

DHBNZ Safety and Quality Use of Medicines Group Newsletter



What's new?

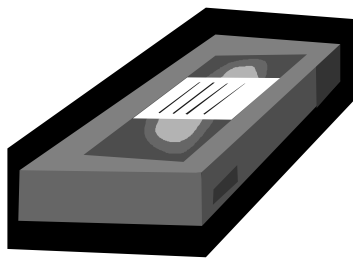
Minutes of the most recent meeting of the group on 30th June 2005 are available on the website.

Strategy document

Thank-you to those groups and individuals who commented on the draft strategy document. It is hoped to publish the strategy document by the end of August.

Warfarin

Funding for the production of a patient education video on warfarin has been agreed. The video will be jointly funded by PHARMAC, ACC and WDHB. PHARMAC will manage the project.



Abbreviations alert

The feedback on this draft alert has all been correlated and will be discussed at the next meeting of the group on August 25th.

Insulin



A summary of the questionnaire results is available on the website. If any individual or organisation has undertaken any initiatives around insulin management either in primary or secondary care please could they contact me with brief details. These could include patient education initiatives, insulin prescribing guidelines or new insulin prescribing charts.

Recent Issues Highlighted by Practitioners

Oxycodone: there have been concerns about the slow release (continus) and immediate release forms being confused because the oxycodone capsules are immediate release while the tablets are slow release (continus). m-Eslon[®] morphine preparations are the opposite. Counties Manakau DHB have prepared an identification chart showing the different formulations and explaining their release characteristics. If anyone

would like a copy of the chart then please contact Beth Loe on Beth.Loe@waitematadhb.govt.nz

Upcoming Events

New Zealand Pharmacy Conference: Bridging the Gap, Auckland, 16th -18th September 2005. Keynote speaker on Friday 16th is Mike Cohen who is the President of The Institute of Safe Medication Practices. Day registration for the Friday is available. See this link for further information www.psnz.org.nz

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia 27th Federal Conference: Medicines Managers: The Next Generation, 10th - 13th November 2005. See this link for further information www.shpa.org.au/docs/fedconf05

UK National Patient Safety Agency Conference: Patient Safety 2006, February 1st - 2nd 2006 See this link for further information <http://www.patientsafety2006.nhs.uk/about>

Useful links and articles

Best practices for safe handling of products containing concentrated potassium, BMJ, 30 July 2005; 331:274-277

Sentinel Event alert for vincristine from the USA www.jcaho.org/about+us/news+letters/sentinel+event+alert/sea_34.htm

National Patient Safety Agency: Building a memory - preventing harm, reducing risks and improving patient safety. The first report of

the National Reporting and Learning System and the Patient Safety Observatory www.npsa.nhs.uk/site/media/documents/1280_PSO_Report.pdf

Feedback

Ongoing feedback about this publication is welcome. Please feedback to Beth Loe, Project Manager:

Fax 09 441 8957 Email Beth.Loe@waitematadhb.govt.nz or via the website www.safeuseofmedicines.co.nz