

## Event: VicTAG Annual General Meeting and Invited Speakers

The VicTAG Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November**, commencing at 3pm at the Royal Melbourne Hospital Pharmacy Department.

We are delighted to announce that we will have Invited Speaker presentations on the results from the Partnered Pharmacy Medication Charting Program and information regarding the new requirements for reporting anaphylaxis.

Further details and forms to nominate to become a member of the VicTAG Management Committee will be circulated to members and uploaded on the website as they become available.

## Improving the safety of Neuromuscular Blocking Agents update and webinar

Following on from the article in the [April newsletter](#), the Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) have continued to move forward with labelling changes for Neuromuscular Blocking Agents (NMBAs). As a part of this, they have organised a webinar to discuss the labelling changes and the collaborative work that has been undertaken to reduce NMBA administration errors. Amy McCrae, senior QUM Pharmacist at Alfred Health, who has led this piece of work via the VicTAG QUM Group, will be one of the expert panel members for the webinar. Follow the links below for further details on the webinar and for registration.

[Registration](#)

[Webinar information](#)

[Webinar Recording](#) (available following the webinar)

## Medicines with Special Pricing Arrangements

Kent Garrett, VicTAG President and Director of Pharmacy, Austin Health, attended a Technical Working Group meeting in Sydney, to discuss changes to the Special Pricing Arrangements funding model. There are five funding models that have been proposed and one of the models will be implemented. The Commonwealth's desired implementation date is 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019, however this will depend on interfaces and software system changes being ready by this time. Further information is available on the [VicTAG website](#).

## Antimicrobial Stewardship & Medication Safety

At the July members meeting, VicTAG members, both in person and via webinar, were treated to an informative presentation on Antimicrobial Stewardship & Medication Safety from Dr Jason Trubiano, Director of Antimicrobial Stewardship and Drugs and Antibiotic Allergy Services, Austin Health. Feedback following the session was extremely positive with many requests for the recording and/or slides for members to take back to their colleagues. If you were unable to attend, both the recording of the session and the slides are available on the [Invited Speaker Presentations](#) webpage.

# Newsletter

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## Emergency and Life Saving Medicines Register

### Request to update lists

We have received some feedback that our register is not up to date. Could we please ask that all hospitals check their list on the [website](#) and email any required changes to [victagelsd@gmail.com](mailto:victagelsd@gmail.com) so that they can be incorporated into the next update.

### Snake and spider antivenom stock holding recommendations

VicTAG have contributed to an important piece of work led by Safer Care Victoria to evaluate stock holdings of snake and spider antivenoms in Victoria. This work has now been published on the Safer Care Victoria website (link below) and provides guidance on minimum stock holdings of antivenoms as well as information on the best location for care to be provided.

[Stock holdings of snake and spider antivenom](#)

## SafeScript

Following on from the joint VicTAG and SHPA response submitted in March 2018, both organisations were invited to meet with the SafeScript project team. There it was requested that consideration be given to an exemption for short courses of opioids (5 days supply or less), provided on discharge from hospital, to assist with reducing the impact on hospital discharge workflows, particularly for surgical areas. VicTAG submitted a letter requesting this exemption in August 2018 which will be considered by the Expert Advisory Group.

[Click here](#) to view the exemption request and any further information regarding SafeScript that is available on the VicTAG website.

## Medication Safety Alerts

### Expressions of Interest

The project lead for the Medication Safety Alerts, Jan DeClifford, has recently retired. The VicTAG Management Committee would like to commend Jan for leading this important project, and acknowledge the tremendous contribution she made to Medication Safety in Victoria. As the funding for the 2017/2018 financial year has now ended, and Jan will not be continuing as project lead, VicTAG are seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) for a new lead for this work. Details regarding the EOI and the submission process are available on the [website](#). The closing date for the EOI is **19<sup>th</sup> October 2018**.

**New posters available:** *Weight Matters*

**Upcoming posters:** *Dose Form Abbreviations, High concentration insulin and Patient identification*

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

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## Chemotherapy Audit Project Update

This combined VicTAG and Department of Health and Human Services project has been progressing over the past few months with piloting for electronic prescribing systems well underway. Piloting for paper-based systems will commence shortly and expressions of interest are currently being sought for the pilot. For further information refer to the [Chemotherapy Audit Project](#) page on the VicTAG website.

## VicTAG Funded Projects Update

VicTAG project funding has led to some extremely worthwhile work being led by Victoria which has attracted interest at a state and national level.

Two projects were funded in 2017, one is nearing completion and the second will be completed in early 2019. Select the project below for the latest updates.

[\*Project 1: Deprescribing Potentially Inappropriate Medications in Memory clinic patients \(DePIMM\) – led by Dr Rohan Elliott, Austin Health\*](#) – due for completion October 2018

[\*Project 2: Safe management of Neuromuscular Blocking Agents \(NMBAs\) in Victorian Hospitals – led by Amy McRae, Alfred Health\*](#) – due for completion February 2019

This year, two further projects have been selected for funding. Select the project below for further details:

[\*Project 1: Medication related patient information leaflets in multiple languages – led by Hayley Griffin, Monash Health\*](#)

[\*Project 2: The use of a beta-lactam antibiotic allergy assessment tool to improve medication safety – led by Misha Devchand, Austin Health\*](#)

For information on applying for a VicTAG Project Grant or to see information and reports from past projects, visit the [Projects and Research](#) page on the VicTAG website.

## 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. 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)

Following on from the joint VicTAG and Safer Care Victoria (SCV) Medicines Roundtable held in May 2018, the relationship between the Medication Safety and Quality program at SCV and the VicTAG QUM Group has continued to grow. As such, Kylie McIntosh, Principal Policy Officer – Medicines, SCV, will become an invited member of the VicTAG QUM Group. Kylie is also the Victorian representative on the Health Services Medicines Expert Advisory Group (HSMEAG), and this membership will enable her to provide updates and seek feedback from the VicTAG QUM Group on SCV and HSMEAG activities. Welcome Kylie!