



NSW  
Therapeutic  
Advisory  
Group Inc.

Advancing  
quality use  
of medicines  
in NSW

## TAG Mail 11 April 2019

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

### NSW TAG ACTIVITIES

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#### \*\*New email discussions

- Management of time critical medicines particularly levodopa: due **COB 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019**
- Potential products as alternative to effervescent calcium product: due **COB 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

#### \*\*Email requests

- Local policies regarding clinical areas appropriate for IV bolus dosing of S4Ds and S8s

#### \*\*New website listings

- Email discussion: Use of ethanol or fomepizole in toxic alcohol poisoning
- Presentation: Safer Care Victoria Care of Older People Network re Polypharmacy Indicators-3 Apr 2019
- Submission: NSW TAG Cataract Clinical care Standard feedback Quality Statement 7- 5 Apr 2019
- Publication: Activity Based Funding of Medicines in Hospitals- April 2019

#### \*\*Life Saving Drug Registers (LSDRs)

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

### OTHER NEWS (new additions in bold)

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#### \*\*Australian Prescriber Podcast

- **[Episode 46: Influenza: overview on prevention and therapy](#)**

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

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

#### \*\*Health Literacy Seminar Series

- **Four seminars being held throughout the year at Westmead hospital - [link](#)**

#### \*\*HETI

- Release of Safe Use of Anticoagulation education module. The module will assist LHDs/SHNs and clinicians meet the High-Risk Medicine Management Policy (PD2015\_029). Access via HETI My Health Learning webpage (HETI course coder 237965997).

#### \*\*ISMP

- **ISMP's medication safety resources survey (closes 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2019) - [link](#)**

\*\*MJA Podcasts

- [Episode 15: Pitfalls diagnosing Buruli ulcer, with A/Prof Daniel O'Brien](#)

\*\*NSW Health

- [Safety Notice: 005/19](#) - Lignocaine with adrenaline 1:200,000 injections – Disruption to supply and risk of patient harm

\*\*Safer Care Victoria

- 'Change package' to manage the ability of patients to access their own adrenaline (epinephrine) autoinjector while in hospital - [link](#)

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

\*\*The Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI) Macquarie University – Seminar Series - 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019, 12-1pm, [Conflict of interest in the Canadian healthcare system](#)

\*\*The University of Sydney

- Putting Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Skills into Practice (webinar training program, 7 sessions, various dates) - [link](#)

\*\*TGA

- **ACSS Consortium Generic Medicines Working Group (GMWG) public statement, 29-30 October 2018** - [link](#)

- **Submissions received: Proposed therapeutic goods advertising code guidance** - [link](#)

- **Advisory Committee on Vaccines meeting statement, Meeting 11, 5 December 2018** - [link](#)

- **Don't forget your toothbrush ... or your medicines** - [link](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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\*\*Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research, the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association and the Harvard Club of Australia - Executive Workshop: Leading Effectively During Political Change Periods  
Sydney: 4 June 2019, Canberra: 6 June 2019, Melbourne: 12 June 2019 - [link](#)

\*\*NHMRC National Institute for Dementia Research (NNIDR) Australian Dementia Forum 2019  
13 - 14 June 2019, Hobart, Tasmania - [link](#)

\*\*Health Facilities Design and Development Victoria Summit (Victorian Healthcare Week)  
23 - 24 July 2019, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, [link](#)

\*\*The 8th World Congress of Clinical Safety (8WCCS) - Patient Safety Promotion by Multi-Occupation  
2 - 4 October 2019, Grand Majestic Plaza Hotel, Prague, Czech Republic - [link](#)

\*\*52nd Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) Conference  
5 - 8 November 2019, ICC, Sydney - [link](#)

\*\*SHPA Medicines Management 2019 (MM2019) 45th SHPA National Conference  
14 - 16 November 2019, Gold Coast - [link](#)

\*\*8th Annual NHMRC Symposium on Research Translation  
19 - 20 November 2019, Pullman Albert Park, Melbourne - [link](#)

## CONSULTATIONS (new additions in bold)

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**\*\*CEC**

- [Draft: Policy Recognition and Management of Patients Who Are Deteriorating](#) - closes 3 May 2019

**\*\*Pharmacy Board of Australia**

- [Discussion paper](#) - Public and stakeholder feedback on pharmacist prescribing – closes 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**\*\*TGA**

- [Consultation](#) on adoption of European Union guidelines in Australia - Closes 29 April 2019  
- [Consultation](#): Proposed new classification rule for medical devices that administer medicines or biologicals by inhalation - - Closes 29 April 2019

