicine**

- Association of Parenteral Anticoagulation Therapy with Outcomes in Chinese Patients Undergoing Percutaneous Coronary Intervention for Non–ST-Segment Elevation Acute Coronary Syndrome - [link](#)
- Association of Corticosteroid Treatment with Outcomes in Adult Patients with Sepsis - A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis - [link](#)
- Patient resource: Vitamins and Nutritional Supplements - What Do I Need to Know? - [link](#)
- Association of the Trauma of Hospitalization With 30-Day Readmission or Emergency Department Visit - [link](#)
- Association of Prescribed Opioids with Increased Risk of Community-Acquired Pneumonia among Patients With and Without HIV - [link](#)

****JAMA Network Open**

- US National Trends in Pediatric Deaths from Prescription and Illicit Opioids, 1999-2016 - [link](#)
- Association of Second-line Antidiabetic Medications with Cardiovascular Events among Insured Adults with Type 2 Diabetes - [link](#)
- Assessment of Guideline Discordance with Antimicrobial Prophylaxis Best Practices for Common Urologic Procedures - [link](#)

****JAMA Neurology**

- Association of Rituximab Treatment with Disability Progression among Patients with Secondary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis - [link](#)

****JAMA Paediatrics**

- Effect of Intranasal Ketamine vs Fentanyl on Pain Reduction for Extremity Injuries in Children - The PRIME Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)

****JAMA Psychiatry**

- Association Between Antidepressant Drug Use and Hip Fracture in Older People Before and After Treatment Initiation - [link](#)

****JAMA Surgery**

- Association Between Antithrombotic Medication Use after Bioprosthetic Aortic Valve Replacement and Outcomes in the Veterans Health Administration System - [link](#)

****JAMIA (Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association)**

- Designing a medication timeline for patients and physicians - [link](#)

****Journal of General Internal Medicine**

- A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of the Association between Vitamin K Antagonist Use and Fracture - [link](#)

****Lancet**

- Effects of fluoxetine on functional outcomes after acute stroke (FOCUS): a pragmatic, double-blind, randomised, controlled trial - [link](#)
- Use of liraglutide and risk of major cardiovascular events: a register-based cohort study in Denmark and Sweden - [link](#)
- Sofosbuvir–velpatasvir for treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus infection in Asia: a single-arm, open-label, phase 3 trial - [link](#)
- Safety of elvitegravir, cobicistat, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide in HIV-1-infected adults with end-stage renal disease on chronic haemodialysis: an open-label, single-arm, multicentre, phase 3b trial - [link](#)
- Safety and efficacy of nabiximols on spasticity symptoms in patients with motor neuron disease (CANALS): a multicentre, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled, phase 2 trial - [link](#)
- Opioid prescribing trends and geographical variation in England, 1998–2018: a retrospective database study - [link](#)
- Identifying English Practices that Are High Antibiotic Prescribers Accounting for Comorbidities and Other Legitimate Medical Reasons for Variation - [link](#)
- Review: Antibiotic allergy - [link](#)
- Insomnia disorder subtypes derived from life history and traits of affect and personality - [link](#)
- New pharmacological strategies for protecting kidney function in type 2 diabetes - [link](#)

****New England Journal of Medicine**

- Fracture Prevention with Zoledronate in Older Women with Osteopenia - [link](#)
- Haloperidol and Ziprasidone for Treatment of Delirium in Critical Illness - [link](#)
- Cardiovascular Risk Reduction with Icosapent Ethyl for Hypertriglyceridemia – [link](#)

****National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)**

- NIHR Signals
- Home-based cardiac rehabilitation for heart failure has high rates of participation - [link](#)
- Thyroid hormone treatment does not help adults with mildly abnormal thyroid tests - [link](#)
- Antidepressants do not help treat depression in people living with dementia - [link](#)
- People leaving hospital after medical illness do not benefit from extended clot reducing treatment - [link](#)

****Pediatrics (American Academy of Pediatrics)**

- Trends in Outpatient Antibiotic Use in 3 Health Plans - [link](#)
- Mupirocin for Staphylococcus aureus Decolonization of Infants in Neonatal Intensive Care Units - [link](#)
- Youth and the Opioid Epidemic - [link](#)

****Prescribe in English**

- Prescribe International issue 199 December 2018 - [link](#)

****Therapeutics and Clinical Risk Management**

- Calcium and vitamin D supplementation with 3-year denosumab treatment is beneficial to enhance bone mineral density in postmenopausal patients with osteoporosis and rheumatoid arthritis - [link](#)

****Thrombosis and Haemostasis**

- The antifibrinolytic and anti-inflammatory effects of multiple doses of oral tranexamic acid in total knee arthroplasty patients: a randomized controlled trial - [link](#)