



AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE



Medication Safety Standard 4

Part 4 –Medication management processes,
partnering with patients and carers



Margaret Duguid, Pharmaceutical Advisor

Graham Bedford, Medication Safety Program Manager



Standard
4
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Medication management processes

The clinical workforce is supported for the prescribing, administering, storing, manufacturing, compounding and monitoring of medicines



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Medication management processes

4.9: Ensuring that current and accurate medicines information and decision support tools are readily available to clinical workforce

► What?

- Implement and maintain up-to-date medicines information resources and decision support tools (manual or electronic) that are accessible to staff in clinical areas (at point of care) (4.9.1)
 - formulary information, prescribing requirements, approval systems
 - reference texts
 - policies, protocols and guidelines
 - drug interaction database
 - guidelines for safe administration of medicines (eg administering medicines via enteral tubes, intravenous injection)
 - antibiotic approval systems



3. Medication management processes

4.9: Ensuring that current and accurate medicines information and decision support tools are readily available to clinical workforce

SHPA Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook
SHPA Don't Rush to Crush Handbook



Hospital protocols, guidelines



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Medication management processes



- ▶ Clinical decision support for electronic medication management systems (EMMS)
- ▶ As a minimum the EMMS should reflect the **core** functional and technical features outlined in the Electronic Medication Management Systems - A Guide to Safe Implementation Guide 2nd edition and be working towards the **desirable** features. Guide available from

<http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/electronic-medication-management-systems/>



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Medication management processes

4.9: Ensuring that current and accurate medicines information and decision support tools are readily available to clinical workforce

► What?

- Regular review of the use and content of clinical information and decision support tools, to ensure that resources are current, and are endorsed for use within the organisation (4.9.2)
 - Drug & Therapeutics Committee minutes/documentation
 - Risk assessment of drug information domain in MSSA

Q. These services are largely outsourced through the Clinical Information Access Portal (CIAP). We rely on the service provider to maintain up to date and relevant references. Is this sufficient?

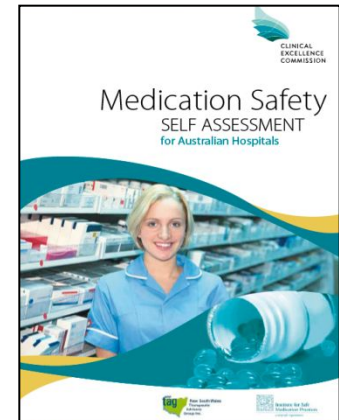
A. *Yes for CIAP. However the facility needs to review other resources used, hard and soft copy.*

Medication management processes

4.10: Ensuring that medicines are distributed and stored securely, safely (cont'd)

► What?

- Regular review and risk assessment of medicines storage and distribution across the organisation.(4.10.1)
 - Do as part of overall self assessment
 - Audit against policies, procedures
 - Observation audits and “walk arounds”
 - Review medication incidents



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Medication management processes

4.10: Ensuring that medicines are distributed and stored securely, safely (Cont'd)

► What?

- 4.10.2. Actions taken to reduce risks associated with storage and distribution of medicines
 - Policies and procedures
 - Safe handling and disposal of S8 medicines, cytotoxic products and hazardous substances
 - Purchasing for safety
 - Identifying risks and putting in place mitigation strategies
 - Safer distribution systems
 - Individual patient supply
 - Bedside lockers
 - Automated systems with patient profiling
 - Staff communication, alerts, bulletins



Medication management processes

4.10: Ensuring that medicines are distributed and stored securely, safely

► What?

- 4.10.2. Actions to reduce risks associated with storage and distribution (including confusion with look alike sound alike names)
 - Use of bar code scanners (dispensing, distribution)
 - Physical separation of products (e.g. look-alike, sound-alike products)
 - Use of Tall Man lettering (e-systems, infusion pump libraries, shelving, packaging)
 - National Tall Man lettering list

fluVOXAMine	fluOXETine
lamIVUDine	lamOTRIGine
niMOdipine	niFEIdipine



Medication management processes

4.10: Ensuring that medicines are distributed and stored securely, safely

- What?
- Temperature sensitive medicines are monitored and integrity of temperature-sensitive medicines maintained (4.10.3)
 - Temperatures measured, recorded, reviewed
- Q. We have installed electronic fridges that alarm when fridge is outside of set parameters. Do we have to document daily Min/Max temps for these fridges ? Are we required to have documented evidence of daily checking?
- A. *Need to have regular testing, scheduled maintenance of alarms. Temperature recording device in the fridge – a record that the refrigerator is operating within the required temperature range. Monitor the record. This replaces the need to check and record the temperature daily.*
- *Health service needs to have policy for responding to the alarm.*

Medication management processes

4.10: Ensuring that medicines are distributed and stored securely, safely

► What?