**\*\*The Australian Research Council, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics New Zealand, and the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment -Joint review: Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) Public consultation - Submissions close on 7 June 2019 - [link](#)**

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**REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – AUSTRALIA**

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

- Public reporting of safety and quality in public and private hospitals – Literature review and environment scan - [link](#)  
- Public reporting of safety and quality in public and private hospitals – Report on consumer and clinician focus groups and expert interviews - [link](#)

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

- GEN Aged Care Data: People's care needs in aged care - [link](#)  
- GEN Aged Care Data: People using aged care - [link](#)

**\*\*Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) NSW**

- Medication Safety and Quality Program Newsletter - MSQ Connect, [Issue 9, February 2019](#)

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

- Compare COPD inhalers and insulin pens with new MIMS tables - [link](#)

**\*\*NPS MedicineWise**

- Australian Prescriber: Volume 42 Issue 2: influenza; drug-induced movement disorders; immune checkpoint inhibitors in malignancy, - [link](#)  
- RADAR: April 2019 new listings wrap-up:bictegravir/emtricitabine/tenofovir/raltegravir; idostaurin; nusinersen; pralatrexate; safinamide – [link](#)

**\*\*NSW Health Intranet**

- 'Don't risk severe flu' brochure - [link](#)  
- Mental Health Safety and Quality in NSW: Implementation Update February 2019 - [link](#)

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**REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS – INTERNATIONAL**

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

- New products  
-- [Iloprost](#) 100 micrograms/ml concentrate for infusion for treatment of severe Raynaud's phenomena in patients with progressive trophic disorders and for severe chronic ischaemia of lower limbs in patients at risk of amputation, in whom surgical revascularisation/angioplasty has failed or is not indicated.  
-- Lokelma™ ([sodium zirconium cyclosilicate](#)) oral suspension: A non-absorbed, non-polymer inorganic powder with a uniform micropore structure that preferentially captures potassium in exchange for hydrogen and sodium cations, licensed for the treatment of hyperkalaemia in adult patients.

**\*\*FDA**

- New drug approvals:

- First two-drug complete regimen, Dovato® ([dolutegravir and lamivudine](#)) for HIV-infected patients who have never received antiretroviral treatment
- Supplemental approval for Ibrance® ([palbociclib](#)) in combination with an aromatase inhibitor or fulvestrant to include men with hormone receptor-positive (HR+), human epidermal growth factor receptor 2-negative (HER2-) advanced or metastatic breast cancer
- Reintroduction of Zelnorm™ ([tegaserod](#)), a twice-daily oral treatment for Irritable Bowel Syndrome with Constipation (IBS-C) in women under 65
- [Romosozumab](#) (Evenity®) for treatment of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women with a history of osteoporotic fracture or multiple risk factors for fracture, or those who have failed or are intolerant to other osteoporosis therapies.
- [Certolizumab pegol](#) (Cimzia®) for adults with nonradiographic axial spondyloarthritis who have objective signs of inflammation

\*\*Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand

- Reducing harm from falls: Recommended evidence-based resources 2019
- Reducing Harm from Falls - [link](#)

\*\*Midlands Therapeutics Review and Advisory Committee (MTRAC)

- Considerations for commissioners: Tapentadol PR

\*\* National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, Medicine

- Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Save Lives - [link](#)

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

- Specialist neonatal respiratory care for babies born preterm ([NG124](#)) - guidance
- Urinary incontinence and pelvic organ prolapse in women: management – guidance ([NG123](#))

\*\*Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory

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

\*\*Specialist Pharmacy Services

- Can acetarsol be used to treat proctitis? - [link](#)
- [New Medicines](#) Newsletter March 2019
- [New Product Evaluations](#) March 2019

\*\* World Health Organisation (WHO)

- A healthier humanity: the WHO investment case for 2019-2023 - [link](#)
- Improving the quality of health services: tools and resources - [link](#)
- WHO Guidelines for the pharmacological and radiotherapeutic management of cancer pain in adults and adolescents - [link](#)

## **MEDICATION SAFETY**

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

- Revised SPCs
- Spinraza™ ([nusinersen](#)): Aseptic meningitis added as potential adverse effect (unknown frequency)
- [Oxycodone products](#) (OxyContin, OxyNorm, Longtec, Shortec): Updated to warn concomitant administration of oxycodone with serotonin agents, such as SSRIs or SNRIs, may cause serotonin toxicity. Oxycodone should be used with caution and dose may need to be reduced in patients using these medications.
- [Infliximab](#): Lichenoid reactions added as rare potential adverse effect.
- Betmiga® ([mirabegron](#)): Confusional state added as potential adverse effect (frequency unknown)

