



APHA Vital Signs

13 September 2009

Private Health Insurance Incentives Bill 2009

APHA is pleased that the three Private Health Insurance Incentives Bills were defeated last Wednesday evening in the Senate. Common sense prevailed and the private health insurance changes proposed by the Government in the May Budget will not take effect. The 30% rebate on private health insurance remains.

APHA has actively lobbied against these measures on behalf of our members and I am pleased to say that the measures were defeated 37-25. Independent Senator Xenophon, Family First Senator Fielding and the Greens voted with the Coalition.

Private Hospital Facts and Figures Presentation

Did you know that Private Hospitals treat 40% of all patients in Australia? Or that Private Hospitals perform 64% of surgery in this country? The APHA Secretariat has put together a powerpoint presentation for members to use when explaining the facts and figures of the industry. This is a key presentation and can be used to brief staff and others about the industry as a whole. The presentation can be found on the new APHA website at <http://www.apha.org.au/advocacy/resources/>

Recognising and Responding to Clinical Deterioration: Solutions for Safe Care

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care and the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission are holding a national workshop on the deteriorating patient. The purpose of the workshop is to showcase current approaches and practical solutions to the problem of properly recognising and responding to patients who deteriorate in hospital. The workshop will be held Tuesday, 10 November in Sydney. For more information see <http://tinyurl.com/l6ry2u>.

Government Finalises Detail on EMSN Items and Caps

This past week the Government tabled details of a restructure of Medicare Schedule items to reflect the stages of care involved in Assisted Reproductive Treatment (ART) or an In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) treatment cycle. They also included the level of caps that will apply to benefits payable under the Extended Medicare Safety Net (EMSN).

Patients undergoing a typical ART cycle will have their standard Medicare rebates increased – from \$3000 to \$4000. This rebate will be provided even before patients qualify to receive benefits under the EMSN.

Currently a typical IVF cycle costs around \$6000, yet there are doctors who charge in excess of \$10,000 per cycle. Patients who see specialists who charge \$6000 or less for a typical IVF cycle will not be worse off under these EMSN changes.

National Project to Manage Polycystic Ovarian Cancer

The Federal Government has announced that it is providing \$1,134,000 over three years to fund the formation and initial operation of the National Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome Alliance to provide

education, research and evidence-based health care relating to the disease.

The project will be led by the Victorian-based Jean Hailes Foundation. Under the agreement, \$713,000 will develop evidence-based guidelines as there is limited international consensus on guidelines to inform either women or health professionals about PCOS.

The remaining \$421,000 will support an education program, including the translation of advice into easily-understood language and its dissemination among health professionals and the community.

Spending on Chronic Kidney Disease Increases 33% in Four Years

Spending on chronic kidney disease rose by over a third between 2000-01 and 2004-05 and is expected to continue to rise, according to a report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

Chronic kidney disease, or CKD, is a common and serious problem in Australia and its management can be resource intensive.

The report, *Health care expenditure on chronic kidney disease 2004-05*, shows that almost \$900 million was spent on chronic kidney disease in 2004-05. The full report can be found at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10789>

Australian Private Hospitals Association, 29th National Congress, 11-13 October, Melbourne

The Australian Private Hospitals Association (APHA) 29th National Congress will be held in 4 WEEKS. The APHA National Congress Organising Committee invites all those working in the hospital sector to attend this event and hear from industry experts about the latest issues and industry news.

Excellent Program:

- Hand Hygiene Australia – Workshop
- Impact of Demographic Trends on Private Hospitals – Keynote Address
- Customer Service & Hospital Stakeholders Session – Panel Discussion
- E-Health & Technology – 3 Part Concurrent Session
 1. *Stream A* – IT & Patient Records
 2. *Stream B* – Infrastructure: New & Remodelled Facilities
 3. *Stream C* – E-Health & Technology for Medical & Clinical Applications
- Excellence in Leadership – Keynote Address
- Safety & Quality – Expert Panel
- E-Health & Outcomes – Keynote Address
- Politics, Policy and Health Reform - Expert Panel Discussion

For Delegate Registration visit www.apha.consec.com.au