- Workforce disposes of unused, unwanted or expired medicines, in accordance with legislative and jurisdictional requirements (4.10.4)
 - S8 medicines audits
 - Disposal of cytotoxic products and hazardous substances (Work Health and Safety issues)
- Monitoring disposal of unused, unwanted or expired medicines (4.10.5)
 - Compliance with policy for disposal
 - Wastage



Medication management processes

- ▶ **4.10. 5 System for disposal of unused, unwanted or expired medicines is regularly monitored**
- ▶ Q. How are institutions auditing drug disposals? We can do S8 items but are other hospitals keeping a log of all items returned to their pharmacy departments.
- ▶ A. *No. But hospitals need to do a risk assessment of the management of their pharmaceutical waste in terms of work health and safety, environmental safety and security of storage and disposal.*



Medication management processes

4.11: Identifying high risk medicines in the organisation and ensuring they are stored, prescribed, dispensed and administered safely

High risk medicines - APINCH (Antibiotics, Potassium, Insulin, Narcotics(S8s),Chemotherapy, Heparin (anticoagulants)

► What?

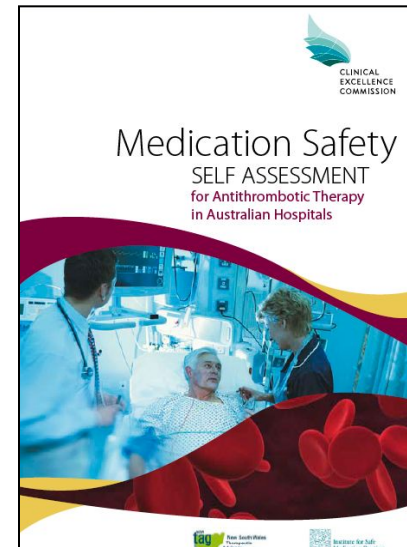
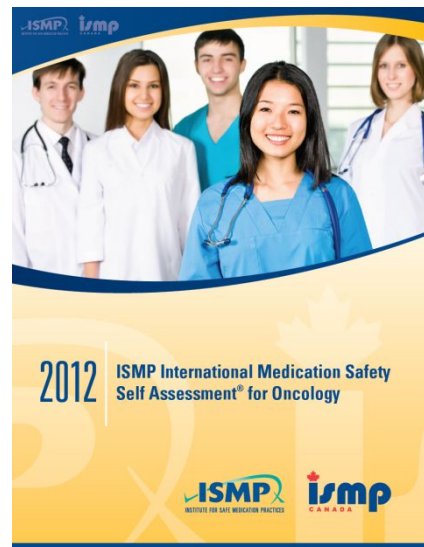
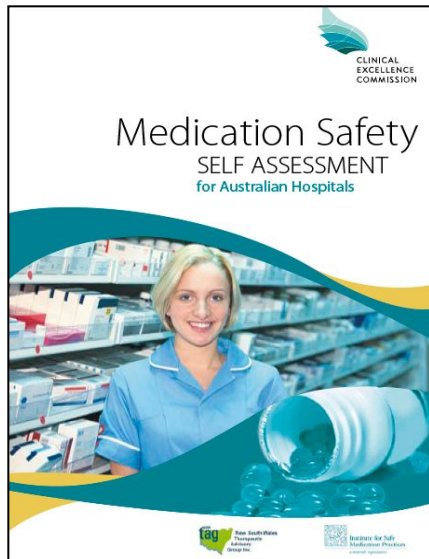
- 4.11.1 Undertake an assessment of how high risk medicines are managed within the organisation
 - audits
 - incident analysis
 - risk assessment tools
 - drug usage evaluation programs
 - benchmarking activities.



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Medication management processes

4.11: Identifying high risk medicines in the organisation and ensuring they are stored, prescribed, dispensed and administered safely



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3. Medication management processes

Audits of compliance



MEDICATION ALERT!

From the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care

The purpose of this alert is to provide frontline health professionals and administrators with information on high risk medications that have the potential to cause serious or catastrophic harm to patients. The intention is to raise awareness of the potential harm and provide a strategy for local level response.

Alert 2, December 2005

VINCRISTINE can be fatal if administered by the intrathecal route

*For the attention of Chief Executive Officers
and Directors of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Medical Services; Doctors, Nurses and Pharmacists
For implementation immediately*

Australian Cases

At least three cases of inadvertent intrathecal injection of vincristine have occurred in Australia over the last 20 years.

Vincristine, a medicine commonly used in the treatment of leukaemias and lymphomas, is neurotoxic and must only be administered intravenously. Sentinel events associated with the inadvertent intrathecal administration of vincristine have been repeatedly reported in Australia and overseas. Adults and children are at risk with 50% of reported cases in each group. **This error results in a fatal outcome in 85% of cases with devastating neurological effects in the few survivors.**



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MEDICATION ALERT!

