Updating medicine ingredient names

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is updating a number of medicine ingredient names to align with names used internationally. Over the years, some medicine ingredient names in Australia have become out of date. There will be a four year transition period for these changes, from April 2016 to April 2020.

Some changes are minor, for example, changing a ‘y’ to an ‘i’, and will not affect how the ingredient name is pronounced. Some changes are more significant. For these products, medicine labels will need to use both the old and new ingredient name for an additional three years after the end of the transition period (until 2023). This will help consumers and health professionals become familiar with the new name. The full list of medicine ingredient names that will be changing is available here.

Information for health professionals

From April 2016, new ingredient names will start to appear on medicine labels, in product information and consumer medicine information leaflets and within medication software systems. Depending on turnover, medicine labels using the old ingredient names will still be available on shelves as stock is run down. Please take particular care when prescribing and/or dispensing medicines to ensure that the right product is selected.

Some of the new ingredient names may be unfamiliar to patients. Healthcare professionals are asked to reassure patients that only the name of the ingredient has been changed and there is no change to the medicine’s formulation, quality, safety or efficacy.

Changes to adrenaline and noradrenaline labels

Adrenaline and noradrenaline will remain as approved names in Australia. There is no intent to use epinephrine and norepinephrine as the new ingredient names. However, labels of medicines containing adrenaline or noradrenaline will include the international name (epinephrine or norepinephrine respectively) in brackets after the ingredient name. So you will see two names on the label. For example, medicines containing adrenaline hydrochloride will be labelled as ‘adrenaline (epinephrine) hydrochloride’.

By including this information on labels, the Therapeutic Goods Administration hopes to reduce confusion for health professionals and consumers. Manufacturers have until 2020 to include the international name on their product literature and packaging.

This will occur slowly over time so you will still see products on shelves displaying only adrenaline as the ingredient name. Adrenaline and noradrenaline will remain as approved names in Australia – they will still be used. For more detailed information, please visit the TGA website.

Primary Health Care Advisory Group: Better Outcomes for People with Chronic and Complex Health Conditions

The Primary Health Care Advisory Group examined opportunities for reform in primary health care to improve the management of people with disease health conditions. The Advisory Group provided its final report to Government in December 2015. To view the Report, please click here.

My Health Record

The Australian Government will drive better patient outcomes for Australians living with complex or chronic illness as part of its Healthier Medicare reform package by improving digital health records and data around health outcomes that will make it easier to coordinate their care and measure their progress.

Digital health measures including the new My Health Record, telehealth services, remote health monitoring and medication management technologies can improve patient access to services and increase the efficiency of the health system.

The My Health Record will be an essential element of these reforms that will support all members of a patient’s health care team to work in constant consultation with each other, through the seamless sharing of information such as medications, treatments, allergies and care plans.
For further information on My Health Record, please see media release.

Renewal of registration explained in video

A video explaining the renewal of registration process for nurses and midwives was recently launched by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). Over 360,000 nurses and midwives are due to renew their general or non-practising registration with the NMBA by 31 May. NMBA Chair, Dr Lynette Cusack RN, said the video explained the renewal process and she urged, in particular, nurses and midwives who are soon to renew their registration for the first time to watch it. The video is available on the NMBA’s Registration renewal page. It can also be watched on the YouTube channel of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework

The tertiary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework has recently been released, which has been developed to address the variable nature and extent to which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health curriculum is being implemented by health professions and higher education providers. It provides a model with clear learning outcomes and associated capabilities that can be applied widely across tertiary learning contexts.

The Framework has been designed as a complete resource explaining why Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander curriculum should be implemented, how to do it successfully and how to develop strong links between higher education and the health sector to encourage and enable real change in health service delivery.

Recognising the critical role of accreditation authorities and professional regulation bodies, the Framework includes guidelines to assist these bodies in developing criteria to assess providers who will deliver the curricula.

Good health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people require health professionals to be both clinically and culturally capable. Ensuring all health care professionals develop their cultural capabilities before graduating will help to improve health care delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their communities.

International Council of Nurses 2017 Congress

The International Council of Nurses has put out a Call for Abstracts for the ICN Congress to be held in Barcelona, Spain, 27 May - 1 June 2017. With the theme “Nurses at the forefront transforming care”, the ICN 2017 Congress will provide a global platform for the dissemination of nursing knowledge and leadership across specialities, cultures and countries.

The extensive ICN 2017 Congress scientific programme will feature keynote and main session invited speakers as well as a wide range of concurrent sessions including dynamic papers accepted through our highly competitive abstract selection process.

To share your ideas, research and expertise on how to provide quality care, improve populations’ equity and access to health care or contribute to further advance nursing knowledge and practice, you are invited to submit an abstract.

