

# It's time to re-design safe prescribing education for Digital Hospitals!

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## Background

In March 2017, the Princess Alexandra Hospital introduced a fully integrated, electronic medicines management (eMM) system. eMM offers numerous quality and safety benefits, however it also introduces new risks. The eMM has required a shift away from established and safe prescribing guidelines.

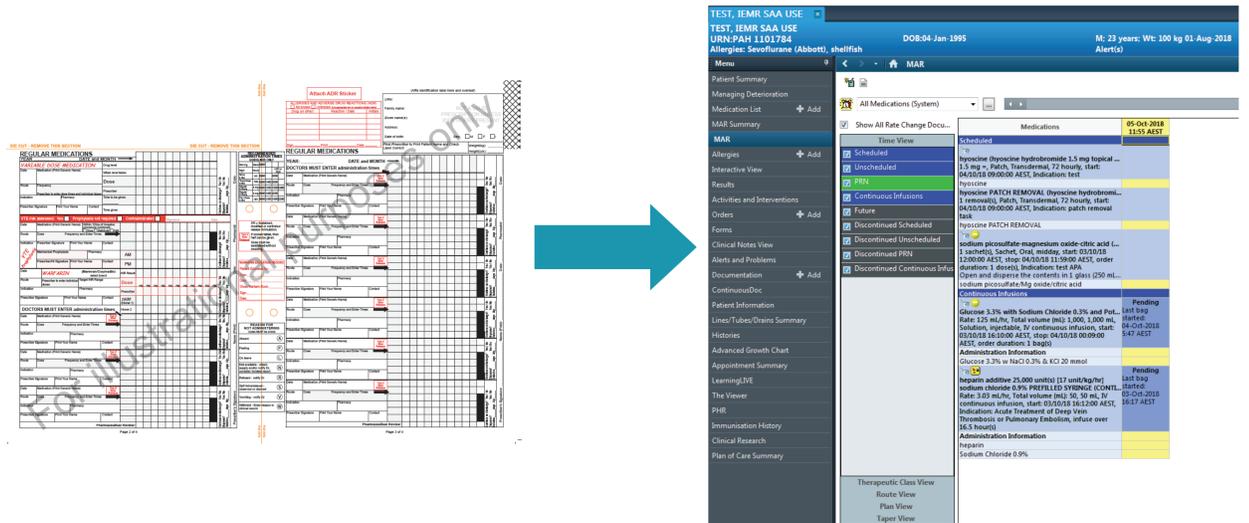


Figure 1. In March 2017, PAH transitioned from a paper based prescribing system to an electronic medication management system.

## Aim

To describe the implementation of a new safe prescribing curriculum for eMM at a tertiary hospital.

## Method

A think tank was assembled to explore the risk and medication errors related to the introduction of eMM found in the literature. The think tank consisted of a team of pharmacists, nurses, digital and educational experts who developed a collaborative plan to deliver digital prescribing training to new prescribers.

## Results

There were four key findings from the literature review. Firstly, transitioning from paper to eMM can potentially reduce patient harm and improve effectiveness. Secondly, eMM has the potential to introduce new areas of risk/harm. Thirdly, many traditional safe prescribing practices are no longer relevant. Finally, hospitals using eMM are required to design a new curriculum on safe prescribing.

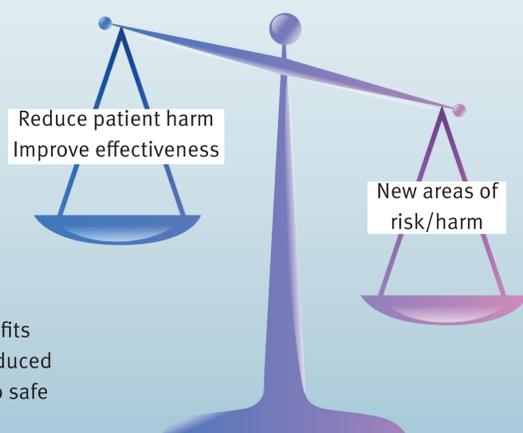


Figure 2. Despite the many benefits of a digital hospital, newly introduced risks resulted in major change to safe prescribing practices.

