

VicTAG eNEWSLETTER

Victorian Therapeutic Advisory Group Newsletter

October 2015

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New resources

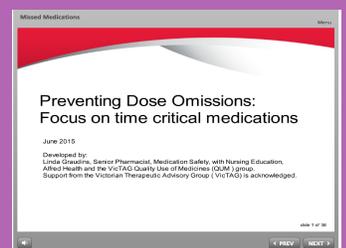
Time Critical Omitted Doses: Education and Audit Package

Omitted doses are one of the most common medication related incidents. Dose omission becomes clinically important when time critical medicines are not given or not documented as given.

Available on the [VicTAG website](#) is the suite of audit tools, information and an online education package.

The package has been developed with nursing and pharmacy technicians in mind, but can be used to increase awareness of all pharmacy staff to prioritise time critical medications.

Complete the audit at your hospital and test your knowledge on the on line education package.



Thanks to Linda Graudins, Alfred Health who led a team from the VicTAG QUM group in completing this VicTAG funded project.



Latest news...

Membership survey results

A survey was recently circulated to members to assist with guiding future directions and a communication strategy for VicTAG. There were 31 responses to the survey. Following this, VicTAG are commencing work on the following:

- An updated, easy to use website to be launched January 2016
- Regular eNews updates to notify of VicTAG and CATAG activities
- Continuation of full meeting program with invited speakers, with remote access to these investigated and trialed

If there is more you would like to see from VicTAG please contact us with your ideas and suggestions.

Response to Chemotherapy Compounding Payment Schedule

VicTAG responded to the federal government with an opinion on the proposed Chemotherapy Compounding Payment Schedule. The response can be viewed on the [website](#). Following responses from other organisations and professional bodies this is now on hold and under review.

Medicinal Cannabis

VicTAG was represented at a meeting of the Medical and Regulation Advisory Committee earlier this year to participate in a discussion regarding the use of medicinal cannabis for treatment in exceptional circumstances, including consideration of cultivation, manufacture, prescribing and distribution. The Victorian Law Reform Commission subsequently delivered a report containing 42 recommendations for changes to the law. The report was tabled at Parliament on 6th October 2015 and the recommendations were accepted. It is expected that patients will have access to medicinal cannabis 2017. The full report is available on [The Victorian Law Reform website](#).

CATAG documents

The Council of Australian Therapeutic Advisory Groups have several resources available that can guide your hospital's governance on medicines and your Therapeutics Committee. Resources that you may find useful are:

- Overseeing biosimilar use : Guiding Principles for the governance of biological and biosimilar medicines in Australian hospitals May 2015
- Achieving Effective Medicines Governance: Guiding Principles for the roles and responsibilities of Drug and Therapeutics Committees in Australian public hospitals

For access to these documents and all other CATAG resources, visit the [CATAG website](http://www.catag.org.au) www.catag.org.au

PROMPT

PROMPT (PROtocol Management and Production Tool) is a web based document management system which is currently in use at several hospitals across Victoria, including Monash Health and Barwon Health.

VicTAG financial members are able to obtain a log in to search medication related documents from other organisations. So save time on your benchmarking and [contact us](#) to gain access to this valuable tool.

For any questions regarding access to use PROMPT as your hospital's document management system then contact [PROMPT](#) or visit their website www.prompt.org.au

VicTAG AGM 2015 - Save the date!

Date: Wednesday 18th
November

The VicTAG Inc. Annual General Meeting will commence at 3:30pm

Time: 3:30pm to 5:45pm

VicTAG is delighted to announce the invited speaker session that will follow immediately after the AGM.

Venue: The Royal Melbourne
Hospital,
Pharmacy Department
Grattan Street,
Parkville 3052

Hospital Pharmacy of the Future

4pm: *"Experience at Fiona Stanley Hospital"*

Barry Jenkins

4:45pm: *"Automation at Barwon Health Pharmacy
Department"* **Greg Weeks**

5:15pm: *"Developments in the rural sector at Echuca
Regional Health"* **Chris Turner**

Complimentary car parking available

For all enquiries contact Lisa
Ciabotti via [email](#)

Upcoming project funding opportunities

Always wanted to get research happening in your area but don't have the funds?

VicTAG will again be funding projects in 2016!

Think about some great project ideas that would support drug usage and quality use of medicines across Victoria and apply by May 2016.

For further information or to discuss your ideas contact the VicTAG Professional Officer on [email](#)

Contact Us

Contact us for more information about memberships or for further information on anything in this newsletter

[Victorian Therapeutic
Advisory Group email](#)

If you have any comments or suggestions for the VicTAG eNewsletter, please contact Lisa Ciabotti via [email](#).

The Victorian Therapeutic Advisory Group is an independent, not for profit, membership based organisation