

Spoons are for ice-cream, not measuring medicines!



Assessing the suitability of oral dispensers in paediatrics from hospital to home.

What's the current state?

Dosing errors were reported with products on the state-wide hospital tender, prompting a fresh assessment of oral dosing devices supplied by manufacturers (previously audited in 2017). Similar errors occur in community where there are less options for consumers and pharmacists.

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) Targeted Medication Safety Best Practices for Hospitals recommends oral measuring devices use metric units of 'mL', easy-to-read printed text (not embossed) and marked 'FOR ORAL USE ONLY'.

2017 & 2021 Audit Objectives

Assess oral liquid measuring devices supplied by manufacturers including SAS medicines for:

1. compliance with ISMP recommendations
2. suitability to accurately measure 'usual' mg/kg doses across a range of paediatric ages/weights
3. ease of use, interpretation of markings

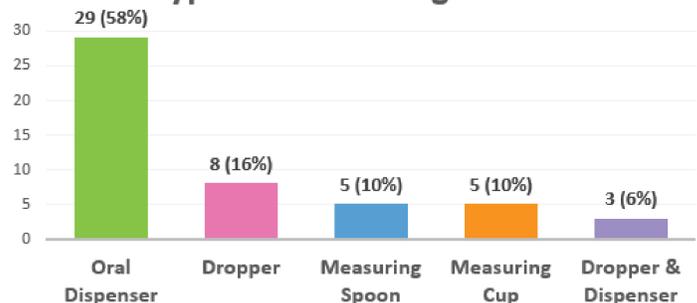
Results (2021 audit)

Fifty of 130 products (38%) had oral measuring devices supplied by manufacturers (53 devices reviewed). 87% displayed metric scale (84% were in mL only) however 6% displayed 'mg' units when doses are measured in mL.

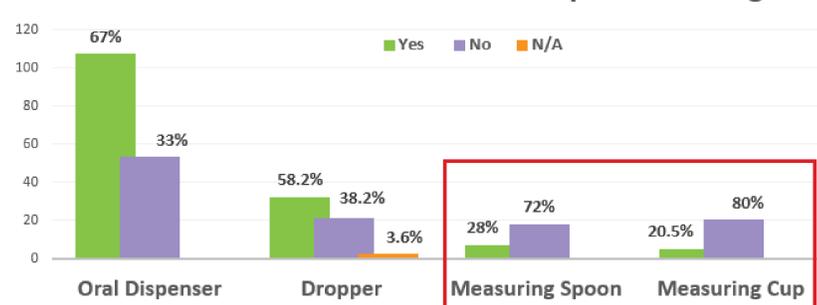
What's the Patient/Carer experience?



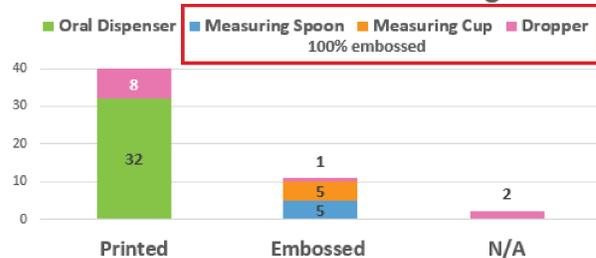
Type of Measuring Device



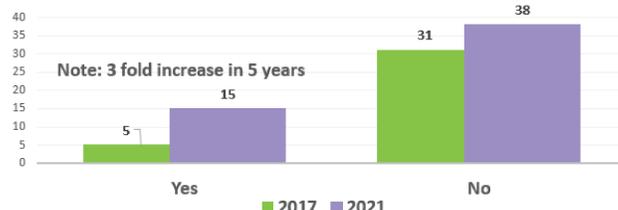
Accurate Measurements for Specified Weights



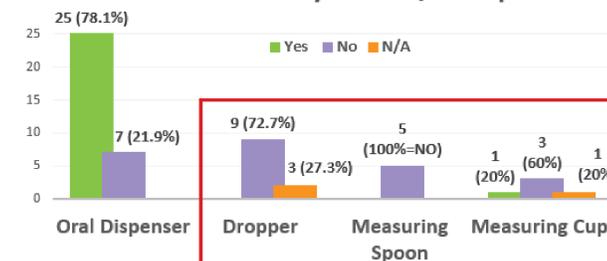
Embossed or Printed Markings



'Oral/Enteral Use Only' printed on Device



Device Easy to Use/Interpret



What's the next step RE this national safety issue?

RECONNECT
REDISCOVER
RESHAPE
REINVI GORATE
RECHARGE

pharmacy staff to the inherent risks with oral measuring devices supplied by manufacturers
pharmacist's vital role in assessing suitability of devices and counselling on how to use
tendering and TGA registration to assess the suitability of measuring devices against key criteria
consumers to seek appropriate devices with widespread education
this safety agenda! Collaborate across hospital and community pharmacy, industry and government to advocate for free and appropriate oral measuring devices for consumers of all ages!

The 'Ideal' Oral Dispenser



Specific for the medicine e.g. bottle adaptor supplied
No leuc-lock connection
Instructions on how to use
No error-prone abbreviations
Outside box identifies the device within

Metric units & only one unit of measure (e.g. mL not mL & mg)
'For Oral Use Only' stated on device
PRINTED, easy to read graduations, appropriate for doses required across all populations



Queensland Government