

VicTAG Medication Safety Alerts and 2023 highlights

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VicTAG Project Officer

VicTAG Medication Safety Alerts

- ▶ 22 alerts published on the VicTAG website (member's section) to date.
- ▶ Broad variety of topics including managing medication shortages, allergies, look-alike-sound-alike errors, high risk medicines, controlled medicines and more.
- ▶ Thank you to the members of the VicTAG Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) and Management Committees for reviewing the alerts.

Other 2023 highlights

Medicines Roundtable 2023



Advocacy work

- ▶ Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substance (DPCS) Regulations Amendment 2023: Addition of pregabalin, gabapentin and tramadol in SafeScript (Department of Health)
- ▶ DPCS Amendment MDMA and psilocybin (Department of Health)
- ▶ Accreditation standards for pharmacist prescriber education programs (Australian Pharmacy Council)
- ▶ Juno® potassium chloride ampoules (Juno Pharmaceuticals)
- ▶ Viatrix (Mylan) change in packaging to medication bottles (Viatrix)
- ▶ Targeted consultation on priorities for future improvements to TGO 91 and TGO 92 requirements (TGA)
- ▶ Medication refrigerator monitoring (Department of Health, Department of Health and Aged Care)
- ▶ Andexanet alfa Council of Australian Therapeutic Advisory Groups (CATAG) Position Statement (CATAG)

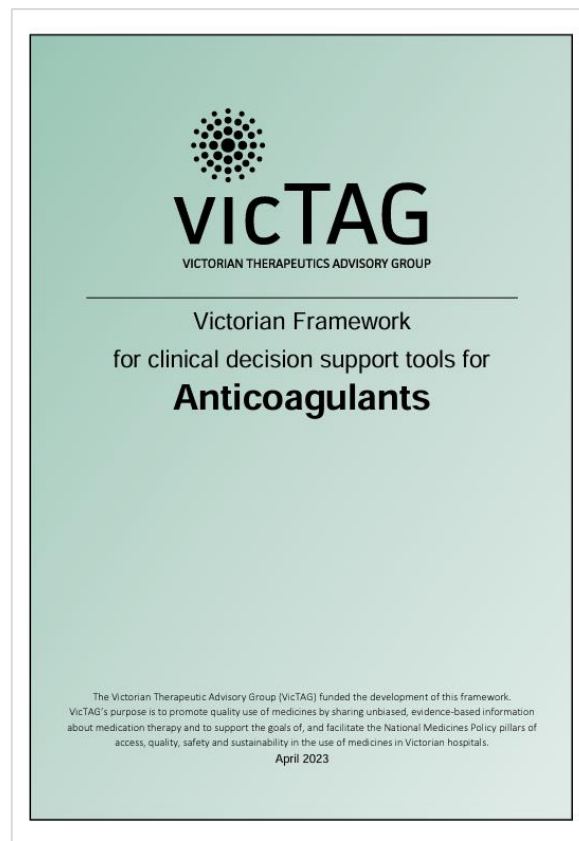
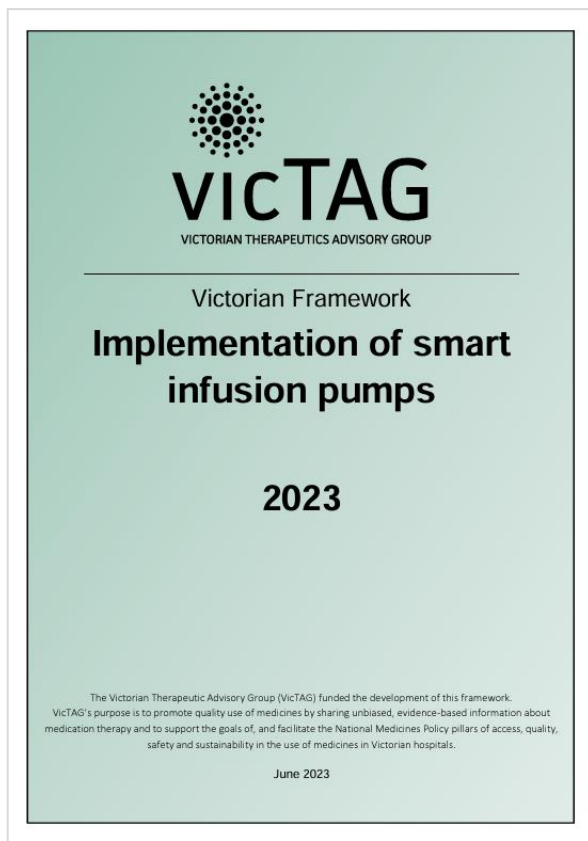
Meetings

