

# Medicines Roundtable

25 July, 2019



**A/Prof Mary O'Reilly**

Vice Chairman, VicTAG &  
Medical Director of Quality and Patient Safety,  
Austin Health

# Who is VicTAG?

- The Victorian Therapeutics Advisory Group (VicTAG) is an independent, not for profit, membership based association
  - Members are clinicians from Victorian public hospitals
  - Provisional members are clinicians from Victorian private hospitals, Tasmanian hospitals and other organisations
  - Member hospitals are listed on the website
- VicTAG's purpose is to support medicines access, quality and safety for Victorian hospitals

# Recent activities

- New guiding principles document on Medicinal Cannabis now available on the members section of the website
  - Covers principles for governance, prescribing, access, monitoring and storage of medicinal cannabis
- Recent invited speaker presentation by Prof. Michael Dooley on the Voluntary Assisted Dying Statewide Pharmacy service
  - webinar and slides available on the members section of the website
- Member of the Council of Australian Therapeutic Advisory Groups (CATAG)
  - Collaboration with other TAGs to share information and provide advocacy for Australian hospitals

# VicTAG QUM Group

- The VicTAG Quality Use of Medicines Group (QUM) consists of pharmacists who play an important role in ensuring safe, effective and judicious use of medicines
- A pivotal focus of the group is to benchmark practices and work together on statewide projects
- Recent activity
  - Assisted with co-ordination of HPV product evaluation, to assess products going to tender for safety elements
  - Collated feedback from members to respond to the ACSQHC response to the WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge – Medication without harm

# Projects and Ongoing Programs

## Ongoing Programs

Register of Emergency and Life Saving Medicines

Medication Safety Alerts

Chemotherapy Audit Toolkit

## Current/Recent Projects

Safe Management of Neuromuscular Blocking Agents

Medication related patient information leaflets in multiple languages

The use of beta-lactam antibiotic allergy assessment tool to improve medication safety

Deprescribing Potentially Inappropriate Medications in Memory clinic patient

# Medication Safety Alerts

## Recently released alerts

Patient Identification

High concentration insulin products

## Alerts coming soon

High risk medicines - APINCH

Parkinson's disease reminders

High risk abbreviations and acronyms



## High Concentration Insulin Products: Distinctly different

High concentration insulin products are now available in Australia. These products are used in people with diabetes who need large daily insulin doses. They reduce the volume and number of insulin injections required.

Know your insulins – Check the concentration – Confirm the brand

High concentration insulin products are 3 and 5 times more concentrated than standard 100 units/mL insulins

### What does this mean?

Insulin is a high risk medication:

- Every insulin order must clearly identify the brand
  - If staff are to administer their high concentration insulin if possible
  - If staff are to administer doses, safety pen needles must be used
- Do not withdraw insulin from a pen device with a syringe
- Insulin glargine products are not bioequivalent
  - Dose conversions are not to be undertaken without consulting endocrinology or senior medical staff

Standard insulin: 100 units/mL



Toujeo® (insulin glargine): 300 units/mL



Humulin® U-500 (insulin neutral): 500 units/mL  
(Available under Special Access Scheme Category C)



KEEP PATIENTS SAFE – CHOOSE THE CORRECT INSULIN

# Project Grant Round 2019

- Shortly VicTAG will be calling for project grant applications for 2019
- VicTAG will be seeking an expression of interest from members for two projects
  - Statewide approach to Pharmaceutical Waste
  - Update to the Handling of Hazardous Medicine Framework
- One further project will be funded from grant applications submitted by member hospitals
  - Projects need to have applicability/benefit across Victoria
  - Preference for collaboration between sites

# Medicines Roundtable 2019

- Collaboration between Safer Care Victoria and VicTAG
- Topic selected reflect the current key areas of interest for Victoria
- These are also areas where VicTAG supports hospitals through guidance, education and improvement activities



# Become a VicTAG member

- Website: [www.victag.org.au](http://www.victag.org.au)
- Email: [professionalofficer@victag.org.au](mailto:professionalofficer@victag.org.au)