



APHA Vital Signs

A WEEKLY ROUND-UP OF NEWS VITAL TO THE PRIVATE HOSPITAL INDUSTRY

1 November 2009

MBS Rebates for Cataract Surgery - Update

On Thursday 29 October, the Minister for Health and Ageing, Ms Nicola Roxon, announced that the following MBS rebates will apply from 1 November for Cataract Surgeries:

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|------------|----------|
| Item 42698 | \$350.95 |
| Item 42701 | \$206.75 |
| Item 42702 | \$454.35 |
| Item 42718 | \$900.75 |

These rebates will apply from 1 November until further notice. The Department of Health and Ageing has issued a Private Health Insurance Circular on this issue which can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/ylyml7r>

There is no reason why contracted health fund benefits payable to hospitals in respect of these procedures should change as a result of the Minister's announcement.

Productivity Commission Roundtable Discussion on Public and Private Hospitals Draft Report

On 22 October, the Productivity Commission held a roundtable discussion for invited stakeholders from the public and private hospital sectors, the medical and nursing professions, the health insurance industry, the Safety and Quality Commission and other parties. APHA was represented by Director Policy and Research Dr Barbara Carney. The Roundtable discussed the Commission's draft report in detail, and participants were free to make comments and suggestions for inclusion in the final report, which is due to be issued on 4 December. APHA will also be making a detailed response to the Commission's draft report, and we will make this available to members.

The full draft report on public and private hospital performance is at <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/hospitals/draft>

Reminder of the Next Second Tier Advisory Committee Meeting

The next Second Tier Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Friday 27 November 2009. The closing date for applications is Friday 6 November 2009.

Please note that applicants are required to submit nine stapled copies of their application to:

Second Tier Advisory Committee Secretariat
c/o Department of Health and Ageing
MDP 86
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Information which must be included in applications for Second Tier Default eligibility is outlined in the *Second Tier Default Benefit – Sample Application Guide 2009* located on the Australian

Private Hospitals Association website at: www.apha.org.au/advocacy/resources/.

H1N1 Vaccine

APHA has been contacted by the Attorney-General's office to determine the amount of uptake on the H1N1 Vaccine. Hospitals are encouraged to respond to the question:

“Now that a free vaccine for H1N1 is available are you conducting or planning to conduct a workplace vaccination program?” Answers should be sent to the Critical Infrastructure Protection Secretariat at cipsec@ag.gov.au

Do You have Job Vacancies at your hospital?

APHA member hospitals can have job vacancies posted on our new Jobs Board and people from around the country will see your listings. Contact [Lisa Ramshaw](#) at the APHA Secretariat for more information on how to submit your listings.

New AIHW Report – Breast Cancer in Australia an overview 2009

AIHW has released a new report on Breast Cancer in Australia. Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers in Australian women with over 12,000 new cases diagnosed in 2006, and projections suggest that the number of new cases will continue to grow. A total of 2,618 women died from breast cancer in 2006, making it the second most common cause of cancer-related deaths for women. Trend data indicate that breast cancer mortality rates for females have been declining since the mid 1990s and that outcomes for women diagnosed with breast cancer have improved over recent decades. These and other data in this report provide a comprehensive picture of breast cancer in Australia including how breast cancer rates differ by Indigenous status, country of birth and geographic area.

To download the full report see: www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10852

Hand Hygiene Australia – October Newsletter

The October edition of the Hand Hygiene Australia Initiative newsletter is now available to download from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care website. See <http://tinyurl.com/yqo8svo>

Forthcoming Workshops and Courses

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is organising a one-day workshop on clinical handover, titled “Using Tools to Make Clinical Handover Safe: a Practical Workshop”.

Date: Monday 23rd November 2009
Time: 9am - 5pm (8.30am registration)
Venue: Rydges Melbourne, 186 Exhibition Street, Melbourne
Registration fee: \$250 Registration

Please note that *places are limited*. Registration closes on Sunday 15th November 2009.

A brochure containing information on each of the workshops and how to register is attached. Registration is only available online at <http://www.catalystevents.com.au/melbourne.asp>

If you require any further information or have any questions, please contact Sarah Dixon at Catalyst Event Solutions on 02 9419 4889 or sdixon@catalystevents.com.au.

For WA members only

The Australian Emergency Management Institute has advised that it will be running a Business Continuity Management Course in Perth from Monday, 30 November until Thursday, 3 December 2009. This course is only open to participants based in Western Australia, including owners and

operators of critical infrastructure.

The course will be conducted at Trinity College, University of WA. Accommodation can be arranged at the College, if required. Nominations should be made directly to Rebecca Waddington at the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA) rebecca.waddington@fesa.wa.gov.au, telephone (08) 9323 9419. If you are interested in participating please contact Rebecca ASAP as nominations close this week.

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