

VOLUME 5,
ISSUE 1:
APRIL 2012

VicTAG

Victorian Therapeutics Advisory Group

www.victag.org.au

ABN: 27224983348

VicTAG Management Committee:

Chairman:

Dr Mary O'Reilly
Eastern Health
mary.oreilly@easternhealth.org.au

Vice Chairman:

Kent Garrett
Austin Health
Kent.GARRETT@austin.org.au

Treasurer:

Helen Matthews
Melbourne Health
Helen.Matthews@mh.org.au

Secretary:

Greg Weeks
Barwon Health
GREG@BarwonHealth.org.au

Committee Members:

Sue Kirska
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Sue.Kirska@petermac.org

Ian Larmour
Southern Health
ian.larmour@southernhealth.org.au

Melita Van de Vreede
Eastern Health
Melita.VandeVreede@easternhealth.org.au

Dr Chris O'Callaghan
Austin Health
Christopher.O'Callaghan@austin.org.au

Dr Geoff Matthews
Southern Health
pg_matthews@laposte.net

Dr Inger Olesen
Barwon Health
IOLESE@BarwonHealth.org.au

VicTAG Professional Officer/Newsletter Editor:

Dr Elaine Tan
elainet@unimelb.edu.au

Make a contribution to this newsletter! To contribute, please e-mail Elaine Tan.

Newsletter from the Victorian Therapeutics Advisory Group

Revamped VicTAG Website, www.victag.org.au

In February 2012, the revamped VicTAG website was launched (see screen shot below).



The revamped website contains a wider range of information and includes VicTAG e-mail addresses for queries and questions.

There is a member only section, which is available to financial VicTAG members and other staff nominated by the Director of Pharmacy. Each individual is allocated their own username and password.

If you currently do not have member access to the website and would like it arranged, please ask your Director of Pharmacy to forward your nomination to Dr Elaine Tan at professionalofficer@victag.org.au.

Congratulations to the following hospitals/groups on being awarded 2012 VicTAG research project funding:

- Victorian Poisons Information Centre, Austin Hospital for a project titled 'review of the content and presentation of the VicTAG Register of Emergency and Life Saving Drugs'.
- Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre for a project titled 'an on-line training and evaluation package for pharmacists involved in the clinical checking and dispensing of oral anti-cancer agents'.
- VicTAG QUM and Medication Safety Group for a project titled 'critical missed doses: education and audit package'.

Turn over the page (to page 3) for further details of the research projects.



SAEFVIC

SAEFVIC or **S**urveillance of **A**dverse **E**vents **F**ollowing **V**accination **I**n the **C**ommunity was established in 2007 and is a public health partnership initiative of the Victorian Immunisation Program funded by the Department of Health, Victoria, Australia. It offers an integrated active and enhanced passive surveillance system and clinical service for adverse events following immunisations (AEFI) in both children and adults. It has recently been recognised as the leading model of AEFI surveillance in Australia.

Led by a cohesive team of physicians, immunisation nurse specialists and epidemiologists, with an interest in vaccine safety, it is based at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute (MCRI) in Melbourne.

Reporting

SAEFVIC encourages reporting from health care professionals, including immunisation providers and self or parent reports. Once assessed by a SAEFVIC immunisation nurse all reports are forwarded to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Reports sent by the vaccine service-provider directly to the TGA are re-directed back to SAEFVIC for their information.

Any clinical follow-up is provided by SAEFVIC.

Follow-up

Accredited immunisation nurses follow up all reports of AEFI and discuss with reporters the nature of the AEFI, any ongoing concerns and strategies for future vaccinations. All persons reporting a serious AEFI (requiring hospitalisation or having ongoing sequelae) or have concerns about future vaccinations are offered the option to attend a clinical review with a medical specialist. Clinics are available at The Royal Childrens Hospital, Monash Childrens Hospital, Monash Medical Centre or The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Our objective is to increase awareness and reporting of AEFI to SAEFVIC by hospital and community pharmacies.

For more information or to report an AEFI please contact:

Website: www.saefvic.org.au

E-mail: saefvic@mcri.edu.au

Telephone: 03 9345 4143

Register of Emergency and Life Saving Drugs

An updated version (dated April 2012) of the Register has been loaded onto the website:
www.victag.org.au

Any amendments should be forwarded to
judy@barwonhealth.org.au

A Synopsis of 2012 VicTAG Funded Research Projects

1. Review of the content and presentation of the VicTAG Register of Emergency and Life Saving Drugs ('The Register')

The Register exists to aid access to certain drugs in times of emergency. These drugs are usually rarely used, of high cost or difficult to obtain quickly. If this list is to be useful, it needs regular revision and maintenance.

The aims of this project are to:

- review the utility of the Register, i.e. is it used, and if so who uses it and why
- review the systems used in Victoria to access emergency and life saving drugs
- review current list of drugs with regard to Victorian Poisons Information Centre antidote recommendations and stock requirements
- review current list of drugs with regard to requirements of metropolitan and rural pharmacists, nurses, emergency physicians and anaesthetists
- review format, accessibility and mechanism to maintain and update the Register
- establish the criteria that a drug must meet to be listed on the Register
- advise VicTAG of proposed improvements and aid the implementation of these changes.

2. An on-line training and evaluation package for pharmacists involved in the clinical checking and dispensing of oral anti-cancer agents

The increase in the number of and use of oral anti-cancer therapies has meant an increase in the number of these agents being dispensed not only by hospital pharmacy outpatient departments but also in the community setting. These agents still have many of the risks, as well as newer less common issues, associated to them as conventional intravenous therapies.

This project aims to:

- develop an on-line e-learning package covering areas of knowledge and assessment around the clinical pharmacy aspects of dispensing prescriptions for oral anti-cancer therapies
- pilot and test learning package in differing environments
- undertake assessment and feedback of learning package
- develop a proposed method of dissemination and use of the finalised package to enable access from many sites and work environments.

3. Critical missed doses: education and audit package

The project aim is to develop an audit tool with an accompanying education package, to aid in decreasing preventable omitted medication doses. The innovative part of this study is the identification of patient outcomes due to missed critical medication doses. Overall, we want to prevent missed doses and decrease patient harm, by raising awareness and improving documentation. When completed, the package will be available to all VicTAG hospitals for use by pharmacy and nursing staff, to standardise provision of on-going audit and feedback.

Update on 2011 VicTAG Funded Research Projects

1. The Medication Safety Notices project is due for completion in May this year. A survey has been circulated to VicTAG members to gain feedback on this project so we can consider whether to request on-going funding. The Medication Safety Notices that have been developed are available on the VicTAG website.
2. The Quality User-applied Labelling in Victorian Hospitals (QUALVIC) Examination of Current Practices project has been completed. Results have been sent to all hospitals and are available on the VicTAG website. These results and the audit tool have been requested by the Australian Commission for Safety And Quality in HealthCare and are also available on their website.