

MONTHLY MEDICATION SAFETY UPDATE

Information for health professionals in NSW public health organisations

This is a summary of medication safety and supply related issues affecting NSW public health facilities in **April 2024**. Updates regarding current medication-specific safety and supply related issues are available on the [CEC website](#).

Medication safety issues under investigation

- Anticipated disruption to supply of abatacept 125 mg **pre-filled syringe** from 17 June to 30 September 2024, and **autoinjectors** from 3 June to 30 August 2024.
- Anticipated disruption to the supply of epoprostenol (Flolan) 500 microg and 1.5 mg powder for injection vials – **Medication Safety Communication** being developed.
- Update to [SN:028/23](#) regarding the discontinuation of Ordine® to include information on further S19A alternatives and transfer of Ordine® sponsorship to Arrotex (supply expected late 2024).

Relevant clinician information to note

- TGA updates:
 - Substandard semaglutide vials – [safety advisory](#).
 - Bicillin L-A (benzathine benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate) prefilled syringe for injection – [shortage update](#).
 - Vyvanse 60 mg (lisdexamfetamine dimesilate) capsules – [shortage extension](#).
 - Zactin Tabs (fluoxetine 20 mg dispersible tablets) – [shortage extension](#).
 - Orenzia (abatacept) medicines – [anticipated shortage](#).
 - Panadol Children 1 Month - 1 Year paracetamol 100 mg/mL oral liquid bottle – [product defect](#).
 - Nitrosamine impurities acceptable intakes - [update](#).
 - Medicinal cannabis products quality standards – [media release](#).
 - [Product Information safety updates](#) – April 2024.

Current projects with eHealthNSW

- The VTE Prevention eMR solution pilot has concluded at WS/NBMLHD. The solution has been evaluated and determined to be safe for implementation across NSW.

Medication Safety and Supply Summary

100	SAFETY/SUPPLY ISSUES REQUIRING INVESTIGATION BY THE MEDICATION SAFETY TEAM
18	WERE REPORTED TO THE FRONTLINE DUE TO SAFETY RISK REQUIRING LOCAL MITIGATION
2	RESULTED IN FORMAL SAFETY COMMUNICATION
3	PREVIOUS ISSUES RESOLVED ON CEC ONLINE PORTAL

Safety Alerts/Notices/Information released

SN:004/24 [Updated: Disruption to supply: Heparin sodium \(Pfizer®\) 5,000 units/5 mL injection ampoule](#)
– 4 April 2024

SN:005/24 [Updated: Disruption to supply – Benzathine benzylpenicillin \(Bicillin L-A\) suspension for injection pre-filled syringe](#)
– 11 April 2024

SA:006/24 [Clinician alert - Measles](#)
– 12 April 2024

Medication Safety Communications released

Nil.

Medications reported on online portal this month

[Aciclovir injections; antiseptics – various; benzathine benzylpenicillin; busulfan injection; colestyramine; dexamethasone, framycetin and gramicidin ear drops; diltiazem; entecavir; heparin 5000 units/5 mL; malathion; Miochol-E \(acetylcholine intraocular solution\); Miostat \(carbachol\) intraocular injections; mycophenolate mofetil; naloxone nasal spray and PFS; nirsevimab; Urografin; valganciclovir; Xylocaine 2% with adrenaline 1:200,000 20 mL injection vial.](#)

Contact us

If you need support or assistance with medication safety matters in your facility, please email us:
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