



6 May 2015

Adjunct Professor Debora Picone AM
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

By email: medsafety@safetyandquality.gov.au

Dear Adjunct Professor Picone,

Consultation of the National guidelines for on-screen display of clinical medicines information

Thank you for inviting the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) to review the draft *National guidelines for on-screen display of clinical medicines information* and respond to the current consultation process.

The ANMF is the largest professional and industrial organisation in Australia for the nursing and midwifery professions, with a membership of over 240,000 nurses, midwives and assistants in nursing. We therefore have a genuine concern for all matters relating to the prescribing, dispensing, administration and disposal of medicines, as well as for formats for communication of medicines information.

In addition, the ANMF has supported the concept of a personal electronic health record since its inception, with the obvious benefits of access to more timely and accurate information for all health care professionals. The Federation's support has included working with the Commission and other groups to ensure the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record system (PCEHR) can deliver on its aims for improvements to both the health of our community and the practice of nurses and midwives.

We note the draft guidelines have been developed under the quality and safety project for the PCEHR. Having reviewed the clinical guidelines document the ANMF considers the guidelines are comprehensive and will provide "standardised, consistent on-screen display of clinical medicines information". The guidelines achieve the stated aim of describing consistent, unambiguous terms and processes for on-screen display of medicines information to be used in clinical information systems. This is essential for patient safety.

A question arose from within our membership regarding the suggested changes under *9.2 Acceptable terminology for on-screen presentation*. Specific reference is made to changes to the "historical terms" such as *mané* and *nocté*, which would appear on screen as 'in the morning' and 'at night' respectively. While there is no argument about making these changes, we seek clarification as to whether there is intention to recommend these changes in terminology are followed through to regular paper based

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ANMF Journals

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recording and prescribing – that is, standardise terminology across all forms of communication on medicines.

It will be important for consideration be given to awareness raising initiatives on the on-screen display of medicines information, targeted for the end-user health care professionals involved in using clinical information systems for medicines management.

We look forward to being able to similarly review the on-screen display of consumer medicines information, in due course.

Should you require further information on this matter, please contact Julianne Bryce, Senior Federal Professional Officer, ANMF Federal Office, Melbourne on 03 96028500 or julianne@anmf.org.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Thomas', written in a cursive style.

Lee Thomas
Federal Secretary