

TAG Mail 3rd October 2008



TAG Mail is now on the NSW TAG Website at www.nswtag.org.au

TAG MEETINGS

Advance notice: NSW TAG Annual General Meeting will be held at 5pm on October 20th at Level 7 Meeting Room, Concord Hospital Medical Centre commencing at **5.00pm**.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Nil to report

TAG ACTIVITIES

**** Reminder: Error prone abbreviations - 2008 Snapshot**

NSW TAG is inviting all TAG and TAGNet members to participate in the 2008 snapshot review of the use of error-prone abbreviations using Indicator 3.3 from the manual of QUM Indicators for Australian Hospitals. For some hospitals this represents an opportunity to re-visit this issue after participating in the 2007 audit. For others this represents a 'first-time' opportunity be part of this multicentre audit. Please contact the NSW TAG office for more information regarding the snapshot. Please note that the closing date for data submission is October 31st.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

**** NSW Health Policy Directive - Cardiac monitoring in adult cardiac patients in public hospitals NSW (PD2008_055): September 25th 2008**

To access this policy directive go to:

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2008/PD2008_055.html

**** GMCT Newsletter Clinician Connect - October 2008**

The latest newsletter from GMCT is now available, which includes an editorial on the management of malnutrition. To read this newsletter, and previous editions of Clinician Connect, go to:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/gmct/news/newsletters.html>

**** TGA - Expressions of interest sought to join ADEC Advisory Committee**

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is seeking expressions of interest from experts interested in contributing to the work of the TGA through its ADEC advisory committee. EOIs will be accepted until Oct 20th. For more information go to: <http://www.tga.gov.au/docs/html/adec/nominations2008.htm>

**** AIHW - Health data cubes updated**

Based on the release of the 2006-07 Health Expenditure Report last week the health data cubes on the AIHW website have been updated to include 2006-07

data. For more information go to:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/expenditure/datacubes/index.cfm>

** AHRQ Health Care - Innovations Exchange: Sept 29th

This issue highlights the role of nurses in improving health care delivery. For more information go to: <http://www.innovations.ahrq.gov/>

** IHI (USA) - Using data to assess and improve operational performance in the Emergency Department: Scheduled for October 9th

This e-learning course is designed to assist organisations identify issues relating to disorganisation and decreased throughput in emergency departments. For more information go to:

<http://www.ihl.org/IHI/Programs/AudioAndWebPrograms/UsingDatatoAssessandImproveOperationalPerformanceintheEmergencyDepartment.htm>

MEDICATION SAFETY

** FDA Medwatch - Preliminary safety findings show more deaths in patients given epoetin-alpha vs placebo (Sept 26th)

FDA has been made aware of preliminary safety findings from a clinical trial conducted in Germany investigating the use of epoetin alfa to treat acute ischemic stroke. Doses of epoetin alfa used were considerably higher than the doses recommended for the treatment of anemia as described in the FDA-approved labeling for the product. Over a period of 90 days there were more deaths in the group of patients who received epoetin alfa compared to patients who received the placebo (16% vs 9%). Roughly half of all deaths in both groups occurred within the first seven days after starting the drug, with death from intracranial haemorrhage (bleeding within the brain) occurring among approximately 4% of patients who received epoetin alfa compared to 1% of patients in the placebo group. To read the entire 2008 MedWatch Safety Summary go to:

<http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/2008/safety08.htm#ESA3>

UPCOMING EVENTS

** 25th International ISQua Conference. October 19th-22nd, 2008. Bella Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark. <http://www.isqua.org/isquaPages/copenhagen08.html>

** IHI seminar: Hospital to Home - optimizing the transition

October 28th-29th San Francisco USA

<http://www.ihl.org/IHI/Programs/ConferencesAndSeminars/HospitaltoHomeOptimizingtheTransitionOct08.htm>

** The National Forum on Safety and Quality in Health Care

October 29th-31st, Adelaide Convention Centre

<http://www.sapmea.asn.au/conventions/forumsqhc2008/index.html>

** NSW Health Expo: Australian Technology Park, Sydney on 31st October 2008
Registration is free and opens in early September 2008

<http://www.archi.net.au/events/current/awards-expo/expo>

** Hospital in the Home Society 1st Annual Scientific Conference
Friday 7 November 2008, Swiss Grand Bondi Beach, Sydney

<http://www.archi.net.au/events/current/hith08>

** Improving Quality, Safety and Throughput: The Healthy Hospital
13th-14th November 2008 at the Hilton, Victoria Square, Adelaide, SA, Australia

change.champions@bigpond.com

**Pharmaceutical Law Conference

13-14th November 2008, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Sydney

http://www.iir.com.au/iiroz/marlin/system/render.jsp?siteid=20001002361&MarlinViewType=MARKT_EFFORT&marketingid=20001704623

** Children's Hospitals Australasia & Association for the Wellbeing of Children in
Healthcare Conference 17th-18th November 2008:'Health Care for Kids - The
People, The Map and The Measure' <http://www.kidsconference.org.au>

**IHI: The Science of Improvement - Accelerating your capacity to change
November 18-19, 2008, San Diego, CA

<http://www.ihl.org/IHI/Programs/ConferencesAndSeminars/ScienceofImprovementNov2008.htm>

** Australian Society for Antimicrobials: Antimicrobials 2009

Hilton on the Park, Melbourne, 26 to 28 February 2009

The program covers many different aspects on antimicrobials including 'How to
Use Antibiotics Better', 'Vaccine and Antibiotic Use' and 'Antimicrobial Drug
Development'. www.antimicrobials2009.com

OTHER NEWS

** October 2008 is....

- National Lupus Awareness Month (www.lupusnsw.org.au)

- National *beyondblue* Anxiety and Depression Awareness Month
(www.beyondblue.org.au)