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QualityMatters

The monthly newsletter of Hunter New England Health Clinical Governance

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Editorial team:
Dr Kim Hill, A/Prof Anne Duggan, Ms Trish Blackman and Ms Tracey Currie.

Comments and queries welcome at: clinicalgovernance@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

From the Director...

This edition we focus on the latest in developments around Quality Use of Medicines in Hunter New England Health.

I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Professor Alison Jones to the role of Chairman of the HNE Health Quality Use of Medicine Committee.

We will all look forward with interest to hearing more about this work in the next few months.



This is also the month for recognising achievements and thoughtful review of

strategies and directions.

The HNE Health Quality Exposition and Scientific Program was held in Armidale during this month, and next edition, we will focus on the outcomes of this event, which was run in conjunction with the HNE Health Achievement and Quality Awards.

Dr Kim Hill
Director,
Clinical Governance

Medication safety systems audit for Australian hospitals

The Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) in conjunction with the NSW Therapeutic Advisory Group (NSW TAG) adopted a Medication Safety Systems Audit (MSSA) for hospitals to assess the safety of medication practices within health care facilities, identify opportunities for improvement and compare experiences with aggregate and benchmarked data. It is anticipated that all Australian hospitals will participate in the audit, with individual services and facilities' results available to them in January 2008 on the CEC web site.

Education for Hunter New England Health occurred in Newcastle and Tamworth in May and several facilities and clusters have already completed the audit with remaining Clusters and Acute Networks expected to complete the audit by the end of August.

National inpatient medication chart

A big thank you to Pauline Dobson who worked tirelessly as project officer for implementing the National Inpatient Medication Chart (NIMC) across HNE Health.

Ongoing processes for the management of NIMC related issues and auditing of compli-

ance with the NIMC is being considered as part of the overall Quality Use of Medicines Strategy for HNE Health.

Practice reminders are available from the Clinical Governance website for:

- Adverse Drug Reaction reporting
- Frequency of dosing

- Clear and Correct
- Patient identification
- Administration times entered by prescriber

If you would like more information on the NIMC contact Tonia Easton, Area Quality Manager 6767 7233 or tonia.easton@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

New Area Quality Use of Medicines Committee

Professor Alison Jones, Professor of General Medicine and Toxicology will chair the Area Quality Use of Medicines Committee with the first meeting set down for 11 September 2007.

The committee will have an

important strategic role in a taking an Area-wide approach to medication safety. For further information about the committee contact Tonia Easton, Area Quality Manager, 6767 7233 or tonia.easton@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au



In profile...Helen Byrne

Helen is a Registered Nurse having obtained her basic qualification from the Hunter Regional School of Nursing, a Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of New England Armidale, and a postgraduate certificate in Accident and Emergency Nursing from the University of Western Sydney, Macarthur.

Helen has extensive clinical and management experience in both the public and private sectors with three years as the Deputy Director of Nursing at the Port Macquarie Private and Base Hospitals.

She has always had a keen interest in clinical



Helen Byrne, Project Manager, NSW Health Patient Survey

quality and patient safety and has held a number of senior area positions in Quality Best Practice

and Clinical Governance Units.

Joining the HNE Health Clinical Governance team in March 2007 as the project manager for the NSW Health Patient Survey, Helen has a statewide role with the management of the three year project being provided by HNE Health on behalf of NSW Health.

The Patient Survey is seeking feedback from patients and carers about their experiences with a range of public health services across the state and Helen is looking forward to making further contributions to improving the experience of healthcare services for the people of NSW.

Is Managing Risk an Art or a Science?

Risk Management Conference
15-16 November 2007

Hunter New England Health and the Risk Management Institute of Australasia are co-hosting a Risk Management Conference at the Royal Newcastle Centre (RNC) Lecture Theatre in New Lambton.

Speakers include:

- Air Vice-Marshal Tony Austin, Head of Defence Health Services, Department of Defence.
- Prof Steve Bolsin, Director of Perioperative Medicine, Anaesthesia, and Pain Management, Geelong Hospital.
- PJ Charteris, Winemaker, Brokenwood Wines
- Prof James Dunbar, Director of Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health, Flinders University and Deakin University.
- WGCDR Matt Hall, Staff Officer 1 Air Control, HQ Air Combat Group
- Prof Joe Ibrahim, Consultant Physician, Special Investigations Unit, Clinical and Work-Related Liaison Services, State Coroners Office and Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.
- Mr Harry Rosenthal, Risk Manager, UNSW
- Prof Bill Runciman, President of the Patient Safety Foundation.
- Ms Catherine Wilkinson, National Practice Group Manager for our Workplace Relations Safety and Environment Team, Sparke and Helmore Lawyers
- Dr Alan Wolff, Director of Medical Services, Wimmera Healthcare.

There will also be a case study about the Very Long Weekend in June presented by a wide range of community stakeholders including the Bureau of Meteorology, Newcastle Port Corporation, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Police, State Emergency Service, in conjunction with HNE Health staff.

More information can be found on the Risk Management intranet site at: http://intranet.hne.health.nsw.gov.au/risk_management or by contacting Linda Ashton on 4921 4914 or Sue Williams on 0428 106 002.

Did you know?

Did you know it takes two minutes and 20 seconds to convert a group and screen to a crossmatch?

Blood transfusion doubles your risk of getting an infection in hospital.

Blood transfusion doubles the risk of

death in the seriously ill.

There are at least 200 incorrectly labelled transfusion specimens per month.

Wouldn't it be better if the errors didn't occur in the first place?

Interested in bioethics or law in relation to medicine?

The Clinical Unit in Ethics and Health Law (CUEHL) is a group of individuals from clinical academic and professional disciplines, from the community and from business, with a common interest in bioethics and health law.

Members are involved in undergraduate teaching in Law and Ethics, in ethics research and in Clinical Governance and clinical ethics consultation within HNE Health. A seminar is held on the first Monday of each month in the Case Study Theatre, David Maddison Building at 7.30pm. Future seminars include:

Thursday, 4 October 2007 – Chair: Dr. Charles Douglas

Informed consent for mammographic screening with invited speaker A/Prof.

Alex Barrett from The University of Sydney

Monday, 5 November 2007 – Chair: Dr. Colum Smith

Bio-Informatics Research with invited speaker A/Prof. Pablo Moscato

Monday, 3 December 2007 – Chair: Ms. Fiona O 'Shannessy

Second trimester abortions: a defence of women's rights. A discussion of law, ethics, NSW Health Policy and contemporary cases.

A substantial supper is provided in the DMB foyer at 7pm and all are welcome. For more information contact: Charles.Douglas@newcastle.edu.au

Safety alerts and notices:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/quality/sabs/register.html>

Please click on the hyperlink under 'Issues covered' for more information:

Number	Type	Issues covered	Date of issue
SN:013/07	Safety notice	Extravasation of IV fluids: Care of the cannula site in neonates and children	21 Sep 07
SN:012/07	Safety notice	Therapeutic Goods Association (TGA) Recalls	5 Sep 07
SN:003/07	Safety alert	Medtronic SynchroMed® EL Implantable Pump - Neurological drug delivery pumps	12 Sep 07