



Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Service

PATIENT SAFETY COMMUNIQUÉ

A Patient Safety Communiqué disseminates safety and quality information to ensure lessons learned are shared across hospital and health services

Distributed to:

Hospital and Health Service
Chief Executives

Directors of Pharmacy

We recommend you also inform:

- Executive Directors of Medical Services
- Directors of Internal Medicine and Surgery
- Medical Educators
- Pharmacy Educators
- Nurse Practitioners

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For Internal Use Only

Persons receiving this Patient Safety Communiqué should **NOT** take any further action unless the affected goods are/were supplied to or are/were in use in the Hospital and Health Service (HHS) in which they work.

Subject: Decommissioning the Medication Dosing Calculators (for adults)

Issued by: Medication Services Queensland

Issue Date: 5 January 2018

Approved by: Chief Health Officer and Deputy Director-General,
Prevention Division

Signature: **SIGNED**

The purpose of this Patient Safety Communiqué is to inform clinicians that the web-based Medication Dosing Calculators (for adults) will be decommissioned on 15 January 2018.

Background

The Medication Dosing Calculators were released by Medication Services Queensland in February 2010 to provide decision support for clinicians in performing the following calculations:

1. Ideal body weight
2. Creatinine clearance
3. Enoxaparin dosing (treatment and prophylaxis)
4. Aminoglycoside once daily dosing for adults (initial and subsequent)

The calculators were updated in 2012 and 2014 to account for changes to statewide guidelines. Currently, the ideal body weight, creatinine clearance and aminoglycoside subsequent dose calculators are active whilst the aminoglycoside initial dose and enoxaparin dosing calculators simply link to the current guideline.

Issue

A review of the statewide aminoglycoside guidelines is close to completion, with an anticipated publication date of January 2018. This review will see major changes to the aminoglycosides dosing recommendations. This will mean that the calculators in their current form will no longer reflect current best practice. As calculators for ideal body weight and creatinine clearance are available via other sources such as the Australian Medicines Handbook on CKN (see links below), the Medication Dosing Calculators are now obsolete and will, therefore, be decommissioned.



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Recommendations

Recommended actions for Hospital and Health Services:

1. Disseminate the Patient Safety Communiqué to all relevant staff.
2. Review all guidelines / procedures for links to the Medication Dose Calculators and replace them with a suitable alternative such as the appropriate statewide guideline or another calculator (see links below).

Useful links

AMH—Adult ideal body weight calculator

<https://amhonline.amh.net.au/calculators/adultidealweight?menu=banner>

AMH—Adult estimated creatinine clearance calculator

<https://amhonline.amh.net.au/calculators/adultcreatinineclearance?menu=banner>

Statewide high risk medication guidelines

<http://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/medicines/medications/high-risk-med.htm>

(Please note updated aminoglycoside guidelines may not be available on this page until late January 2018)