

TAG Mail 23rd January 2009



TAG MEETINGS

**The first TAG General Committee meeting for 2009 will be held from 3-5 pm on the 2nd February in the Executive Office, on the ground floor of the main hospital building at Concord Hospital.

**The first TAG Management meeting for 2009 will be held at 1.30 on the 2nd February at Concord Hospital in the usual venue.

**The first TAGNet meeting for 2009 will be held at 11 am on the 3rd February via teleconference.

WEBSITE UPDATE

**The 2009 meeting dates for the general committee, TAGNet and management committee meetings are now published in the members' section of the website.

**The following email discussions are now available in the members' section of the website:

--Counselling aids for warfarin

--Credentialling for prescribing, dispensing and administering medications

TAG ACTIVITIES

**Reminder: Life Saving Drugs Register: We are currently updating the register for 2009. Please return the relevant information to the office by 31 January 2009. Email www.nswtag.com.au

**Member Survey: Members are reminded to respond to the survey by 18th February 2009. To assist in completing the survey, a summary of NSW TAG activities in 2008 is available on the front page of the website.

**Terminology document: As noted last year, the NSW TAG developed "Recommendations for terminology abbreviations and symbols used in the prescribing and administration of medicines" has been endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers as a National standard. This document is now available from the Commission web site.

[http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/internet/safety/publishing.nsf/Content/D0DABD9912D44A14CA257516000FDABB/\\$File/18202.pdf](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/internet/safety/publishing.nsf/Content/D0DABD9912D44A14CA257516000FDABB/$File/18202.pdf)

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS - AUSTRALIA

**ACSQHC: Medication Safety Update for January 2009

[http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/internet/safety/publishing.nsf/Content/D0DABD9912D44A14CA257516000FDABB/\\$File/MedSafeUpdate-Jan2009.pdf](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/internet/safety/publishing.nsf/Content/D0DABD9912D44A14CA257516000FDABB/$File/MedSafeUpdate-Jan2009.pdf)

****AIHW:**

--Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2008 report: detailed analyses.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10664>

--Spinal cord injury, Australia, 2006-07

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10649>

****Responses to the Garling report:**

--Reforming New South Wales public hospitals: an assessment of the Garling inquiry. MJA 2009; 190 (2): 78-79.

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_02_190109/ski11396_fm.html

--Implementation of the Garling recommendations can offer real hope for rescuing the New South Wales public hospital system. MJA 2009; 190 (2): 80-82.

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_02_190109/dwy11461_fm.html

****TGA:**

--Consultation on adoption of European Union guidelines in Australia
For guideline details and information on submission dates see:

<http://www.tga.gov.au/meds/eucons/index.htm>

--Update on the TGA - EMEA - FDA pilot project to rationalise international GMP inspection activities <http://www.tga.gov.au/international/ecmra0901.htm>

-- Technical review of the Code of Practice for the Tamper-Evident Packaging (TEP) of Therapeutic Goods. The closing date for submissions is Friday 6 February 2009. <http://www.tga.gov.au/packaging/tepcopreview.htm>

-- Intention to amend Therapeutic Goods Order No. 69 - General requirements for labels for medicines. <http://www.tga.gov.au/legis/consult/tgo69c.htm>

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS - INTERNATIONAL

****FDA: Drug safety newsletter Issue 1 2009**

This issue includes: Postmarket reviews (varenicline and bupropion, abacivir, atomoxetine), FDA patient safety news, drug safety communications (Sep - Nov 2008) http://www.fda.gov/cder/dsn/2009_v2_no1/DSN_Vol2Num1.pdf

****Joint Commission International eZine: January 2009**

<http://www.jointcommissioninternational.org/January-2009-Volume-3-Issue-4/>

****NHS UK:**

--Clostridium difficile infection: how to deal with the problem

This guidance outlines newer evidence and approaches to delivering good infection control and environmental hygiene

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_093220

--Medicine Digest: January 2009

<http://www.mmnetwork.nhs.uk/downloads/news/Med%20digest%20596.pdf>

****NPC UK:**

--MeReC Bulletin: Lipid-modifying treatment

http://www.npc.co.uk/MeReC_Bulletins/MeReC_Bulletin_Vol19_No3_main.pdf

--NPC MeReC Rapid Review: Selenium, vitamin E or vitamin C do not prevent prostate cancer <http://www.npci.org.uk/blog/?p=260>

PAPERS OF INTEREST

****The dementia antipsychotic withdrawal trial (DART-AD): long-term follow-up of a randomised placebo-controlled trial. The Lancet Neurology, Early Online Publication, 9 January 2009.**

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422\(08\)70295-3/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422(08)70295-3/fulltext)

****Atypical Antipsychotic Drugs and the Risk of Sudden Cardiac Death. NEJM 2009: 360:225-235. <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/360/3/225>**

****Medication Errors among Adults and Children with Cancer in the Outpatient Setting. JCO Early Release, published online ahead of print Dec 29 2008.**

<http://jco.ascopubs.org/cgi/content/abstract/JCO.2008.18.6072v1>

****Potentially preventable strokes in high-risk patients with atrial fibrillation who are not adequately anticoagulated. Stroke. 2009 Jan;40(1):235-40.**

<http://stroke.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/40/1/235>

****Development of computerized alerts with management strategies for 25 serious drug-drug interactions. American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy, Vol. 66, Issue 1, 38-44. <http://www.ajhp.org/cgi/content/abstract/66/1/38>**

****Therapeutic monitoring of vancomycin in adult patients: A consensus review of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists. Am J Health Syst Pharm 2009 66: 82-98. <http://www.ajhp.org/cgi/reprint/66/1/82>**

MEDICATION SAFETY

****FDA Public Health Advisory: Potential hazards of topical anaesthetics for relieving pain from medical tests and conditions.**

http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/advisory/topical_anesthetics2009.htm

UPCOMING EVENTS

****Healthcare World Australia 2009**

17-19 February 2009, Swissotel, Sydney www.terrapinn.com/2009/healthw

****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

**International Forum on Quality and Safety in Health Care.
March 17-20, 2009; Internationales Congress Center, Berlin, Germany.
<http://internationalforum.bmj.com/>

**IHI: Delivering safe and optimal care through effective teamwork and communication
April 2-3, 2009, Boston, MA
<http://www.ihf.org/IHI/Programs/ConferencesAndSeminars/ImplementingTeamCommunicationApril2009.htm>

**Heart Foundation Conference 2009
Hearts in Focus: Celebration, Collaboration and Challenges
14-16 May 2009, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Queensland, Australia <http://www.heartfoundation2009.com/>

**NPSF: Patient safety in challenging times: more than ever a critical need
May 20 - 22, 2009, Washington, DC.
Call for abstracts now open. Applications close Friday, January 23, 2009.
<http://www.npsf.org/npsfac/>

**Managing challenging behaviours in older people with cognitive impairment (call for abstracts open). 6-7 August 2009. Rialto, Collins St, Melbourne, VIC
http://www.changechampions.com.au/guidelines/Challenging_Behaviours.pdf

**International Society for Quality in Healthcare: 26th International conference
11-14 October, 2009 Dublin, Ireland. <http://www.isqua.org/Dublin2009-InternationalSocietyforQualityinHealthCareInc..html>

OTHER NEWS

**ASHP: Anticoagulation resource centre
<http://www.ashp.org/anticoagulation>