The Call for Abstracts provides you with all necessary information to enable you to actively contribute to the scientific and educational content of the ICN 2017 Congress by submitting an abstract online. Please let your colleagues know about the Congress by disseminating the ICN 2017 Call for Abstracts throughout your networks.

Re-entry to the Register Midwife Accreditation Standards 2016

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMAC) has released the revised accreditation standards for re-entry to the register midwifery programs – sometimes called re-entry to practice midwifery programs. The revised standards replace the Standards and Criteria for the Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses: Re-Entry to the Register Standards – Midwives 2010. The ANMAC Re-entry to the Register Midwife Accreditation Standards are effective from 16 February 2016, which is the date the accreditation standards were approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. Please click here for further information.

Girls Make Your Move campaign

Girls Make Your Move is about inspiring, energising and empowering young women to be more active. Why girls? Research shows that when your women exercise they do so at a lower level of intensity and have higher amounts of sedentary time than young men. Additionally, young women face a number of additional barriers – girls don’t want to be judged or ridiculed, and they can be self-conscious about how they might look when exercising.

The Girls Make Your Move campaign has been inspired by Sport England’s successful ‘This Girl Can’ initiative which has already encouraged nearly 3 million women to be more active. The Girls Make Your Move campaign uses a range of campaign materials to engage with young
women including television, social media, print, out-of-home and digital. Please see the website for further information and to access the campaign materials.

**Supporting GPs and Practice Nurses in the Timely Diagnosis of Dementia project**

The Department of Health has awarded a grant to Alzheimer’s Australia for the Supporting GPs and Practice Nurses in the timely diagnosis of dementia project. The project will deliver accredited continuing professional development training on dementia assessment, diagnosis and management to 2,500 general practice nurses throughout Australia in partnership with the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA).

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare estimates that there are 353,800 people in Australia with dementia and this figure is projected to rise to around 900,000 by 2050. The rising numbers mean dementia will become more common in primary care settings however, presently, many people with early stage dementia are not diagnosed in primary care.

For more information on the workshops and online training visit [www.apna.asn.au](http://www.apna.asn.au) or contact Murphy Woods on 03 9669 7400 or [murphy.woods@apna.asn.au](mailto:murphy.woods@apna.asn.au).

**PBS reform**

Millions of prescriptions for common medicines, treating everything from cholesterol to high blood pressure, will drop in price for consumers by as much as $20.

In an Australian first, the price of a large proportion of expensive combination medicines and patent-protected drugs listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme will drop, in addition to the annual April changes.

For further information on these changes, please click here.

**World Health Day**

On 7 April we celebrate World Health Day 2016, which has the theme ‘Beat diabetes’. Approximately 1.7 million Australians and 350 million people worldwide live with diabetes, and the World Health Organization (WHO) believes this number is likely to more than double in the next 20 years.

Given the increase in diabetes rates, the goal of World Health Day 2016 is to both increase awareness about the rise of diabetes, and educate on steps that can be taken to diagnose, treat and care for people with diabetes.

More information on diabetes and World Health Day 2016 can be found on the [Diabetes Australia website](http://www.diabetes.org.au) and WHO’s [World Health Day 2016 website](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/world-health-day/).

**NMBA stakeholder forums**

As part of its engagement activities with nurses and midwives, the NMBA is hosting stakeholder information forums across Australia during 2016. These forums provide an opportunity for nurses and midwives to learn more about the changes to the NMBA’s registration standards, standards for practice and guidelines that will come into effect on 1 June 2016.

The first two forums were held at Cairns Hospital and Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane and were well attended.

The NMBA has scheduled the following events to take place during the first half of 2016. If you are a nurse or a midwife with a principal place of practice close to the locations below, the NMBA will email you an invitation with further details closer to the date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Ballarat</td>
<td>Ballarat Health Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 April</td>
<td>Bunbury</td>
<td>St John of God Hospital Bunbury</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 &amp; 15 April</td>
<td>Perth</td>
<td>Fiona Stanley Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 April</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Royal Melbourne Hospital</td>
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<td>9 May</td>
<td>Dubbo</td>
<td>Dubbo Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 May</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Royal Prince Alfred Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 May</td>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>Royal Darwin Hospital</td>
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More events are planned across Australia for the second half of 2016 – further details will be provided once the dates and venues are confirmed.

**Rural and remote roundtable**

Following the recent event in the APY lands I will be attending Minister Nash’s Rural and Remote Roundtable where the important issue of safety and security in rural and remote areas will be discussed. My sympathies go to the Woodford family.
Publications


Mailbox

If you have any feedback or would like to contact the Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, please email the new, central CNMO mailbox.