

**While you look after
your patients, we look
after you.**



Greetings from our CEO



Dear Members and Friends of Medisec,

In the November edition of MedZine, we consider the issue of patient confidentiality.

We would like to extend a well deserved congratulations to GP trainee Dr Kate Vernon for her prize in the Medisec Quality & Safety Awards at the ICGP Trainee Conference in Galway; again the quality of her presentation bodes well for the future of general practice.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Ruth Shipsey".



Medisec ICGP Trainee Quality & Safety Awards 2019

Congratulations to Dr Kate Vernon for her runner up prize in the Medisec Quality & Safety Awards at the ICGP Trainee Conference in Galway. Her paper was entitled:

'An Audit of Vitamin B12 Testing and Management in General Practice'



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Doctor-Patient Confidentiality

Here, we discuss the time old principle of doctor-patient confidentiality.

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Near Miss Incident - A Member's Story

A member has contacted us on an anonymous basis to share their version of a 'near miss' incident that happened to them.

We would be delighted to hear from you should you wish to share a near miss incident with us.

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Member's Query

Parent seeking information from GP on Adult Child



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Medisec's Clinical Corner

Recall of Ranitidine and resulting shortage:

Our Senior Clinical Risk Advisor highlights the advice issued by the Medicines Management Programme in the face of countrywide shortages of Ranitidine.

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News for Members

Important Reminder

We receive many queries asking whether a GP is obliged to enter details of the patient's family history on a PMA?

If a GP has information about a member of the patient's family and that family member is identifiable, then the GP should have the consent of that person in order to include their medical information on the PMA.

It is recommended therefore to leave it to the patient themselves to offer their family history to the insurance company, if requested. When completing the PMA, the GP should cross out the section entitled "Family History" and clearly mark it "Third Party Information- Patient to Supply Information"; the patient will then provide information relating to "Family History" when completing their section of the form.



By adopting the above approach, the GP is not releasing any third party information to the insurance company nor are they confirming that there is or is not relevant family history to disclose; they are putting that responsibility on the patient. The GP should inform the patient of the need to disclose all relevant information to the insurance company and to act in utmost good faith.

News for Members



"Just do this one thing today"

A bite sized risk reduction exercise for the busy GP:-

Monitoring Potentially Toxic Long Term Medications

Consider performing an audit of patients on a potentially toxic medication:-

- Are your patients up to date with their bloods or other monitoring?
- Have they been warned about possible significant side effects?
- Would a patient information leaflet be of assistance?

Medications which frequently cause problems can include:-

- **Lithium** (Lithium Toxicity - remember the augmenting effect of NSAIDS and Diuretics)
- **Methotrexate** (neutropenia)
- **Plaquenil** (maculopathy – ensure patient has a routine eye examination)
- **Nitrofurantoin** (pulmonary fibrosis, interstitial pneumonitis – beware the patient with chronic cough)

Members please take note that this is not an exhaustive list of potentially toxic medications!



Best Practice Conference

- Our annual **Best Practice Conference** will be held in the Conrad Hotel Dublin on **22 February 2020**. We would love to see you in February so please save the date and mark your calendars; it promises to be a very interesting day!

Get in touch

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any ideas or suggestions for work that you would like to see us do. We love to hear from our members!

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Monday – Friday for all your advisory,
membership, ethical or medico legal
queries.



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[@WomenInSTEM22](#) [@AccessMedIre](#) [@UCC](#) [@ucddublin](#) [@nuigalway](#) Excellent line-up.
Well done to [@aobluesasame](#) flying the flag for medicine 😊

[39 minutes ago](#) · [reply](#).

Excellent line-up. Wishing you every success with this event [#BeaGP](#) <https://t.co/jqclPPX0o6>

[2 hours ago](#) · [reply](#).