Following these findings, a new curriculum consisting of a series of didactic interprofessional teaching, experiential learning, peer-shadowing and learner-led workshops was developed. The new curriculum was an iterative process delivered by a multidisciplinary team. Key themes addressed in the new curriculum included alert fatigue, over-dependence on technology, selection error, communication pitfalls and transferring between hybrid systems.

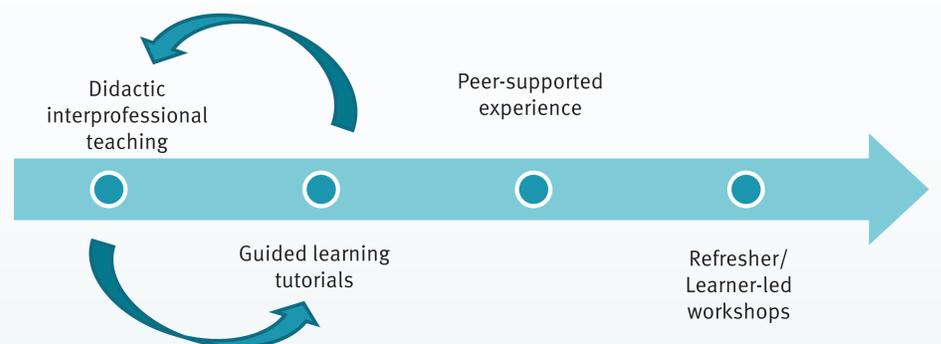


Figure 3. Schematic of the new eMM curriculum designed to educate prescribers using the eMM system.

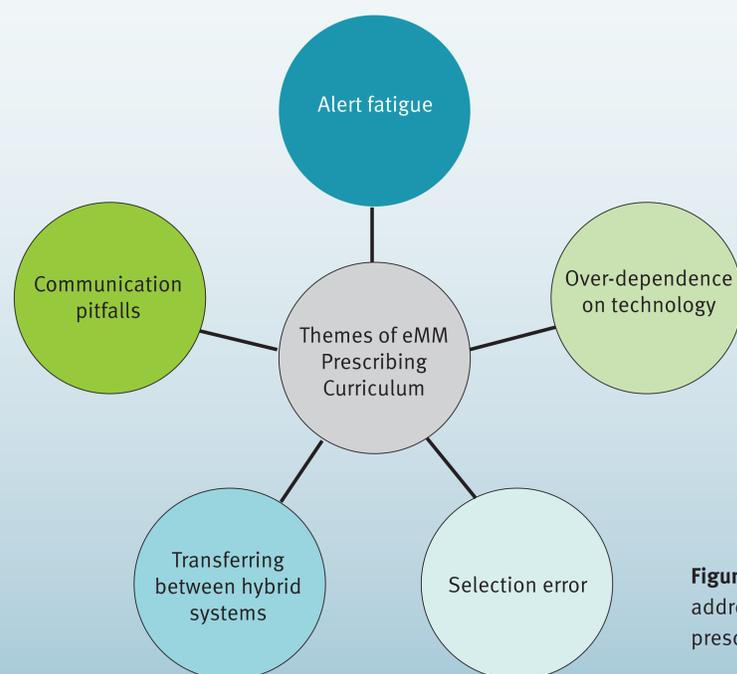


Figure 4. Key themes addressed in the new eMM prescribing curriculum

The curriculum was a success. 95% of prescribers felt confident with safe prescribing practices at the conclusion of the program.

## Conclusion

Multidisciplinary input was essential in the development and delivery of this new curriculum. Medication safety themes in a Digital Hospital varied significantly from those traditionally found with paper-based systems. An incremental multidimensional teaching curriculum led to a high proportion of reported prescribing confidence.