**International Medication Safety Network (IMSN)**

**Neuromuscular Blocker Safety Interest Group (NMB SIG)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 8 am EST

**Attendees:**

|  |  |  |
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| **Attended** | **NMB SIG member** | **Associated country/organization** |
|  | Diana Shipp | Australia  The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care |
| X | Ayako Fukushima | World Health Organization (WHO) |
|  | Alem Zekarias | Uppsala Monitoring Centre (UMC) |
|  | Maria Jose Otero | ISMP Spain |
| X | Mary Baker | Pfizer |
| X | Wessam Mohammed El Kassem | Qatar  Medication Safety & Quality Center (MSQC) |
| X | Etienne Schmitt | France  Prescrire' Preventing the Preventable Programme |
|  | Geraldine Creaton | Ireland  Irish Medication Safety Network |
| X | Marie-Blanche Valnet Rabier | France  French Network of Pharmacovigilance Centers |
|  | Kristy Shortall-Cain | Canada  Health Canada |
|  | Mario Borges | ISMP Brasil |
|  | Kirla Detoni | ISMP Brasil |
| X | Sylvia Hyland | ISMP Canada |
| X | Michael Hamilton | ISMP Canada |
|  | Dianah Awaludin | Singapore  Singapore National Medication Safety Taskforce |
| X | Pamela Bertoldo | Argentina  Asociacion Argentina de Farmaceuticos de Hospital |
|  | Viviana Pazos | Argentina  Asociacion Argentina de Farmaceuticos de Hospital |
|  | Mike Cohen | ISMP USA (CO-CHAIR) |
| X | Christina Michalek | ISMP USA (CO-CHAIR) |
| X | Brian Edwards | International Society of Pharmacovigilance  ISoP |
|  | Angela Caro Rojas | International Society of Pharmacovigilance  ISoP |
|  | Elizabeth Rebello | US  Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) |
|  | Paulo Almeida | Portugal  Associação Portuguesa de Farmacêuticos Hospitalares (APFH) |
| X | Renata Barbosa | Portugal  Associação Portuguesa de Farmacêuticos Hospitalares (APFH) |
| X | Lateef Jamal Al Marzooqi | United Arab Emirates  Department of Health Abu Dhabi |
| X | Ghadeer Banasser | Saudi Arabia  Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) |
|  | Hani Alhamdan | Saudi Arabia  Saudi Medication Safety Center |
| X | Khalid Rajhi | Saudi Arabia  Saudi Medication Safety Center |
| X | Nissreen Althaqufi | Saudi Arabia  Saudi Medication Safety Center |
|  | Ismael Basto Benitez | Colombia  ACQFH Colombian Society of Hospital Pharmacists |
| X | Claudia L. Pulido | Colombia |
|  | Michael Tatley | New Zealand  New Zealand National Medication Safety Programme |
|  | Jo Wyeth | US Food and Drug Administration |
|  | Keith Wieland | US Volunteer |
|  | David U | Canada  IMSN General Secretary |
|  | Lauren Lobaugh | US Anesthesiologist |

1. Welcome
2. Presentation
   1. Ghadeer Banaseer – Saudi FDA (slides posted to IMSN NMB SIG site)
   2. Presentation questions and comments:
      * Labeling of NMB caps: Saudi Arabian FDA requires flip cap labeling for neuromuscular blockers; there is no requirement to also label the vial ferrules (as per USP Chapter 7)
      * Barcoding: In Saudi Arabia barcoding is used for tracking purposes and it’s use for medication administration is not as prevalent; in many instances, the barcode on medication is not located on the immediate package but instead on the outer packaging
      * Event reports: in general, reported events are more practice related issues
      * Ready-to-administer syringes: there were questions and discussion from the group related to use of ready-to-use syringes; they are not widely available in Saudi Arabia; Aguettant is a pharmaceutical company that makes and distributes prefilled, ready-to-use medication syringes in Europe; these syringes are available in France; these should be recommended for administration; it was mentioned that anesthetists have an important role in helping to make industry changes; based on their input, they have been able to drive labeling changes
      * Harmonization and reach: the group discussed how we can address harmonization either within a region (e.g., middle east [Saudi FDA], Europe) or globally. Some questions were brought forth regarding who monitors these safety changes. It was suggested to reach out to point persons for the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authority (ICMRA) (guidance) and/or the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) (harmonization) to inform them of our work and welcome them to join our group. Additionally, publicizing the final recommendations from this group beyond just the IMSN website was discussed as a way to broaden awareness and the reach of the group’s work.
3. Future meeting dates
   1. January 10, 2024 8 am EST
   2. January 18, 2024 8 am EST
   3. January 23, 2024 8 am EST
   4. We have committed presenters for each of these dates. Some members are still considering what they may be able to share related to NMB use.
4. Next steps
   1. Christina Michalek will send out the meeting invitations for each of the three scheduled future meetings.