- ▶ 11 VicTAG Management Committee meetings
- ▶ 6 VicTAG QUM Committee meetings




VicTAG frameworks

- ▶ 2 new published frameworks



Collated hospital responses

► 14 collated hospital responses




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VICTORIAN THERAPEUTICS ADVISORY GROUP

Title: S8 S4D delivery process and medication management
Date: October 2023

	Question 1: Are you wards S8 and S4D imprint medicines ordered via ward boxing service?	Question 2: What is the current documentation / process requirements for ward boxed S8 and S4D imprint medicines?	Question 3: How are S8 and S4D imprint medicines in the ward safe original packaging from original packaging stored by strips loose patches etc?
Response 1	We aren't currently ward boxing anything yet	N/A	Original boxes
Response 2	No, they are supplied from pharmacy shelf and safe stock.	Signed requisition forms. Signed by pharmacist and receiver.	Depends on ward strips and single Unboxed Items single clear plastic
Response 3	No	N/A	Original packaging
Response 4	Yes	Signed directly into the ward S8/S4D register – not signed into anywhere in pharmacy first.	Original packaging

Disclaimer: Please note that all information and policies are only current at the time the response is sent and individual hospitals should be contacted to ascertain current policies and practices. The responses received are only representative of the hospitals participating in the discussion at the time and do not necessarily indicate a complete picture of current practices. Information sharing occurs on the understanding that due acknowledgement will be given to the original source and that the information will not be quoted or used out of the context of the discussion. Permission should be sought from the original source before any policy, protocol or guideline is used or applied in another setting.



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Title: Nursing home discharges
Date: April 2023

We have noticed multiple pharmacies (three to date) recently are refusing to update nursing home webster packs/ sachets when patients are discharged back to nursing homes, even if an interim chart and medlist are supplied until the nursing home GP changes their internal electronic system (depends on GP availability).

What is your current process for medication supply and communication when a patient is discharged to a nursing home? **Have you come across this issue and have you made any changes to this process?**

Response 1	Currently fax copy of medication chart and discharge scrip to pharmacy for supply and GP to update medication chart.
Response 2	We have had the same issue. If it is the same as what we not community pharmacies being troublesome, it is an age old issue. The packing programs are directly linked to the electronic system. The pharmacy can't make changes to the packing program until the facility chart is updated by any pharmacist.
Response 3	Have not experienced this yet.
Response 4	Prepare IRCMAC and send with script to RACF with patient forward copy of discharge prescription and summary of medication to pharmacy to request changes to medication supply for patient date (aim for 24 hours' notice but often is same day).
Response 5	No comment

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Title: Benchmarking – Oral Morphine Equivalent Daily Dose (OMED) and Elective Surgery
Date: June 2023

In relation to OMED and Elective Surgery:

Question 1.
Does your hospital network have a policy/procedure/guideline on oral morphine equivalent daily dose (OMED) cut-offs for elective surgery? If yes:

- What is the cut-off (mg)?
- Is it enforced i.e. surgery delayed and if so who is responsible for enforcing it?

Question 2.
If your answer to question 1 was no, does your hospital network have a policy/procedure/guideline which includes high/risky opioid use as a criteria for declaring a patient not ready for elective surgery? If yes:

- How is opioid risk determined?
- Is it enforced i.e. surgery delayed and if so who is responsible for enforcing it?

Question 3.
Does your hospital network have an opioid weaning clinic (i.e. a clinic specifically for weaning patient's opioid doses before surgery)?

- If yes, what is the clinical mix of this clinic (i.e. medical, pharmacy, nursing)?

Question 4.
Is there anything else you would like to share relevant to this topic?

Response 1	Currently this work is managed by the Analgesic Stewardship Committee and there is further work required to standardise this workflow.
Response 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No No No Referral process in place for pre-admission Clinic for APMS to review patients who fit any of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opioid tolerant e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buprenorphine patch greater than 30 microg/hr Dicyclonone greater than or equal to 60 mg/day Fentanyl patch greater than or equal to 25 microg/hr On opioid replacement therapy Opioid pumps in situ Substance abuse with opioid use On opioid antagonist (e.g. naltrexone) Using spinal cord stimulators

