

Issue 5
September 2006

NSW Therapeutic Advisory Group

Project Leader:
Karen Kaye

Project Officers:
Jocelyn Lowinger
jlowinger@
stvincents.com.au

Helen Stark
hstark@
stvincents.com.au

Ph: 8382 2852
Fax: 8382 3529

ISMP Tools finalised

Revisions to the two ISMP tools are now complete and work has commenced on the web-based application. The web-based survey form will allow hospitals to enter their scores and receive a report back in real time.

What are the benefits of completing the assessment and submitting data online?

The online application will provide immediate feedback in the form of numerical scores and graphical representations of the data. This information will be useful to hospital managers and clinicians who seek to identify areas of weakness in their organisation related to medication use and lead improvements in these critical areas.

Over time as more hospitals participate, aggregate results from a large pool of respondents will provide Australian hospitals with important information about the status of the medication use system that can set a new baseline for future years. The tools will provide hospital administrators, Area Health Services, state and national health departments, quality and safety organisations and standards organisations with the ability to identify common medication system weaknesses in Australian hospitals, identify new areas of focus, and offer practical system enhancements, including those that are thought to provide the highest leverage for overall error reduction.

There is community concern about medication safety in Australian hospitals. Use of the medication safety self assessment tools will demonstrate that hospitals are being proactive in identifying safe practices and will be able to track aggregate progress over time.

The online application is expected to be complete by the end of the year with a formal launch of the ISMP tools planned for early 2007.

Indicators update

The draft indicator compilation has been completed. This involved numerous consultations with senior medical and pharmacy staff from a number of specialties. To reduce the indicator set to a manageable size, the project team applied a rigorous algorithm.

For inclusion in the draft set, the indicators fulfilled the following criteria:

- The indicator has been previously validated and/or used in Australia or internationally **OR** there is level I or II evidence for the practice **OR** there is a strong recommendation for the practice by a key organisation **OR** there is evidence of clinical risk associated with the practice **OR** the indicator is an application of a key QUM principle
- There is evidence of a gap in practice **OR** the issue is important in terms of morbidity/mortality, numbers of patients, or cost
- The indicator addresses factors which clinicians can act upon
- The indicator is likely to be measurable with reasonable effort.

The project team has also developed an evaluation methodology and this will be piloted in several hospitals during September.

The final candidate indicator set and the revised project plan will be presented to the steering committee on September 25 with the formal field test planned to commence in late October.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest for participation in Phase 2.

If you would like your hospital to take part in field testing of the indicators please contact Jocelyn Lowinger on jlowinger@stvincents.com.au or Helen Stark on hstark@stvincents.com.au or complete the attached FAXBACK form.



Performance Indicators and Medication Safety (PIMS) Project

Expression of Interest Form for Phase 2 Field Test (indicators)

Please complete the details in this table and FAX or email to:

Jocelyn Lowinger

NSW Therapeutic Advisory Group

Fax: 02 8382 3529 Email: jlowinger@stvincents.com.au Tel: 02 8382 2852

FAX	Date:
Contact Name	
Hospital	
Address	
Telephone	
Our hospital would like to express an interest to participate in Phase 2 of the PIMS Project (field testing of the revised Drug Use Indicator tools) scheduled for mid-2006.	Yes / No
Our hospital participated in the Phase 1 (ISMP) Field test	Yes / No

Please return to NSW TAG as soon as possible if you are interested

Promoting the quality use of medicines

P.O. Box 766 Darlinghurst NSW Australia 2010 • Telephone +61 2 8382 2852 • Fax +61 2 8382 3529

Email: nswtag@stvincents.com.au • Web: www.nswtag.org.au

An initiative of NSW clinical pharmacologists & pharmacists. Funded by the NSW Department of Health.