

VicTAG

Victorian Therapeutics Advisory Group

Issue: May 2010

Committee Positions

The Committee has forwarded a letter of thanks to David Ford for his support of the

Committee over the years, and more recently for his role of Treasurer. David's

extensive experience and counsel will be sadly missed by VicTAG. Helen Matthews

has stepped into the role of Treasurer.

CATAG

Dr Geoff Matthews, Chair of VicTAG has accepted the rotating position as Chair of CATAG, the Council of

Australian Therapeutics Advisory Groups. Twice yearly meetings of CATAG are held in Sydney and sponsored

by the National Prescribing Service. Dr Jocelyn Lowinger has recently been appointed as National co-ordinator

of CATAG. Minutes of the latest CATAG meeting appear on the VicTAG web Site.

VicTAG administrative/project pharmacist

A VicTAG administrative/project pharmacist position is being advertised on the SHPA web site. The initial appointment is one day a week

at the Grade 3 level. The role involves assisting in the co-ordination of VicTAG activities and liaising with CATAG. The successful

applicant may be able to extend the role into project work at a later date. Please alert hospital staff who may be interested in a part-

time role such as this.

Contact Greg Weeks on 5226 7555 for details.

QUM/Medication Safety Activities

The VicTAG QUM group has collaborated to develop a standard form for documenting the prescribing, administration and monitoring of heparin premixed infusions.

The agreed form has been based on the current forms in use (in Victoria and other states) and safety principles in use in the NIMC. A copy of this form will be available in the secure section of the VicTAG QUM website or if you have any queries, contact Melita van de Vreede at Melita.vandevreede@easternhealth.org.au

The new strength Baxter heparin premixed infusion.

The new strength Baxter heparin premixed infusion (25,000 unit in 250mL) will be available in early July. The price will be \$10.50 per bag.

Please email Vi Nguyen of Baxter directly: (vi_thuy_nguyen@baxter.com) of your interest in purchasing this product. Please let Vi know your hospital's estimated usage which will assist in making sure sufficient stock is available.

National Prescribing Service Activity in the Hospital Sector

At its April meeting the NPS Board considered options for ongoing work to support QUM activity in the hospital sector. The Board confirmed that the DUE program in hospitals would be suspended at the end of June 2010.

It was agreed that over the following twelve months NPS would undertake a detailed environmental scan to identify how it could add value to QUM in the hospital sector, especially in light of expected changes to hospital and primary health care networks. NPS will consult with key stakeholders and potential partners about QUM issues in hospitals and will welcome your input and advice during this consultation process. In particular we will explore issues related to use of biologics and high cost drugs in hospitals; linkages between the Primary Health Care Organisations and hospitals; ambulatory, aged care and sub-acute settings at the interface of hospital care and e-health. (Karen Kaye)

New Section 100 claiming procedures

Michael Furey (Dept of Health) will provide an update on outcomes of discussions with the Commonwealth at the full VicTAG meeting on the 23rd June 2010

Register of Emergency and Life Saving Drugs

*An updated version of the
Register has been loaded on to
the website:*

www.victag.org.au

*Any amendments should be
forwarded to:*

judy@barwonhealth.org.au