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

- [E-cigarette](#): Safety Communication - Related to Seizures Reported Following E-cigarette Use, Particularly in Youth and Young Adults
- FDA identifies [harm reported from sudden discontinuation of opioid pain medicines](#) and requires label changes to guide prescribers on gradual, individualized tapering

\*\*Health Canada – MedEffect Notice

- Benlysta™ ([belimumab](#)) - Increased Risk of Serious Depression, Suicidal Ideation or Behaviour, or Self-Injury
- Health Canada advises Allergan of its intent to suspend its licences for Biocell breast implants as a precautionary measure - [link](#)

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

Medication Safety Alert! [April 11, 2019](#)

- Sidebar: ISMP Impact on the Healthcare Community
- Worth repeating...PCA pump keys available online
- Risk of IV bupivacaine administration
- Morphine vial tampering
- NCCN and The Joint commission back ISMP vinca alkaloids “Call to Action”
- Sound-alike antidote error prevention
- Overdoses related to “pill dumping” into a spare medication vial
- [Acute Care Action Agenda](#) (January - March 2019)

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

- Good clinical practice for clinical trials - [link](#)

\*\*TGA

- Breast implant associated-anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL) - [link](#)

## **PAPERS OF INTEREST**

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\*\*American Journal of Medical Quality

- Improving Heart Failure Readmission Costs and Outcomes With a Hospital-to-Home Readmission Intervention Program - [link](#)
- An Initiative to Decrease Time to Antibiotics for Patients With Fever and Neutropenia - [link](#)

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

- Practice-enhancing publications about the medication use process in 2017 - [link](#)

\*\*Annals of Internal Medicine

- Intensive Models of Hepatitis C Care for People Who Inject Drugs Receiving Opioid Agonist Therapy: A Randomized Controlled Trial - [link](#)

\*\*British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology

- Osteoanabolic and dual action drugs - [link](#)
- Predicting the dose of vancomycin in ICU patients receiving different types of RRT therapy: a model-based meta-analytic approach - [link](#)
- Methadone dosing strategies in preterm neonates can be simplified - [link](#)

\*\*British Medical Journal (BMJ)

- Anticoagulation therapy in heart failure and sinus rhythm: a systematic review and meta-analysis - [link](#)
- Continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion versus multiple daily injection regimens in children and young people at diagnosis of type 1 diabetes: pragmatic randomised controlled trial and economic evaluation - [link](#)
- Medicinal use of cannabis based products and cannabinoids - [link](#)
- Off-label drug prescriptions in French general practice: a cross-sectional study - [link](#)

\*\*British Journal of Psychiatry

- Clinical and biological effects of long-term lithium treatment in older adults with amnesic mild cognitive impairment: randomised clinical trial - [link](#)

**\*\*BMJ Quality and Safety**

- Assessing the quality of health care in the management of bronchiolitis in Australian children: a population-based sample survey - [link](#)
- Improving rates of ferrous sulfate prescription for suspected iron deficiency anaemia in infants - [link](#)

**\*\*Circulation**

- Effectively Initiating and Maintaining Anticoagulation in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation - [link](#)
- Empagliflozin and the Risk of Heart Failure Hospitalization in Routine Clinical Care: A First Analysis from the Empagliflozin Comparative Effectiveness and Safety (EMPRISE) Study - [link](#)
- Device Therapy and Arrhythmia Management in Left Ventricular Assist Device Recipients: A Scientific Statement from the American Heart Association - [link](#)
- Angiotensin Receptor Neprilysin Inhibitor for Functional Mitral Regurgitation - [link](#)

**\*\*Cochrane**

- Long-term antibiotics for preventing recurrent urinary tract infection in children - [link](#)
- Herbal medicinal products or preparations for neuropathic pain - [link](#)
- Non-antistreptococcal interventions for acute guttate psoriasis or an acute guttate flare of chronic psoriasis - [link](#)
- Glucocorticosteroids for people with alcoholic hepatitis - [link](#)

**\*\*Critical Care Medicine**

- The Effect of Vitamin C on Clinical Outcome in Critically Ill Patients: A Systematic Review with Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials - [link](#)

**\*\*Diabetes Care**

- Glucose Variables in Type 1 Diabetes Studies with Dapagliflozin: Pooled Analysis of Continuous Glucose Monitoring Data from DEPICT-1 and -2 - [link](#)