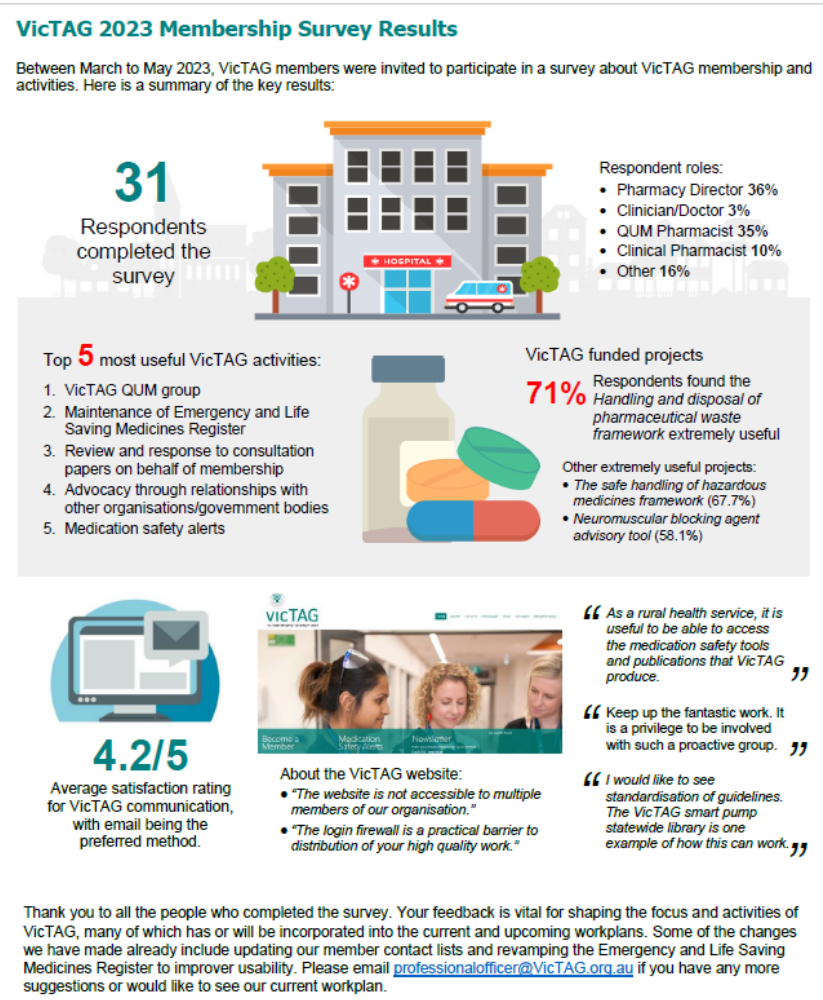
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Updated email distribution lists

- ▶ 5 new distribution lists:
 - ▶ General communications
 - ▶ Quality Use of Medicines
 - ▶ Medicines shortages
 - ▶ Register of Emergency and Life Saving Medicines (ELSM)
 - ▶ Finance

Membership survey

► 31 respondents



Newsletters

▶ 3 newsletters

Newsletter
August 2023

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Welcome to our latest edition of the ViCTAG newsletter. Following on from our recent grants we are very pleased to be able to share with our members two new frameworks:

- Implementation of smart infusion pumps led by Madona Kreshch
- Clinical decision support tools for anticoagulants led by Yvonne Khalil

Thank you to both project leads and to the many others who contributed in developing these documents. Find more information on page 3.

ViCTAG will continue to support projects which benefit our members and I am pleased to say that we are now supporting two new grants for this year and look forward to your applications to take these forward.

Paul Tenen
Chair, ViCTAG

ViCTAG 2023 Project Grants
Applications are now open for the ViCTAG 2023 project grants. There are two project streams in the grant round this year, with all submissions to be assessed by the ViCTA Management Committee to determine which projects will obtain funding of up to \$16,000 per project.

Stream One: Targeted project call to address common health service gaps. In this stream, ViCTAG are seeking applications from health services to lead the following project:

- **Victorian Framework for the Management of Schedule 9, Schedule 8 and Schedule 4D Medications:** This project will develop a framework and implementation tools to facilitate the management of Schedule 9, Schedule 8 and Schedule 4D medications that is consistent with legislation and best practice. The framework will include guidance on storage, auditing, incident management, recording of transactions, destruction and disposal, as well as a suite of easy to use implementation tools. The use of technologies available to facilitate management with hospital representatives from the framework will be developed in consultation with hospital representatives across the State, Department of Health Victoria, Medicines and Poisons Regulation Unit and input from vendors of software and equipment relating to the management of these medications. Refer to the [ViCTAG Projects and Research webpage](#) for more information.

Stream Two: Freestyle project for seed funding. In this stream, ViCTAG are seeking applications for pilot program (12 months or less) that could be the focus of subsequent funding. The project must include collaboration with one or more health services and have outcomes that are beneficial to the membership.

To apply, go the [ViCTAG Projects and Research webpage](#) and complete the Research Grant Application membership.

