



20<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting  
Drug and Devices Committee Meeting  
**MINUTES**

**Date:-** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2005  
**Time:-** 8.00am - 8.30am  
**Venue:** Cairns Convention Centre, Cairns

**Attendees:** Mark Cook (Chair), Dan McLaughlin, Simon Harvey, Ingrid Scheffer, Elizabeth Walker

**Apologies:** Mark Newton and Ernie Somerville

**Minutes:** Megan Reimers

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Mark Newton and Ernie Somerville.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The previous minutes from 12<sup>th</sup> November 2003 were review and accepted unanimously. It is noted that there was no committee meeting held in November 2004.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Phenobarbitone supply does not seem to be an issue any longer.

Pfizer has been contacted regarding capsule supply in Australia. Elizabeth Walker suggested the committee write to Pfizer to support them for the production of capsules. ACTION: Mark Cook to write to Pfizer.

4. SODIUM AMYTAL SUPPLY

ESA members were surveyed and an estimate of 30-40 ampoules per year are the requirements within the ESA memberships. John Dunne has written to Orphan Australia requesting them to become a local importer for this medication.

5. MIDAZOLAM GUIDELINES

Mark Cook tabled the revised guidelines for the committee to review and approve. The committee went through the guidelines and made further changes. Dan McLaughlin suggested the guidelines be posted on the website asking for comment within the 'members only' section. Simon Harvey proposed the guidelines be circulated to the Executive and Drug committee only and ask for comment with a specified date and then to post to the website.

It was agreed that it is inappropriate to change preparations and potentially hazardous and may expose patients to seizures and its consequences in a patient who is being successfully treated this includes from tablet to suspension to syrup from generic to brand product and from brand product to generic.

ACTION: Mark Cook to forward the Midazolam Guidelines to Megan for distribution to Executive and Drug committee members.

6. VAGUS NERVE STIMULATOR

Mark Cook suggested the committee name be changed to Drug and Devices Sub-committee.

The Vagus Nerve Stimulator currently does not have a MBS item number for implantation.

The device itself has an item number only. Simon Harvey informed the committee that an application needs to be made to MSAC which is an 18 month process. Public patients are a state and federal government issue. Elizabeth Walker encouraged the committee to write to the company to aid in support the process and also to approach funding bodies.

The Neurosurgery group NSA should also be involved as they are better able to secure item numbers. ACTION: Simon Harvey will contact NSA members to support the MSAC application. Dan McLaughlin suggested Jim Pelekanos could be helpful regarding advice from QLD.

7. OTHER MATTERS

Mark Cook welcomed Simon Harvey as a new member to the Drug Sub-committee.

Meeting closed 8.40am