**\*\*Diabetic Medicine**

- Cardiovascular efficacy and safety of sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 inhibitors and glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists: a systematic review and network meta-analysis - [link](#)

**\*\*Health Technology Assessment**

- Adalimumab in combination with methotrexate for refractory uveitis associated with juvenile idiopathic arthritis: a RCT - [link](#)

**\*\*Internal Medicine Journal**

- Rituximab Therapy in Interstitial Lung Disease associated with Rheumatoid Arthritis - [link](#)
- Discharge treatment with ACE inhibitor/ARB after a heart failure hospitalization is associated with a better prognosis irrespectively of left ventricular ejection fraction - [link](#)
- Differential Clinical Characteristics, Management, and Outcome of Delirium among Ward Compared with ICU Patients - [link](#)
- What's new in lipid lowering therapies in diabetes? - [link](#)

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

- Quality of diabetes care in cancer: a systematic review - [link](#)
- Wide variation and patterns of physicians' responses to drug–drug interaction alerts - [link](#)
- Not feeling ready to go home: a qualitative analysis of chronically ill patients' perceptions on care transitions - [link](#)

**\*\*JAMA**

- Diagnosis and Management of Crohn Disease - [link](#)
- Association of HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis with Incidence of Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Individuals at High Risk of HIV Infection - [link](#)

**\*\*JAMA Cardiology**

- Effect of a Multifaceted Quality Improvement Intervention on the Prescription of Evidence-Based Treatment in Patients at High Cardiovascular Risk in Brazil: The BRIDGE Cardiovascular Prevention Cluster Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)
- 2018 American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology Multisociety Guideline on the Management of Blood Cholesterol Primary Prevention - [link](#)

**\*\*JAMA Network Open**

- Association of Maternal Use of Benzodiazepines and Z-Hypnotics during Pregnancy with Motor and Communication Skills and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Symptoms in Preschoolers - [link](#)

**\*\*JAMA Neurology**

- Recurrent Stroke With Rivaroxaban Compared With Aspirin According to Predictors of Atrial Fibrillation. Secondary Analysis of the NAVIGATE ESUS Randomized Clinical Trial - [link](#)
- Fulminant Hepatitis Associated with Echovirus 25 During Treatment with Ocrelizumab for Multiple Sclerosis - [link](#)

**\*\*Lancet**

- Smoking cessation for people with severe mental illness (SCIMITAR+): a pragmatic randomised controlled trial - [link](#)
- Dose recommendations for anticancer drugs in patients with renal or hepatic impairment - [link](#)
- Fully closed-loop insulin delivery in inpatients receiving nutritional support: a two-centre, open-label, randomised controlled trial - [link](#)
- A global scientific strategy to cure hepatitis B - [link](#)

**\*\*Medical Journal of Australia**

- The impact of rapid molecular diagnostic testing for respiratory viruses on outcomes for emergency department patients - [link](#)

**\*\*New England Journal of Medicine**

- Benralizumab for *PDGFRA*-Negative Hypereosinophilic Syndrome - [link](#)
- Adjunctive Intermittent Pneumatic Compression for Venous Thromboprophylaxis - [link](#)
- Full Study Report of Andexanet Alfa for Bleeding Associated with Factor Xa Inhibitors - [link](#)
- Levothyroxine in Women with Thyroid Peroxidase Antibodies before Conception - [link](#)
- Pembrolizumab Treatment for Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy - [link](#)

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

- NIHR Signals
- Communication problems are top of patients' concerns about hospital care - [link](#)
- One gram a day of omega-3 supplements does not reduce the risk of cancer or cardiovascular disease - [link](#)

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

- Tofacitinib Treatment of Refractory Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis - [link](#)
- Antibiotic Prescribing during Pediatric Direct-to-Consumer Telemedicine Visits - [link](#)

**\*\*Pharmacotherapy**

- Impact of Sofosbuvir-Based Therapy on Liver Transplant Candidates with Hepatitis C Virus Infection - [link](#)
- Conversion from Vancomycin Trough Concentration–Guided Dosing to Area Under the Curve–Guided Dosing Using Two Sample Measurements in Adults: Implementation at an Academic Medical Center - [link](#)
- Proton Pump Inhibitors and Risk of Acute and Chronic Kidney Disease: A Retrospective Cohort Study - [link](#)
- Tolvaptan for Volume Management in Heart Failure - [link](#)
- Synthetic Cannabinoid-Associated Multiple Organ Failure: Case Series and Literature Review - [link](#)

**\*\*Therapeutics and Clinical Risk Management**

- Interprofessional safety reporting and review of adverse events and medication errors in critical care - [link](#)

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