



Safety Alert 004/09

16 Sept 2009

New Version of Adult National Inpatient Medication Charts [NIMC] – category SMR 140

Distributed to:

- Chief Executives
- Directors of Clinical Governance
- Directors of Clinical Operations
- Area Directors of Nursing and Midwifery

Action required by:

- Chief Executives
- Directors of Clinical Governance
- Directors of Clinical Operations
- Area Directors of Nursing and Midwifery

For response by:

- Directors of Clinical Governance

We recommend you also inform:

- Area Directors of Pharmacy
- Pharmacists
- Nurses
- Medical Staff
- Drugs and Therapeutic Committees

Deadline for completion of action**21 September 2009****Clinical Quality, Safety and Governance Branch**

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Background

New versions of the Adult 7 days Short Stay NIMC (SMR 140.001), Adult 7 days Short Stay NIMC NCR (SMR 140.002) and Adult Long Stay NIMC (SMR 140.003) are currently replacing the previous medication charts.

Several issues have been identified with the new charts and it is expected that these issues will be resolved within the next six weeks. *In the interim staff are alerted to the following issues to ensure safe prescribing and administration processes.*

Issues and Actions to be taken by Area Health Services

1. **Warfarin Box:** The Administration section for warfarin has one signature line ONLY. Warfarin administration requires the initials of both the nurse who administers the dose and the checking nurse.
ACTION: Initials of the nurse that administers WARFARIN and the initials of the checking nurse are required. A diagonal line should be drawn in each signature box to facilitate the double checking process by nurses and enable 2 initials as outlined in the figure below.

Date	WARFARIN (Marevan/Coumadin) select brand		INR Result																	
Route	Prescriber to enter individual doses	Target INR range	Dose	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg	mg
Indication	Pharmacy		Prescriber																	
Prescriber Signature	Print Name	Contact	1600																	

name on discharge / No
pense / No
ration?.....days/City?.....

add diagonal line

2. **NCR Yellow Copies:** Only 2 x NCR yellow copies are included where 5 copies are required for the NCR SMR 140.002 chart.
ACTION: If required pharmacists will need to photocopy charts to ensure appropriate records. All ward/unit managers should ensure availability of **photocopier access** to ward clinical pharmacists who will need to verify photocopies of the medication charts.
3. **Discharge Column:** The inclusion and use of the discharge column will be clarified for the new chart.
ACTION: Staff should continue usual practices for discharge prescriptions.

References

1. Safety Notice SN: 006/07. Warfarin (revised). 12 Apr 07 (revised 18 Jan 08)
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/quality/sabs/pdf/sn20070412.pdf>
 2. Medication Handling in NSW Public Hospitals policy (PD2007_077)
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2007/pdf/PD2007_077.pdf
- NOTE:** Linked guidelines for the NIMC are now updated for warfarin checking requirements.

Action required by Area Health Services

- Directors of Clinical Governance to ensure that all relevant staff are informed of interim chart arrangements.
- Directors of Clinical Governance to advise actions taken to implement this alert by 21/9/2009.