


**Issue: Labels for Emergency Drug Syringes**

*Raised by:* Sharon Overend (PHC Manager, Wadeye Health Centre)

*Background:* Pre-printed self-adhesive drug labels, (for example ) have been found to be useful by various health centres, particularly when labelling syringes containing drugs used in an emergency situation. However, while useful, use is relatively infrequent, yet the labels can only be purchased in boxes of 1,000. It has been suggested that these labels be added to the [Remote Health Stock](#) process, enabling health centres to order smaller quantities.

*Discussion:* As with all medication supply, it is fundamentally important to ensure that correct medications are being administered.

In clinical emergency situations, staff may be required to hurriedly prepare emergency drugs in syringes. A variety of common 'labelling-of-drugs' practices in emergencies include attaching the sometimes sharp ampoule to the syringe, attaching a blank label with a handwritten note, attaching a large 'Additive' label, or potentially no labelling or identification of the syringe contents whatsoever.

The usefulness of pre-printed drug labels in an emergency scenario is recognised as useful in emergencies and is supported. The labels should be kept in the Emergency Outreach, and Obstetric, Drug boxes

A wide range of drug labels are available; many titles are drugs not used in Remote, and also some drugs used in Remote do not have a label commercially produced. It will be necessary to be discriminate in selecting those that will suit Remote Health Centre requirements. Best Practice Group has made a selection guided by commonly used drugs that form part of the contents of the Emergency Outreach or Obstetric Drug boxes.

The [Remote Health Stock](#) ordering process is the most efficient way of making smaller quantities available to all health centres in the future.

*Consultation:* Nil

*References:* Product Guides

*Outcome:* The following drug labels will be made available:

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Adrenaline     | 5. Morphine      |
| 2. Fentanyl       | 6. Normal Saline |
| 3. Metoclopramide | 7. Pethidine     |
| 4. Midazolam      | 8. (blank label) |

A small supply of each of the above labels will be distributed to all RHB health centres, for inclusion in emergency drug boxes

Future / additional ordering of these labels will be via the [Remote Health Stock](#) process.