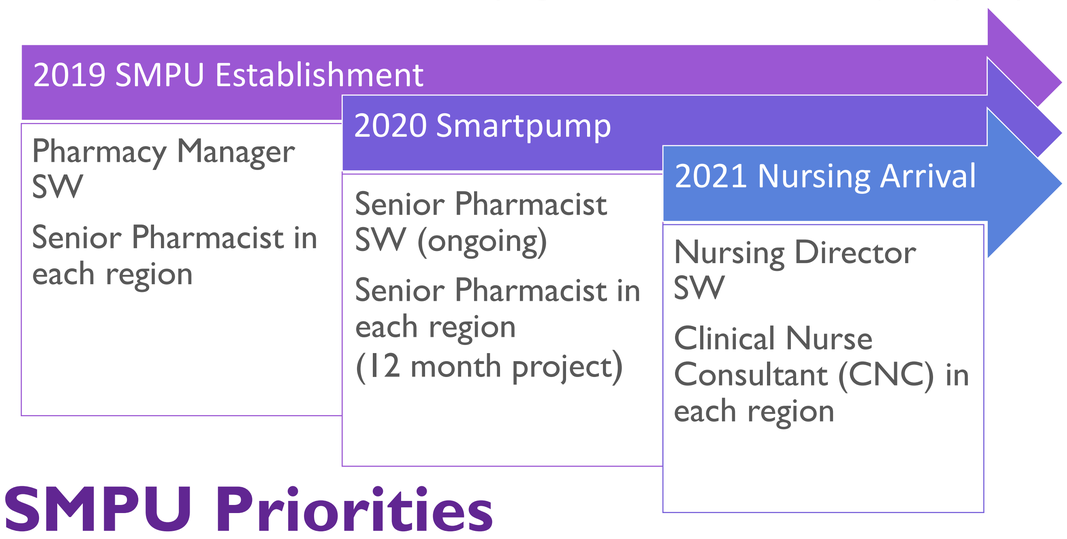
Establishing a statewide multidisciplinary medication safety TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More

L. Robertson[1], M. Rose[1], T. Simpson[1]
1. *Statewide Hospital Pharmacy, Tasmania*

Medication safety within the Tasmanian Health Service (THS) prior to 2019 was led by the three regional medication safety committees functioning independently:

- Focussing on local issues
- No dedicated resources
- Duplication across regions
- Unable to drive system-wide improvements

Establishment of the Safe Medication Unit (SMPU) provided a multidisciplinary team to tackle the medication safety agenda from a statewide (SW) perspective.



SMPU Priorities

- Support and progress work from Medication Safety Committees
- Accreditation readiness
- Medication incident review
- Addressing duplication i.e. consolidation of guidelines
- Statewide THS Medication Safety Webpage Development
- Development of online education resources, important to enable connection to nursing staff on shift work

Our Differences - Our Strength

Pharmacists traditionally hold medication safety portfolios, but errors occur across all clinical groups. Pharmacists and nurses view medication safety differently. The addition of nursing staff has brought a different skill set, perspective and enhanced opportunities for system improvement.

Work undertaken has highlighted our differences in thinking how we approach improvement strategies for patient care and medication safety.

"Were we hitting the target when managed by a single discipline?"

Inclusion of medical staff into the team is on the plan, in the interim this expertise is being sourced ad hoc. The value of expansion to complete clinical triad offers further potential for greater clinician engagement in medication safety initiatives.

Contact Information

Safe Medication Practice Unit
ths.medicationsafety@ths.tas.gov.au

SMPU Achievements

Potassium

Significant reduction in concentrated potassium ampoule usage

Strategies include new protocol and education resources (including online module)

Insulin

Charts - subcutaneous insulin for maternity and paediatrics; IV insulin

Standardised prefilled insulin syringe for IV use

Hyperkalaemia kits

Ward Posters

User Applied Labelling

Hazardous Medicines

Know your Insulins

IV Electrolyte Replacement

Chlorhexidine Allergy

Development of statewide protocol and education resources for staff and patients

SmartPump Drug Library

Currently 85% complete (1000 drug protocols) with compliance 95%

Consolidation of Guidelines

15+ guidelines from regional to statewide - Imperative for SmartPump drug libraries,

VTE awareness

Month long campaign targeting patient engagement and staff awareness including online education resources, promotional material and patient information brochure

Having a small team of nurses provided access to an "army" of nurses to assist with medication safety initiatives and improve patient care