

Communiqué – 10 August 2009

The Queensland Health Patient Safety and Quality Executive Committee (PSQEC) met on Monday 10 August 2009. Key discussions and outcomes included:

Medication Guidelines for Handling Medications in Community Based Palliative Care Services

The guidelines were presented at the PSQEC meeting on Monday 11 May 2009. The Guidelines were endorsed 'in principle' by the PSQEC, however, further clarification was requested in relation to the use of the words "should" and "must".

The guidelines were reviewed and modified during a meeting with the Director of Safe Medicines Management Unit and Director Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative.

Modifications to the document are outlined below:

- Revision of the use of the words "should" and "must" throughout the guidelines. The word "must" indicates a mandatory practice required by law or consideration by Queensland Health to be necessary in the interest of patient safety
- The role of nurse practitioners as people approved to prescribe and order medications under an approved Health Management Protocol has been included
- The wording of section 4.10 Adverse Drug Reactions has been clarified. The section now reads "the medication and the nature of the reaction" need to be recorded.

The PSQEC endorsed the revised guidelines.

For more information contact: Fiona Israel, Manager Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative.

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Re-establishment of the Queensland Maternal and Perinatal Quality Council

The QMPQC has been in abeyance since 2006 and is being reconvened in response to a request from the State-wide Maternity and Neonatal Clinical Network (SMNCN).

Professor Michael Humphrey, Clinical Adviser, Office of Rural and Remote Health was asked to re-activate the QMPQC, via the role of Interim

Council Chair. Administrative support is provided by the Maternity, Child Health and Safety Branch (MCH&SB).

Consultation has occurred with the Clinical Practice Improvement Centre (CPIC), Policy, Resourcing and Planning Division, and the Division of the Chief Health Officer. This has included the potential governance, roles and responsibilities of a re-constituted QMPQC.

It was determined that a re-established QMPQC would require updated Terms of Reference due to the significant reform in Queensland Health (QH) over the past four years, which has seen the establishment of the Health Quality and Complaints Commission, the Patient Safety and Quality Board and clinical networks.

The PSQEC endorsed the re-commencement of the QMPQC and TOR in principle pending further consultation around authority/reporting. For more information contact: Michael Humphrey, Interim Chair, QMPQC.

Email: Michael.Humphrey@health.qld.gov.au

Mapping Exercise between the Victorian Quality Council Strategic Plan 2008-2012 (VQCP) and the Queensland Health Patient Safety and Quality Plan 2008-2012 (PSQP)

The VQC has provided Queensland Health with a copy of its VQCP. The Clinical Practice Improvement Centre has mapped the VQCP against the PSQP. The purpose of the mapping exercise was to identify any topics that may enrich future revisions of the PSQP and impact upon our priority setting. There were some sections in the VQCP that were not included in the PSQP.

The PSQEC noted the comparison and noted that where there is content that is different, that due consideration be given to the inclusion of these sections in the future publication of the PSQP

For more information contact: Ian Johnson, Principal Project Officer, Clinical Practice Improvement Centre.

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Next meeting scheduled for: Monday 14 September 2009.

For further information, please contact:

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