

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

TRIM: D19-35820

Ms Mikaela Meggetto
Coroner's Registrar
Coroner's Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh St
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Ms Meggetto,

Eliza Gill – Court Ref COR2016 004359


I am writing to provide you with a final status report on the Coroner Audrey Jamison's recommendation that the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) assist in the development of National Poisons Information Guidelines.

Since our letter to you on 13 June 2019, the Chief Health Officer, New South Wales, has written (**Attachment 1**) to advise that the electronic Therapeutic Guidelines (eTG) for Toxicology have been completely reviewed and rewritten. Further, the Commission has been informed by the Therapeutic Guidelines organisation that the peer-reviewed resource will be available electronically to all poisons information specialists and toxicologists working in Australia around July 2020. The new guidelines are clearer and will provide significantly expanded detail on highly toxic drugs.

The Commission has written to health chief executives to inform them of the expected availability of the resource and that the Commission stands ready to accept any request for help from the states and territories to further advance the national co-ordination of toxicology and poisons information services in Australia. Should you have further questions about this matter, please contact:

Catherine Katz
Director, Intergovernmental Relations
Catherine.katz@safetyandquality.gov.au or 02 9126 3574.

Yours sincerely



Adjunct Professor Debora Picone AO
Chief Executive Officer

26 February 2020

31 OCT 2019



Health

Adjunct Professor Debora Piccone AO
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care
GPO 5480
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Our ref H19/115426

Dear Adjunct Professor Piccone

I write to provide an update on recent national initiatives undertaken by all four state poisons information centres, including the NSW Poisons Information Centre (PIC).

As you may be aware, the electronic Therapeutic Guidelines (eTG) for Toxicology have been completely rewritten and will be formally released later this month.

These guidelines make clear the circumstances in which a clinician should escalate to a poisons information centre for additional guidance. Within the four PICs across Australia, poisons specialists are provided with additional, more detailed information about when to escalate a call for clinical input.

The eTG review was overseen by a national committee chaired by Professor Nick Buckley, NSW clinical toxicologist. Professor Andrew Dawson, Clinical Director, NSW PIC, and representatives from Queensland, Victoria and Western Australian PICs, general practitioners and representatives of rural/remote medicine were included on the review committee.

The eTG has been fully peer-reviewed and will be published electronically to support easy access and updating. The rigour of the above process, along with the electronic nature of the information, will help mitigate the risk of incorrect, inconsistent or outdated information being used to support patient management.

I understand some of these matters were discussed by the Commission's Inter-Jurisdictional Committee at its 10 October 2019 meeting.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me, or Professor Dawson, at any time. Professor Dawson is available on 0401 915 196 or Andrew.Dawson@sydney.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

Dr Kerry Chant PSM
Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary
Population and Public Health

23rd October 2019

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