

# Newsletter

September 2017



## July Full member meeting – Real Time Prescription Monitoring

The July member meeting focused on Real-Time Prescription Monitoring with two invited speakers.

Matthew McCrone (Director, Real-Time Prescription Monitoring Implementations Regulation, Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria) gave members an update on the current situation in Victoria and the plans for the future.

Sam Halliday (Deputy Chief Pharmacists, Pharmaceutical Services Branch, Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania) spoke to members on the experience of implementing in Tasmania.

Their presentations are available on the members section of the VicTAG website. [Click here](#) to access the presentations.

## Access to Medicinal Cannabis

Both Commonwealth and State legislative changes in the past year have paved the way for the cultivation, production and supply of medicinal cannabis in Australia. While a number of cultivation and manufacturing licences have been issued, at this stage, locally produced medicinal cannabis products are not yet available.

However, supplies of imported medicinal cannabis are now available in Australia. The Office of Drug Control has approved five authorised importers, who are importing about 19 different products. Details are on their [website](#).

[For VicTAG members, click here for further information on access to Medicinal Cannabis in Victoria.](#)

## Chemotherapy Audit Project

VicTAG are pleased to announce that funding has been provided by the Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria, to undertake a project to develop a statewide chemotherapy audit tool for hospitals. VicTAG is currently advertising for a Project Manager to lead this exciting work. Please follow the links for further information.

[Project Information](#)

[Project Manager Job Advertisement](#)

## Standing Orders Review

The Department of Health and Human Services is conducting a review of nurse-initiated medicine in emergency departments and urgent care centres across Victoria. If your health service currently has Standing Orders or you are interested in the review please [click here](#) for further information.

## PBS Hospital Review

The Department of Health has engaged Australian Healthcare Associates (AHA) to conduct the PBS Pharmaceuticals in Hospitals Review. This review aims to examine issues around existing procurement, prescribing, dispensing and claiming of PBS benefits in hospitals. As a member of the Council of Australian Therapeutics Advisory Groups (CATAG), Kent Garrett (VicTAG President) and Greg Weeks (VicTAG Secretary) attended a teleconference with AHA consultants to provide feedback on the use of the PBS in Hospitals. We will keep you updated on any outcomes from the review.

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## VicTAG Funded Projects

Project funding is a key way in which VicTAG aims to give back to its members. Two projects were funded by VicTAG in 2016 and these are currently underway and nearing completion. Select the project below for the latest update.

[Project 1: Management of hazardous non-cytotoxic medicines in the inpatient setting - led by Jane Booth \(Austin Health\)](#) is near completion.

[Project 2: Victorian Medication Error Taxonomy - led by Jo Young \(The Royal Melbourne Hospital\) and Jennifer Tio \(The Royal Women's Hospital\)](#).

A record number of funding applications were received by VicTAG this year and two projects were selected for funding. Select the project below for further details.

[Project 1: Deprescribing Potentially Inappropriate Medications in Memory clinic patients \(DePIMM\) – led by Dr Rohan Elliott, Austin Health](#)

[Project 2: Safe management of Neuromuscular Blocking Agents \(NMBAs\) in Victorian Hospitals – led by Amy McRae, Alfred Health](#)

## Medication Safety Alerts

This project is an ongoing VicTAG funded project led by Jan DeClifford and the VicTAG QUM group. A series of Medication Safety Alerts have been produced and published and are available to VicTAG members via the website.

Posters currently available: *Care with opioid formulations, Giving 3 or more, please make sure, Medication patches, Medicate right to stay upright* and *Safe use of clonazepam drops for inpatients*

Upcoming posters: *Changes to medicine names, Hydromorphone* and *Terminology, Abbreviations and Symbols*

[Click here](#) to access the posters.

## VicTAG QUM group

The VicTAG QUM group provides a support network for VicTAG member hospitals to identify issues which increase the risk of medication error and determine practices to improve medication safety. Earlier this year the group facilitated a successful two day seminar with the ISMP to learn from international experts in medication safety. The group meets every 2 months, alternating between face to face meetings and teleconferences and has an active email discussion forum. If you are interested in participating, please email Wendy Ewing, VicTAG QUM chair [wendy.ewing@monashhealth.org](mailto:wendy.ewing@monashhealth.org)

## Supply and Management of Schedule 8 Controlled Drugs

The report from the Corruption and Crime Commission: Report on the Supply and Management of Schedule 8 Controlled Drugs at Certain Public Hospitals in Western Australia has been released and is available on the [VicTAG website](#). The report identifies the gaps in the management of Schedule 8 medicines at the implicated hospitals and may be of assistance in improving management and auditing of Schedule 8 medicines at your hospital.

VicTAG AGM - Save the date!! Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 3:30pm – 6pm