Safer management of Neuromuscular Blocking Agents (NMBAs)

- Neuromuscular Blocking Agents (NMBA) are HIGH RISK MEDICINES.
- Inadvertent administration of an NMBA can cause catastrophic patient harm.
- A collaboration between VicTAG, NSWTAG, ANZCA and ACQSHC, the TGA
 - and industry that led to the mandatory NMBA labelling o
- labelling improvement is critical, but only one safeguard.
- A VicTAG grant supported the development of the 'NMBA safer practice advisory tool'.



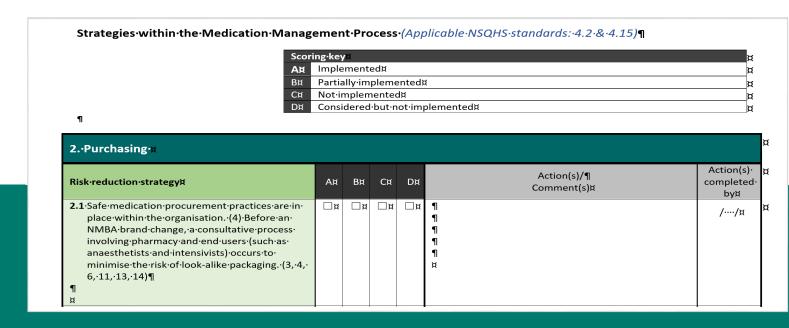
Amy McRae, Senior Pharmacist – Clinical Informatics, Alfred Health. **Email: a.mcrae@alfred.org.au**





NMBA Safer Practice Advisory Tool for Victorian Hospitals

- 25 risk reduction strategies aligned with the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (NSQHSS) medication management process, defined by :
 - Purchasing, 2. Supply, 3. Storage, 4. Prescribing, 5. Administration 6. Disposal and
 7. Clinical Governance
- Completion with input from multidisciplinary stakeholders, every 3 years.
- Assist staff take an active approach to reduce the risk of NMBA inadvertent administration.





Advisory Tool Development

Timeline 2018											
Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
Stage 1 Victorian NMBA Advisory group set-up.		Stage 3 Vic NMBA advisory group meeting		,				endorsed by VicTAG QUM and the Management			
Stage 2 Literature &								Committe Timeline			

NMBA incident

review

terature &	Timeline 2019										
MBA incident	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept		
eview	Stage 6. Approval o to Pilot the advisory tool	healthcare		ment of 14 V	ictorian & Ta	asmanian	Stage 8 Collation of pilot results.	Stage 10 Write	up final report.		
							Stage 9 Update advisory tool and obtain final endorsement				
VICTA	G										

Pilot results

Fourteen rural and metropolitan VicTAG healthcare services from Vic and Tas piloted the advisory tool.

Key results

- all healthcare services reported:

- the tool was useful in identifying opportunities for safer handling of NMBAs and will be used as evidence for NSQHSS Standard 4 accreditation.

'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the tools layout and design was easy to use.

plan to repeat the tool, eight plan to repeat in 3 years' and six in 1-2 years' time.

- recommend the tool be available to all Australian Hospitals

- **Completion time:** nine took 45 mins 1 hour 15 mins to complete the tool, four took 2 hours or more (including follow-up and individual stakeholder consultation).
- Risk Reduction Strategies: On average nine (range 2-24) new NMBA risk reduction strategies were identified to introduce within the healthcare services. Most popular was 'storage' featuring the the red warning statement in front of NMBA stock.



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Conclusion

- The pilot demonstrated:
 - Usefulness of the tool for healthcare services to identify risk reduction strategies.
 - a strong recommendation is for the tool to be available nationally.
 - invaluable feedback obtained to improve the advisory tool further.
- Fourteen VicTAG hospitals have integrated the tool into their Standard 4 NSQHSS accreditation process!
- The NMBA safer practice advisory tool will complement the mandatory NMBA labelling from September 2020. It has the opportunity to improve NMBA safety in all Australian healthcare services.
- The tool will be available through VicTAG.



