CONTENT OF INJECTABLE MEDICINES GUIDE WEBSITE

What does the website include?
The Injectable Medicines Guide website contains monographs which describe the most appropriate method of preparation and administration of medicines administered by the intravenous route with the exception of cytotoxics.

Are paediatric and neonatal issues addressed?
Yes. The website is not an adult-only initiative. Monographs contain information pertinent to children if administration is different from adults. The Neonatal and Paediatric pharmacists group are currently reviewing all monographs to confirm that they are fit for purpose for paediatric areas and a separate paediatric IV section will shortly appear on the website.

Website income and monographs past their review date
The small income the website receives from organisations who require access to the website but are unable to update monographs has been used to employ a pharmacist, Alyson Winter alyson.winter@nhs.net on a part time basis to help with the co-ordination of website production.
The website is now very widely used across the NHS in clinical areas and it is very important that the monographs it contains are up to date. Part of Alyson's role is to monitor which hospitals are falling behind with their obligations for writing and updating monographs and the list of these hospitals is fairly long at the moment. Some hospitals are several years behind. In the interests of fairness to those hospitals who do meet their commitment, we are having to be tougher and sadly may have to look at suspending access where there continues to be little engagement with the process despite reminders.
It may be possible for one of the medusa team to update monographs on behalf of contributing organisations who are currently experiencing difficulty in fulfilling their commitment. Please contact me if you would like to consider this option. Please remember that if you take up this option you will be charged an appropriate subscription relating to the bed size of your organisation.

Internet access to medusa website
It has come to our attention that some organisations have added the website to their local IT systems in such a way that it can be accessed via Google without the need of a user name and password. Please can you check that this is not the case for your organisation because, as you know due to a lack of central funding for the website it can only be accessed by organisations who either contribute to its production or pay a subscription.

Are there any non-IV monographs?
Yes. Mental health pharmacists launched monographs for medicines administered by IM injection which are used in mental health on the website in October 2010.
Local provision should be made for information about high risk non-IVs.

Ocular injections
Jacqueline Jones Jacqueline.Jones@nuh.nhs.uk is co-ordinating the production of monographs for ocular injections for the website on behalf of the UK Ophthalmic Pharmacist's Group.
ACCESS TO THE INJECTABLE MEDICINES GUIDE

**NHSnet websites**
The main website: [http://medusa.wales.nhs.uk/](http://medusa.wales.nhs.uk/) (editing is only on this version)

**Internet website**
Internet mirror website [http://www.injguide.nhs.uk/](http://www.injguide.nhs.uk/)

Can I see a demonstration version of the Injectable Medicines Guide before I subscribe or contribute?
Yes. Current demonstration details:-
Username: ivgdemo Password: bolus7

Can the Injectable Medicines Guide website be accessed without the need for a user name and password?
Yes. Once the website is installed on a local Trust network it can be made available without the need to log in. Internet access to the website, however, requires a user name and password.

COMMERCIAL MEDICINES UNIT (DoH) INVOLVEMENT WITH THE INJECTABLE MEDICINES GUIDE PROJECT

How is the Commercial Medicines Unit involved?
The Injectable Medicines Guide group and the Commercial Medicines Unit are working together to ensure that appropriate information is added to the website on all injectable products purchased.

UKMI INVOLVEMENT WITH THE INJECTABLE MEDICINES GUIDE PROJECT

How is UKMI involved?
All new and updated monographs are checked for accuracy and clarity by a regional Medicines Information Centre.

INFUSION CALCULATIONS

Does the website include help with drug infusion rate calculations?
Yes. As monographs are being updated example calculations are added for drugs administered by continuous infusion.
An electronic drug infusion rate calculator is included for medicines given by continuous infusion.

LOCAL IV GUIDES AND TALOIRING THE WEBSITE FOR LOCAL USE

Is it possible to ‘link’ local IV guides and guidelines to the Injectable Medicines Guide website?
Yes. Organisations can link locally-produced IV medicine-related guidelines to individual monographs to create a version of the website more suitable for local needs.
For organisations that have their own locally prepared injectable medicines guide it is possible to add the local guide to the website in such a way that it can be viewed with an appropriate link in place to the relevant website monograph.
See the demonstration version of the Injectable Medicines Guide for more information.
Can we select which monograph headings are available to website users?
Yes. The website can be tailored to local needs. For example, a ‘condensed’ version of a monograph can be created. The condensed version includes those sections that are absolutely essential for safe administration of the medicine, but access to the full monograph can still be easily obtained.
Monographs can be printed if access to computers is limited in the clinical area. The monograph sections included in any printed versions can also be adapted to local requirements; the condensed or the full version of the monograph can be printed.
See the demonstration version of the Injectable Medicines Guide for more information.

PRODUCT RISK ASSESSMENT

Is the NPSA Product risk assessment process covered in the Injectable Medicines Guide?
Yes. As monographs are being updated an example product risk assessment for a commonly-used product is being added. Be aware that this is an example only and may not always be relevant because of differences in practice.

AVAILABILITY OF THE INJECTABLE MEDICINES GUIDE TO GROUPS OTHER THAN NHS HOSPITAL TRUSTS

Is the website available in the community?
Yes. It is unlikely that community pharmacists have the facilities to write complete monographs but access via subscription can be arranged.

Is the website available to private hospitals?
Yes. Private hospitals can subscribe to the internet version of the Injectable Medicines Guide.

Is the website available to manufacturers?
Yes. Manufacturers can apply for a password which will allow them access, free of charge, to the monographs of drugs that they make. Manufacturers are asked to comment on draft monographs before they are published on the website and to provide the Injectable Medicines Guide group with access to an electronic version of relevant SPC’s and PIL’s.

TRAINING

Is there a training package available for the Injectable Medicines Guide?
Yes but only available using a ‘write access – authors’ password. See the ‘Documents and links’ page of the website.

INJECTABLE MEDICINES GUIDE FUNDING

Is there any central funding for the Injectable Medicines Guide project?
No sustainable source of continuous funding is currently available. This is why the database is currently password protected and only available to organisations that write monographs for the Injectable Medicines Guide or those that subscribe. Free access for everyone would remove the incentive to contribute.
COLLABORATION WITH THE INTENSIVE CARE SOCIETY

Work is in progress to standardise concentrations of drug infusions used in critical care areas. The Intensive Care Society has issued a statement supporting the adoption of standard concentrations for sixteen medications commonly used in critical care and monographs reflect these concentrations. Further information can be found on the Intensive care society website.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE INJECTABLE MEDICINES GUIDE
In the first instance, contact gill.bullock@imperial.nhs.uk