From the Medication Safety Taskforce of the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care

The purpose of this alert is to provide frontline health professionals and administrators with information on high risk medications that have the potential to cause serious or catastrophic harm to patients. The intention is to raise awareness of the potential harm and provide a strategy for local level response.

Alert 1, October 2003

Intravenous POTASSIUM CHLORIDE can be fatal if given inappropriately

*For the attention of Chief Executive Officers
and Directors of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Medical Services; Doctors, Nurses and Pharmacists
For implementation immediately*



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Medication management processes

4.11: Identifying high risk medicines in the organisation and ensuring they are stored, prescribed, dispensed and administered safely

► What?

- Action taken to reduce risks of storing, prescribing, dispensing and administering high risk medicines (4.11.2)
 - List of high risk medicines available to staff, include in education
 - Policies, procedures and protocols
 - Guidelines for prescribing, dispensing, administering and monitoring specific high risk medicines such as anticoagulants, chemotherapy, opioids, insulin
 - Pre-loaded infusions potassium, heparin
 - Training on awareness of high risk meds
 - Implement safety alerts on high risk medicines
 - Monitor improvement activities
 - Warfarin – NIMC audit
 - Potassium – QUM indicator



Medication management processes

4.11: Identifying high risk medicines in the organisation and ensuring they are stored, prescribed, dispensed and administered safely

Q. What is a high risk medicine?

A. *Medicines that have a high risk of causing serious injury or death to a patient if they are misused or used in error. Errors not necessarily more common, effects more devastating.*

- *APINCH*
 - *Use to develop own list*
- *Institute of Safe Medication Practices list*

www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/medication-alerts/

Q. Can we prioritise actions to address risks with high risk medicines?

A. Yes



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Communicating with patients and carers

- ▶ The clinical workforce informs patients about their options, risks and responsibilities for an agreed medication management plan.

Developmental



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Communicating with patients and carers

4.13: The clinical workforce informing patients and carers about medication treatment options, benefits and associated risks

► What?

- Implement systems that support the provision of patient specific medicines information when medication treatment options are discussed (4.13.1)
 - Consumer Medicines Information provided (documented on MMP, in clinical notes)
 - Consumer information on specific medications, for example anticoagulants, chemotherapy
- Patient specific medicines information accessible in clinical areas (4.13.2)
 - Hard copy or soft copy



Blood Clots

Reducing your risk



Communicating with patients and carers

4.14: Developing a medication management plan in partnership with patients and carers

► Why?

- 30 – 50% medicines prescribed for long term conditions not used as prescribed ¹
- Failure to achieve informed agreement or identify and provide support that patient needs to manage their medicines can lead to non-adherence ¹
- The medication management (action) plan is intended to support health professionals and patients/carers in developing strategies to manage medicines safely and achieve treatment goals

1. NICE. Medicines adherence – involving patients in decisions about prescribed medicines and supporting adherence Clinical Guideline CG 76 – January 2009



Communicating with patients and carers

4.14: Developing a medication management plan in partnership with patients and carers

► What?

- Undertake assessment of the patient's medication risks to identify medication management issues
 - Use Medication Risk Identification section on National Medication Management Plan
- Develop a medication management (action) plan that establishes treatment goals and specifies actions required to achieve medication management goals (4.14.1).
 - List of medicines, allergies, administration aids
 - Goals of therapy, action to achieve goals
- Communicate plan to patient and with the patient's consent to other relevant health care professionals

Communicating with patients and carers

4.14 Developing a medication management plan in partnership with patients, carers

Q. What is a medication management plan? Is it the National Medication Management Plan?

A. No. It is the consumer medication action plan referred to in *APAC Guiding principles to achieve continuity of medication management*.

- *Plan for patient's medication management*
 - *Treatment goals and actions, medicines list, changes*
- *Provided to patient, carer*
- *Commission developing a template late 2013*



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Communicating with patients and carers

4.15: Providing current medicines information to patients in a format that meets their needs whenever new medicines are prescribed or dispensed

► What?

- Identify medicines information resources that are in a format that can be used and understood by patients and carers when new medicines are prescribed/supplied or medicines changed(4.15.1)
 - Similar evidence to 4.14
 - Interpreter services available for CALD patients
 - Written information in patients own language e.g. multilingual medicines lists
 - NPS MedicineWise resources
- Improve medicines information provided in response to patient feedback (4.15.2)
 - Action taken in response to complaints, patient surveys



Standard 4 Medication Safety

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

Medication Safety Program

www.safetyandquality.gov.au

Email: mail@safetyandquality.gov.au

margaret.duguid@safetyandquality.gov.au



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