

Succinct Medication Knowledge in the Clinical Workflow is a vital aid to clinicians to help avoid potential medication errors.

Users of MIMS medicines information are most familiar with our medications reference resources such as MIMS Online, eMIMS or our print publications. These MIMS reference sources provide full product information, abbreviated product information, drug/drug interactions and other indispensable resources that assist in the prescribing, dispensing and administering of medications.

Medicines reference resources are essential to safer prescribing; however, a multi-faceted approach is required to reduce the current rate of medication errors that occur. Medication errors prevent the delivery of the best possible health outcome for patients. It is now well understood that to realise a significant reduction in errors, concise and targeted clinical decision support should also be available directly in the clinical workflow.

A Comprehensive Medication Knowledge that utilises terminologies such as SNOMED CT and the Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT) is the fuel for the engine that delivers in-context, patient-specific clinical decision support directly into the workflow. The era of the paperless Electronic Medical Record (EMR) is coming. Machine computable Medicines Knowledge (such as MIMS Integrated) powers workflow rules in the EMR. Decision support will guide the clinician to ensure safe medication dosing and administration, relevant drug interactions and side effects are accounted for and also provide succinct guidance on avoiding potential hazards from the ordered medications. The automatically delivered clinician guidance will take into account the drug administration route and the patient's age and gender as well as any other conditions such as renal or hepatic impairment.

In Australia, the nation's leading private hospital providers and each state's public health system have prioritised the urgent need to reduce errors. They have developed visionary paperless medication management (EMM) strategies that, by the end of this decade, will significantly address problems that contribute to poor patient outcomes. A new generation of information technology solutions that allow efficient and safe drug prescribing and administration are being implemented. Systems can intelligently filter patient-specific drug information based on the episode of care and the overall desired health outcome. Complex decision support including dose range checking, drug to drug and drug to food interactions, drug allergy checking, flagging of duplicate therapy and contraindications and precautions are all essential components of the solutions currently being designed.

MIMS information and knowledge are powering these emerging solutions. Today we are working with each state and private health provider to plan for the delivery of the electronic clinical decision support with an emphasis on supporting clinicians with the most credible, relevant, and interoperable medicines knowledge available.