Appendix 3: Criteria for Drug Guideline Development

Each Drug Guideline requires Medical, Nursing and Pharmacy time and input to produce and critically review a quality document that is useful to BHS staff. Not all drugs require a Drug Guideline, and the following list of criteria assists in the process of targeting drugs for which a Drug Guideline is required.

Drug Guidelines are not generally required for

- Drugs with simple bolus dosing (all routes of administration), where the dosing information is readily available from a standard drug information text (e.g. MIMS, Australian Medicines Handbook, Therapeutic Guidelines, Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook). (e.g. ceftriaxone).
- Drugs run as IV or subcut infusions with simple regimes, where the dosing information is readily available from a standard drug information text (e.g. pantoprazole).

Drugs Guidelines MAY be required for

- ***Drugs defined as high risk (see below), for which clear administration instructions would reduce the risk.***
- Drugs with conflicting, unclear or unavailable information provided by standard drug information texts (e.g. calcium gluconate IV).
- Drugs with simple bolus dosing or simple infusion regimes that require monitoring not outlined adequately in standard drug information texts (e.g. adenosine).
- Drugs run as IV or subcut infusions with complex dosing regimes (e.g. adrenaline).
- Drugs used at BHS with different indication/s to standard drug information texts (e.g. clonidine).
- Occasionally oral drugs with complex regimes/monitoring (e.g. warfarin).

Once a drug potentially requiring a Drug Guideline (DRG) has been identified, the establishment of the new document can be requested via the GovDoc system. This will then send an email request to the DRG superuser within the Pharmacy Department for approval. At this point the Pharmacy Department can also assist in reviewing the above criteria to determine if the Drug Guideline is required. Following this, consultation with the relevant Clinical Director/Head of Department should occur prior to developing the Drug Guideline. Drug Guidelines are ratified by the Medication Safety and Therapeutics Committee.