Role of the Medicine Advisory Working Group

Professor Michael Dooley

Director of Pharmacy, Alfred Health
Professor of Clinical Pharmacy, Centre for Medicine Use and Safety
Adjunct Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University

4th October 2023















Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) Medicines Shortages Working Group

- Organisational representatives ie AMA, Guild, PSA, MA, SHPA, etc
- When required meetings regarding guidelines/policy etc.

Then there was COVID!!

Percentage completion of orders placed in past week (% of responses)

Sedative	Unavailable	<25%	25-50%	>50%-<100%	100%	Didn't order
Propofol (n=18)	28%	17%	22%	11%	17%	6%
Midazolam (n=18)	28%	22%	22%	11%	11%	6%
Clonazepam (n=18)	11%	11%	0%	6%	28%	44%
Diazepam (n=18)	6%	0%	6%	6%	28%	56%
Thiopentone (n=18)	6%	0%	0%	0%	11%	83%
Dexmedetomidine (n=18)	17%	11%	6%	0%	11%	56%
Clonidine (n=18)	6%	0%	6%	0%	44%	44%
Total (mean)	14%	9%	9%	5%	21%	42%
Analgesic						
Fentanyl (n=17)	6%	18%	0%	29%	35%	12%
Morphine (n=17)	6%	6%	6%	29%	35%	18%
Oxycodone (n=17)	0%	0%	6%	12%	53%	29%
Remifentanyl (n=17)	0%	0%	0%	12%	18%	71%
Total (mean)	3%	6%	3%	21%	35%	32%
NMBA						
Cistracurium (n=18)	44%	11%	6%	6%	11%	22%
Vecuronium (n=18)	17%	17%	6%	6%	33%	22%
Rocuronium (n=18)	17%	0%	28%	22%	28%	6%
Suxamethonium (n=18)	50%	11%	6%	0%	6%	28%
Total (mean)	32%	10%	11%	8%	19%	19%





Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) Medicines Shortages Working Group

- Organisational representatives ie AMA, Guild, PSA, MA, SHPA, etc.
- When required meetings regarding guidelines/policy etc

Then there was COVID!!

State-Territory Medicine Shortages Meeting (April 2020)

COVID-19 ICU Medicine Demand Forecasting Group (May 2020)

Medicines Availability Working Group (Dec 2020)

Medicines Availability Working Group (Dec 2020)

Members of the MAWG will be the points of contact between the TGA and the state/territory health departments on matters relating to medicine supply and modelling.

Medicines Availability Working Group (Dec 2020)

- The MSWP proposed that a working group, consisting of a representative from each state and territory health department, would contribute data on medicine stocks held by their state or territory. Using the MA Model, the supply of these medicines could be monitored at a national level and applied to forecasting exercises in response to COVID-19 scenarios.
- The group particularly modelled ongoing availability of medicines used for ventilated COVID-19 patients, such as neuromuscular blocking agents.
- The group met on a quarterly basis and identified possible future gaps in supply, allowing for early action to ensure that critical medicines are available for patients that need them most.
- As supply challenges continued, the group moved to model supply of other critical hospital medicines at risk of serious shortage, such as tocilizumab and tenecteplase.
- Modelling was used to recommend conservation of these medicines to allow continuity of treatment for patients without alternatives.

Medicines Availability Working Group...recent agenda

Ordine Discontinuation update

ICU medicines

- Cisatracurium
- Rocuronium
- Propofol

Tenecteplase update

Medicines of concern table (round table discussion)

- Sabril vigabatrin 500mg tablets
- Baxter IV saline fluids
- Diazepam rectal enema (SAS)
- Fludarabine 50mg injection
- Aspirin 500mg injections (SAS)

Other business

Data Sharing Agreement