

# Development of an Opioid Safety Strategy to Minimise Opioid Related Adverse Events (ORADEs) – USING OPIOIDS WISELY

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## Background

Tackling medication safety is the 3<sup>rd</sup> WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge. Opioids are high risk medicines with potentially preventable adverse drug events if safe prescribing practices are in place. There is:

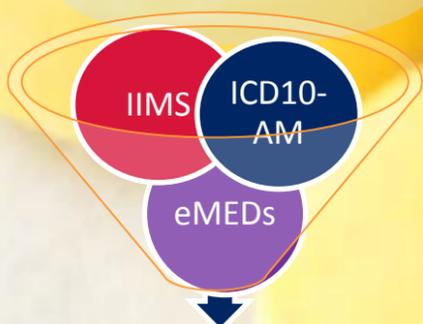
- Increasing concern over rates of opioid related adverse events (ORADEs) and medication incidents in hospitals which do not appear to be lessening despite numerous initiatives at facility, district and ministry level.
- Increasing awareness of numbers of deaths due to prescribed opioid use in the community – **Opioid Crisis**.
- No standardised approach to opioid use across SESLHD.

## Project Aims

The SESLHD Inspiring Ideas Challenge (TIIC) supplied project funding to implement an opioid safety strategy to reduce numbers of ORADEs in SESLHD.

## Proposed plan

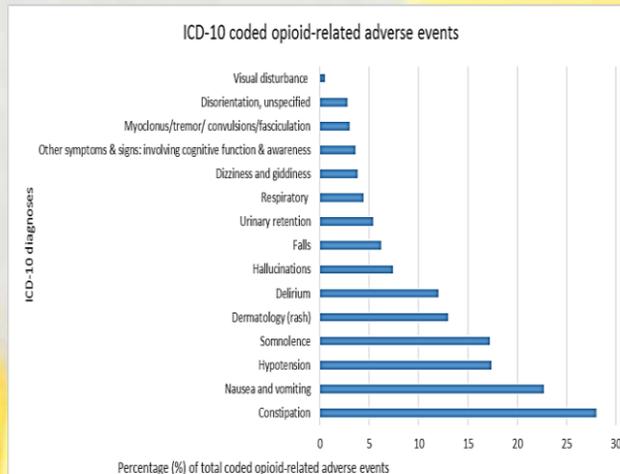
Capitalising on the recent introduction of eMEDs in SESLHD, the aim was to develop an electronic screening tool or risk matrix to identify patients at high risk of ORADEs, enabling focused pharmacist interventions to minimise ORADE numbers. Evaluation of IIMs and HIE ICD10-AM coded data would identify incidence and nature of ORADEs in SESLHD.



Can ORADEs be identified AND linked to individual drugs?

To develop an education strategy and resources to ensure medical, nursing and pharmacy staff have satisfactory level of knowledge to promote optimal prescribing, administration and monitoring of opioids.  
To develop comprehensive easy to understand patient information.  
To incorporate Opioid Analgesic Plans in Discharge Summaries to facilitate communication with GP's.

## ICD10-AM ORADEs



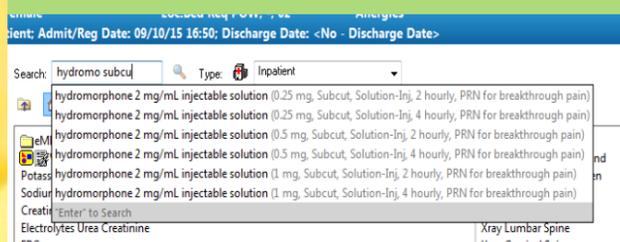
Incidence of ORADEs coded as occurring in patients in SESLHD June 2016-November 2017 (n=776)

## Unforeseen Findings

Coincidental findings throughout the project included the potential influence of eMEDs on opioid prescribing:

- Hydromorphone order sentences
- Lack of visibility of Coloxyl & Senna<sup>®</sup>
- Constipation is preventable ORADE

Now addressed at local level SESLHD



## Project Outcomes

### ICD10-AM Coded Data analysed and linked to Medical Record Number

- Identified nature and incidence of ORADEs in SESLHD

### IIMs data analysed

- Hydromorphone risks highlighted in older patients with renal impairment

### Education Strategy and Resources

- Developed Opioid Tips, Take 5 Education Presentations, Posters

### Prototype screening tool developed – dynamic report run through eMEDs

- Based on risk factors identified in literature review – currently being piloted

### Opioid Guidelines in development

- Prescribing, administration, monitoring, pharmaceutical review

### Escalation of Opioid Discharge Management plans to eHealth

- Advocacy to ACI

### Patient Resources in development

## Education Strategy

### Hydromorphone Speaking the truth and busting the myths

USING OPIOIDS WISELY  
A SESLHD medication safety initiative funded by the TIIC program



A targeted education strategy was implemented for all junior medical and nursing staff, based on a five slide format with the aim of enabling a train the trainer approach. Top Tips for Opioid Prescribing proposed – Opioids and Constipation was completed and others are in development. A comprehensive education resource – Pharmaceutical Review of Opioids was developed and utilised as part of an extensive education program for SESLHD Pharmacists in conjunction with the Opioid Screening Tool.

## Where to now?

Health Professional Education

Resident App

Opioid Screening Tool Integration into workflow

Ongoing ICD10 data collection

Opioid Discharge Guidelines and Communication with GPs

Patient feedback: Discharge opioids and counselling

ADR Recording Templates

District-wide, multidisciplinary opioid governance

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