

The Queensland Health Patient Safety and Quality Executive Committee (PSQEC) met on May 11 2009. Key discussions and outcomes included:

Guidelines for the Handling of Medication in Community Based Palliative Care services in Queensland:

Historically there has been some uncertainty concerning the clinical implementation of the *Health (Drugs & Poisons) Regulation 1996* with regards to the role of registered nurses in assisting lay carers with the administration of prescribed “as required” subcutaneous medications for palliative patients in the home setting.

To clarify this, the South Queensland Palliative Care Clinical Network in consultation with the Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative, has developed the “*Guidelines for the Handling of Medication in Community-Based Palliative Care Services in Queensland*”. These guidelines are compliant with the *Health (Drug & Poisons) Regulation 1996*, the *Guardianship and Administration Act 2000* and the *Powers of Attorney Act 1998*; and represent consensus-based best practice in palliative care. The guidelines are also inclusive of the legislative provisions contained within the 1998 amendment of the *Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996* that addresses medication(s) administered outside an institutional setting and relates specifically to lay caregivers.

The PSQEC endorsed these Guidelines.

For more information contact:

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The State-wide Patient Identification Strategy Options Paper:

Correct patient identification is fundamental to the provision of safe health care and is recognised as one of the emerging safety priorities by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC). Currently there is no co-ordinated organisation-wide patient identification strategy, policy or standard for correct patient identification within Queensland Health.

In response a Strategy Options Paper (planning framework) was developed to prevent patient harm from patient misidentification errors in Queensland Health facilities. Eleven key strategies were identified and two viable options were recommended. Option 2 was to adopt a comprehensive approach encompassing all 11 key strategies or Option 3 was to adopt a selective approach and implement essential strategies.

The PSQEC approved option 3 with a view to working towards option 2.

For more information contact:

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Medication incidents involving the administration of liquid oral medications using hypodermic syringes

The PSQEC approved the advisory from Medication Services Queensland to utilize oral syringes designed for the administration of oral liquid medications. These are distinguishable from syringes used for intravenous usage by colour and shape.

For more information contact: Fiona Mclvor – Medication Safety Officer, Safe Medication Practice Unit, Fiona_Mclvor@health.qld.gov.au

Health Service Districts Top 5 Safety and Quality Priorities.

HSDs have provided details of their top 5 priorities in Safety and Quality for the purpose of informing future agendas of the PSQEC. Results were collated and themed for discussion. There are issues common between rural districts and between regional districts. Further analysis will be undertaken for the June 9 meeting.

For more information contact: PSQEC Secretariat at PSQB@health.qld.gov.au

The next meeting is scheduled for 9 June 2009.

For further information, please contact:

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