

Media release

Tuesday 12 May 2020

COVID-19 updates in leading medicines resource

A new resource on optimal management of injectable medicines for Australians with COVID-19 disease has been released by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) as part of an update to its bestselling *Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook* (AIDH) this week.

The new section of the leading 'yellow book', now live through online suppliers and via the [SHPA website](#), lists how key medicines and important medical equipment can be managed or prioritised as part of Australia's preparations and national response to COVID-19.

SHPA President Peter Fowler says the new AIDH8 COVID-19 resource supports excellent medicines safety in the event of a surge in cases in Australian hospitals.

'Informed by the experiences of hospital pharmacists overseas SHPA has added compatibility information for medicines likely to be used in the management of COVID-19 patients in intensive care units, resources to assist with planning in the event of an infusion pump shortage, a quick guide to identifying medicines that may be given by IV injection and a list of highest priority medicines for administration via an infusion pump.

'As with every monograph in AIDH8, we are ensuring the latest knowledge is made available to as many hospitals pharmacists and their colleagues as possible, to uphold safe medicines practice in this uncertain time.'

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says the update to AIDH8 comes at a critical time for medicines safety in Australia.

'With the relaxing of restrictions across all states and territories, it is important to remember that while the immediate threat of coronavirus has eased, it has not abated.

'We will continue to see community transmission, outbreaks of case clusters and, unfortunately, COVID-19 related hospitalisations.

'By including new guidance specific to COVID-19 care, SHPA is ensuring our indispensable AIDH resource continues to provide up-to-date and relevant information for health professionals, ensuring the safe and quality use of medicines in all care settings across Australia.'

Released in February, [AIDH8](#) features information on more than 500 injectable medicines, including more than 50 new medicines, over 150 monographs with paediatric information and 21 antimicrobial monographs with stability information for Community-Based Parenteral Anti-Infective Therapy (CoPAT).

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About SHPA

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national, professional, for-purpose organisation for leading pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working across Australia's health system, advocating for their pivotal role improving the safety and quality of medicines use. Embedded in multidisciplinary medical teams and equipped with exceptional medicines management expertise, SHPA members are progressive advocates for clinical excellence, committed to evidence-based practice and passionate about patient care.

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