

# DHBNZ Safe and Quality Use of Medicines Group Newsletter

## What's new?

### Annual report

The SQM Group annual report for 2005-2007 is available on the website ([www.safeuseofmedicines.co.nz](http://www.safeuseofmedicines.co.nz)). Hard copies of the report will be distributed this month.

### Potassium Chloride Concentrate Injection Alert

An audit is planned for this month, six months following the issue of the updated alert. This will help SQM Group evaluate the effectiveness of the alert and identify the need for additional concentrations of pre-mixed potassium infusions.

### Warfarin

The Waikato hospital pharmacy have developed further resources for managing warfarin, particularly for their community hospitals. These include a warfarin specific discharge chart designed to provide the information GPs' identified they needed and a multiple choice questionnaire for nurses that is completed after warfarin counselling training and before they provide patient education. Please contact Beth Loe in the first instance if you would like further information,

[Beth.Loe@waitematadhb.govt.nz](mailto:Beth.Loe@waitematadhb.govt.nz)

### Good Prescribing

How to improve paper based prescribing in your DHB? Waikato DHB have undertaken a 'good prescribing' project based on a poster campaign and audit of charting. The campaign highlighted charting errors and rewarded good prescribing. For further information contact Beth Loe- [Beth.Loe@waitematadhb.govt.nz](mailto:Beth.Loe@waitematadhb.govt.nz)

### Colour coded wristbands

Is any DHB currently using or considering using colour coded wristbands to signal

different allergies e.g. latex or medicines, or specific restrictions e.g. no blood products. Hawkes Bay DHB are considering introducing wristbands and want to confirm the colour coding employed elsewhere to ensure standardisation.

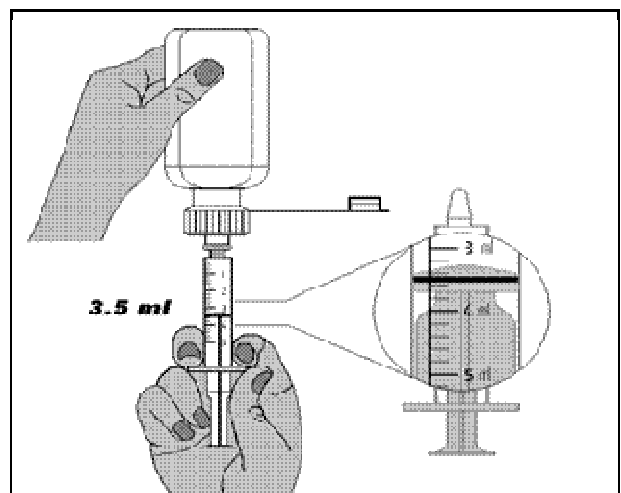
### Membership

Thanks to those people who sent in their C.V's. The group next meets in March and applications will be considered then.

### Incidents and Cautions

#### Adaptor caps

The December 08 issue of this newsletter pictured an adaptor cap not available in N.Z. The model currently marketed in N.Z. is pictured below.



For further information on sources for adaptor caps please contact Beth Loe, [Beth.Loe@waitematadhb.co.nz](mailto:Beth.Loe@waitematadhb.co.nz)

### Omeprazole Suspension

Feedback has suggested that 2mg/mL would be the preferred concentration for a standard omeprazole suspension. In addition, it was suggested that if the capsules are opened and the granules given, they can either be sprinkled on food or placed on a spoon with a little water (if the child is not eating yet).

### Labelling of liquid medicines

Please be aware that chloral hydrate and diazepam liquid supplied by Orion Laboratories as section 29 medicines are both labelled with the dose in 10mL, i.e. chloral hydrate 1g in 10mL and diazepam 10mg in 10mL. This can be confusing and can easily be mistaken as 1g in 1mL or 10mg in 1mL when liquids are commonly labelled per 1mL or per 5mL.

### Piperacillin/tazobactam

The UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has highlighted in their latest Drug Safety Advice (URL: [http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_FILE&dDocName=CON035990&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=CON035990&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased)) that generic piperacillin/tazobactam products have different compatibilities with other medicines compared with Tazocin. Generic piperacillin/tazobactam must **not** be mixed or co-administered with any aminoglycoside and must **not** be reconstituted or diluted with lactated Ringer's (Hartmann's) solution.

### Etoposide/etoposide phosphate

The South Australian Dept. of Health have recently issued a safety alert highlighting dosing errors associated with etoposide and etoposide phosphate products (URL: [http://www.safetyandquality.sa.gov.au/DesktopModules/SSSA\\_Documents/LinkClick.aspx?tabid=112&table=SSSA\\_Documents&field=ItemID&id=324&link=Safety+Notice+No.+SA+13+\\_+08+++Safety+Alert+Etoposide+and+Etoposide+Phosphate+Products.pdf](http://www.safetyandquality.sa.gov.au/DesktopModules/SSSA_Documents/LinkClick.aspx?tabid=112&table=SSSA_Documents&field=ItemID&id=324&link=Safety+Notice+No.+SA+13+_+08+++Safety+Alert+Etoposide+and+Etoposide+Phosphate+Products.pdf)). Current practice in NZ seems to be that etoposide is prescribed (dose based on the base) because the protocols used detail the dose as base and the two main suppliers, Baxters and Biomed, currently supply etoposide phosphate at an equivalent dose

to the base. Therefore, it is unlikely to have been an issue in NZ. However, it would be sensible to review current practice and inform haematologists/oncologists about the situation and clarify with them exactly what is prescribed and how. This is especially important if there are likely to be doctors who have recently worked overseas where different practices are employed.

### Upcoming Events

International Forum on Quality and Safety in Health Care, 17-20 Mar 2009, Berlin. See this link for further information - <http://internationalforum.bmj.com/>

Goodfellow Symposium 2009, Mastering the Knowledge Mountain, 27–29th March 2009, Auckland, see this link for further information - <http://www.goodfellowsymposium.org/>

Australasian Association for Quality in Health Care, 7th Australasian Conference on Quality and Safety in Health Care, 6–9 Sept 2009, Sydney. See this link for further information - <http://www.aaqhc2009.org.au/>

New Zealand Hospital Pharmacy Conference, All That's Good in Life, 11-13 September, Nelson. More information soon.

International Society for Quality in Healthcare, 26th International Conference, 11-14 Oct 2009, Dublin. See this link for further information—<http://www.isqua.org/>

### Useful links and articles

The Joint Commission, Safely implementing health information and converging technology Sentinel Event Alert Issue 42, Dec 11 2008. URL: [http://www.jointcommission.org/SentinelEvents/SentinelEventAlert/sea\\_42.htm](http://www.jointcommission.org/SentinelEvents/SentinelEventAlert/sea_42.htm)

Hirsch IB. Sliding Scale Insulin—Time to Stop Sliding JAMA 2009, 301(2): 213-214

### Feedback

Ongoing feedback about this publication is welcome. Please feedback to Beth Loe, National Coordinator: Ph 09 486 8920 extn. 2442, Fax 09 441 8957, Email [Beth.Loe@waitematadhb.govt.nz](mailto:Beth.Loe@waitematadhb.govt.nz) or via the website [www.safeuseofmedicines.co.nz](http://www.safeuseofmedicines.co.nz)