



Email Discussions List

The purpose of email discussions is to share information about medicines and practice in NSW public hospitals. NSW TAG members are encouraged to respond to email discussion requests for information. However it should be noted that information is only a current snapshot at the time the response is sent. The responses received are only representative of the hospitals participating in the discussion at the time (which may be small depending on the topic) and do not indicate a complete picture of current practices. It is recommended that email discussion topics are regularly brought to the attention of DTC meetings as they are likely to facilitate discussion of contemporary and emerging medicines and practice.

A list of the current year's email discussions is shown below. A list of discussions since 2015 is below. Access to email discussions is only available to NSW TAG members. If you are not a NSW TAG member but are interested in the email discussion topic, please contact NSW TAG at nswtag@stvincents.com.au

2021

Email Discussion	Month
Brexiprazole packaging look alike	September
Need for patient information leaflet for dexamethasone use in COVID-19?	September
Streamlining access to S8 medicines (e.g. when required for emergencies)	September
Supply of medicines for quarantined community patients	September
Issues related to patient self-funding of medicines	August
Request for translated COVID-19 medicines information leaflets and consent forms	July
COVID-19 vaccine skin reagent testing	July
Problematic access to National Blood Authority products for non-approved	June
Clinical training in medication safety (for accreditation purposes)	June
Consent for use hazardous medicines in non-cancer conditions	June
Impact of NSW Health PD 2005_395 Drugs-Funding Arrangements for	June
Hospital use of paracetamol products	May
Access to anticoagulation (e.g. fondaparinux) for VITT management	May
Guidelines for Opioid Stewardship and Choice of Opioids used in Pain Management (acute & chronic)	May
HYDRORmorphine standard and potential development of tools	May
Preparation and administration of small paediatric doses of enoxaparin	May
Safe use of Fleet enema	April
Oral budesonide (Budenofalk) to outpatients	March
Evidence of non-pharmacist medication review during hospitalisation	March
Issues and practice points to include in a Sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 inhibitor (SGLT2i) standard or consensus statement	February
Anaesthetic failures with bupivacaine	February
Availability of medical grade freezers and storage of Cervagem	February
Oral paediatric phenobarbitone & diazepam products	February

2020

Email Discussion	Month
Familiarity with use of NSMC during downtime	December
Life Saving Drug Register (LSDR) feedback	December
Use of aromatherapy in active labour	December
Use of brentuximab	December
Acquisition and Use of IM Clozapine	December
Formulary Status of IR Tapentadol	December
Rituximab ADRs in dermatology patients	November
Medication errors due to confusing labelling on SAS or ex-SAS products	November
Use of depot antipsychotics in severe, treatment resistant anorexia nervosa	November
Use of Uridine Triacetate (Vistogard™)	October
Third party Medicines Access Programs	September
Use of biosimilar trastuzumab	September
Problematic access to previously registered medicines	September
Formulary status of carbetocin	August
Ketamine in acute pain	August
Topical Anaesthetics on formulary	July
Use of coloured patient ID bands	July
Local policy for Medicines Access Program approvals	July
Navigating the PBS	July
Dual antiplatelet dispensing post PCI	July
Use of povidone iodine in theatres	July
Nifedipine for tocolysis	June
Managing medication shortages	May
2020 vaccine management issues	April
Nicotine replacement therapy inhalers on formulary	April
COVID-19 guideline development for handling patient's own and hospital issued medications	April
Rapid sequence intubation (RSI) kits for COVID-19 patients	April
Use of HCMs in those transitioning from pediatric to adult hospitals	March
Are there safety issues associated with various metamamol products	February
Dantrolene stocking for malignant hyperthermia	February
Formulary status of lidocaine 0.4% infusion bags	January
Prescribing nutritional feeds and supplements	January

2019

Email Discussion	Month
Pharmacist prescribing	November
Chemotherapy audit toolkit	October
Opioid stewardship projects	October
Active ingredient prescribing	October
State-wide standing order for patient's own adrenaline autoinjector	October
Listing of last line antimicrobials on LSDR	October
TGA development of new standard for 2D DataMatrix codes medicines	September
Current prescribing practices of medical gases (including Oxygen)	September
Current governance models for contrast	September
Handling of sedating medicines in ED	September
Iron polymaltose 'rapid protocol' for fluid restricted patients	September
Paediatric gentamicin guidelines	August
Intranasal naloxone (Nyxoid®) formulary status	August
Dexamethasone oral solution alternatives (for paediatric patients) (updated September)	August
Restriction status of IV Augmentin®	August
Differences between thiopental products (Updated August)	August
IV magnesium preparations	July
Sleep hygiene protocols on wards	July
TGA SAS online portal feedback	June
Ticagrelor in acute stroke patients requiring stenting	May
Access to HYDROMorphone	May
Supply of iron to pregnant ATSI patients by midwives in outreach services	May
Managing Stocks of IV potassium formulations	May
Discontinuation of effervescent calcium	April
Use of fomepizole or ethanol in toxic alcohol poisoning	April
Accountable S4 medicines	April
Hospital management of time critical medicines such as Parkinson's medicines	April
Formulary listing of silver sulfadiazine cream	March
Management of Tick Bites	March
Nurse practitioner prescribing in clinical trials	February
Pregabalin Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) issues	February
Discontinuation of Nifedipine Twice Daily Formulations	January
IPU documentation in eMR	January
New packaging of nystatin oral drops	January