Website: www.victag.org.au
Email: professionalofficer@victag.org.au

Newsletter
September 2023

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Welcome to the latest ViCTAG newsletter. With the Medicines Roundtable for 2023 just around the corner, it will be great to see as many of our members as possible at this event, especially since this is the first for a number of years. In partnership with Safer Care Victoria (SCV), we are anticipating some great discussion on various topics throughout the day. If you haven't already registered, please do!

The projects supported by ViCTAG are continuing, including the framework for automated dispensing cabinets and an update on the management of Schedule 9, 8 and 4D medications. Both will benefit our members, and we will continue to support other projects in the future. We are also looking forward to commencing a collaborative project with Health Share Victoria for assessing pharmaceutical products. Expressions of interest close soon.

We have been busy with a number of consultations and responses on behalf of ViCTAG members. We have also had meetings with the Department of Health and SCV to promote the roles of our members across the hospital sector and increase visibility on the amazing work that everyone does each day.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Roundtable.

Paul Tenen

A message from our Chair

Victorian Medicines Roundtable 2023
Join us at the Victorian Medicines Roundtable 2023! The Medicines Roundtable, to be jointly hosted by ViCTAG and Safer Care Victoria (SCV), will bring together clinicians with an interest in medication governance from health services across metropolitan, rural and regional Victoria for an in-person learning and strategic workshop event that will be facilitated by experienced health communicator Dr Sally Cookburn.

The Roundtable is intended to highlight key medication access, sustainability, safety and quality priorities and challenges, and participants will be tasked with developing workable statewide solutions to address these. The Roundtable outcomes will inform work underway by ViCTAG and SCV.

Sessions will cover anticoagulant safety and stewardship, management of ongoing critical medication shortages, medication risks at transitions of care, and equitable and sustainable access to high-cost medicines.

Invited speakers for the event include:

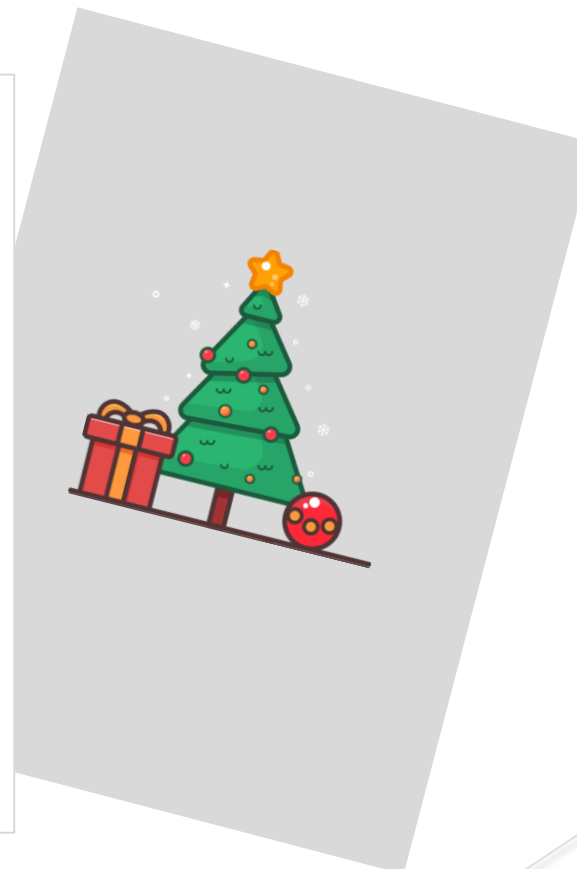
 Dr Sally Cookburn Facilitator	 Prof Michael Dooley Director of Pharmacy Alfred Health	 Lani Birks Manager Patient Safety, Experience and Response, SCV	 Bayan Hossaini Clinical Response and Governance CEO, HGV	 Kate Warren Director Supply Chain Surety, HSV	 Dr David Lew Vice Chair ViCTAG & Medicines Optimisation Services, Austin Health
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Date and time
Thursday 5th October 2023
9:30am to 4:30pm
(Please arrive at 9am)

Location
Level 5
2 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne, VIC 3004

Registration
Tickets available via Humanitix:
<https://events.humanitix.com/victorian-medicines-roundtable>

Website: www.victag.org.au
Email: professionalofficer@victag.org.au



Looking to 2024

Upcoming projects and work plan

- ▶ Actions from Medicines Roundtable in partnership with Safer Care Victoria
- ▶ VicTAG framework for the management of Schedule 9, Schedule 8 and Schedule 4D medications
- ▶ VicTAG/Health Share Victoria medication safety assessment of pharmaceutical products
- ▶ CATAG and other advocacy work
- ▶ Medication safety alerts