

NEWSLETTER – December 2021



New Registrar

You may have had the pleasure of speaking to or emailing our new **Registrar Lynn Ayers** who commenced with the Authority in mid August 2021. As you can imagine the role of Registrar is a complex one and Lynn has been on a very steep learning curve. She has taken it all in her stride and we are moving ahead in leaps and bounds.

Lynn has previously worked in the travel industry, government and Ahpra and brings a broad range of experience and knowledge to the role.

As always, the Registrar's role is part-time but Lynn is very approachable and responsive.

Sharps Containers

The Australian Guidelines for the Prevent and Control of Infection in Healthcare suggest placement of a sharps container a minimum of **1300mm off the ground**. This is an important safety measure and reduces the risk of needle stick injury or contamination. You may consider moving the sharps container to a bench during vaccination, but it must be stored at least 1300mm above the floor at all other times.

Refrigerator monitoring

It is an essential requirement of the National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive for 5' that every refrigerator that stores vaccines must contain a **data logger**. The Authority strongly recommends the purchase of a data logger that will send real time alerts to a responsible person upon any temperature breach. Once installed, a data logger must be checked at least **once each week**. This activity does not negate your responsibility to manually check and record the temperatures of all refrigerators **twice daily**. The Authority reminds you that once the min and max temperatures have been recorded the 'memory' should be **cleared**. If you are unsure how to do this, please review your manual or contact the manufacturer.

Anaphylaxis kit

The Authority would like to encourage you to carefully consider the storage location of your anaphylaxis kit. This kit must contain at least three vials of adrenaline which is a schedule 3 medicine and therefore has specific storage requirements. If you store your anaphylaxis kit in the dispensary, it must be taken to the vaccination room on each occasion that a vaccination is performed. If you choose to store it in your approved vaccination space, the room must be locked when not in use and the key must be in the possession or control of the pharmacist. It is essential that all staff potentially involved in your emergency response are aware of the storage location of your anaphylaxis kit.

Alcohol in pharmacies

As Christmas is approaching, we take this opportunity to remind you that it is not permitted to make alcohol available, for sale or give away on pharmacy premises-even at Christmas shopping nights for customers.

The Tasmanian Pharmacy Authority would like to take this opportunity wishing everyone a safe and happy festive season and New Year