2018

Email Discussion	Month
Entresto and potential for adverse events	December
Governance of Contrast	December
Eptifibatide	December
Nifedipine in hypertensive disorders of pregnancy	November
SGLT2 inhibitor use in hospital patients	September
Dissolution of glyceryl trinitrate (Nitrostat brand) 300microg tablet	September
Clozapine guidelines in NSW	August
Management of patient's own cannabinoid products	August
Use of pens and safety pen needles	August
Guidelines for patient self-administration whilst inpatient	August
Locking of CVCs	July
Provision of S8/S4Ds for Emergency Department (ED) patients	July
Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) Thinksulin App	July
Governance for standing orders of oral and IV contrast agents	July
Eradication of MRSA pre-surgery	July
Hospital documentation for procedural sedation administered by nurses	June
2018 influenza vaccination and vaccine supply	June
LMWH monitoring	June
Provision of discharge medicines	May
Use of formalin for radiation proctitis	May
Hospital and DTC Management of Standing Orders and Appendix Tables 1, 2 and 3	April
Sugammadex Usage	April
Provision of meropenem and ceftazidime infusors	March
Current status of pethidine use in NSW public hospitals	February
Rivaroxaban in orthopaedic surgery other than hip or knee replacement	February
Availability of HYDROmorphone patient information leaflets	February
Weekend supply of TB medicines of active treatment	February
Recording of S8 medicine administration in operating theatres	January
Monoclonal Antibody Administration in Inflammatory Bowel Disease	January

2017

Email Discussion	Month
Pharmacist Initiated Medicines	December
Impact of codeine rescheduling on hospitals	November
Melatonin on formulary	November
Pharmacist role in TDM	November
Dispensing from medication charts	November
Doxylamine on imprest for hyperemesis	November
Iron polymaltose versus ferric carboxymaltose for inpatient formulary	October
TYRX Absorbable Antibacterial Technologies	August
Aprotinin use in NSW hospitals	July
Sodium oxybate for narcolepsy	July
Management strategies for fentanyl injection shortage	July
Risk mitigation strategies for hydromorphone storage	July
Removal of HYDROMORPHONE 50mg/5mL and upcoming availability of HYDROMORPHONE 50mg/mL	May
Clinical effectiveness of APO-Olanzapine ODT orally disintegrating tablets brand	May
Safe use of vincristine	May
Safe handling of idarucizumab	April
Intrathecal fentanyl	April
Documentation of nitrous oxide administration	April
TPN Guidance	April
Intramuscular lorazepam for acute sedation	April
Perioperative management plan for patients taking regular anticoagulant or anti platelet agents	March
Off-label use of rituximab in membranous nephropathy	January

2016

Email Discussion	Month
Patient consent for off-label use	September
Long term use of methoxyflurane (Pentrox)	July
Intrapleural alteplase and dornase alpha for empyema	July
Nursing protocols for the preparation and administration of subcutaneous mabs	July
Urokinase standardised protocols	June
Subcutaneous lignocaine infusion for pain	June
Second-person checks for paediatric medicines	May
Tools for placement of advisory labels on products	May
Peri-operative use of surgical antiseptic washes	April
Analgesics on formulary	March
Pethidine in Labour	March
Issues with Medicines Access Programs	January
Implications of the proposed changes to the scheduling of codeine-containing products to hospital pharmacist practices	January
Test dosing of antimicrobials	January

2015

Email Discussion	Month
Inpatient self-administration of insulin	December
Inline filter for intravenous phenytoin	December
Toujeo Insulin 300 units/mL	December
Nicotine replacement therapies (NRT) – formulary requests; prescribing and administration documentation	November
Availability of tranexamic for trauma	November
Respiratory devices on formulary	October
The management of acute severe behavioural disturbance in ED	October
DTC approvals in Romidepsin	September
ADR Reporting to the TGA	August
Blood Products Handling	August
Impact of TALLMan Lettering	August
Hydromorphone 500mg Ampoules	August
Information for people commencing Warfarin	August
Patent self-funding on non-formulary drugs	August
Amphotericin for treatment of cryptococcal meningitis	July
Tapentadol on formulary	July
Contrast Media Prescribing	July
Use of CATAG's Guiding Principles for the governance of biological and biocimilar medicines in Australian hospitals	July
Benzodiazepine prescribing in patients at high-risk of falls	June
Smart infusion pumps and drug libraries	June
Standardised medication-related documents in LHDs	June
Charcoal and bowel irrigation stocks and placement on Life- saving Drugs Register LSDR	June
Removal of pethidine from hospital formularies	June
HNELHD (northern Sector) IPU form	June
SNSWLHD Analgesia and antimetrics during labour – standing order/guideline	June
Patient forms for ceasing medications before surgery	May
Murrumbidgee LHD form	May
St Vincent's Hospital clinician guide and patient form	May
Bowral District Hospital Policy	May
Canterbury Hospital form	May
SLHD document re Anticoagulation with form	May
Use of rituximab or adalimumab for sight-threatening uveitis	April
Noting the existence of supplementary charts on the NIMC	April