



APHA Vital Signs

16 August 2009

New Poison Standard

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has prepared a new Poisons Standard (cited as Poisons Standard 2009) in substitution of the previous Poisons Standard (Poisons Standard 2008). The Poisons Standard 2009 is a consolidation of the Poisons Standard 2008 with its three amendments. They have also announced Poisons Standard Amendment No. 2 which will commence on 1 September 2009.

The Poisons Standard 2009 and Amendment No. 2 can be accessed on the ComLaw website: <http://tinyurl.com/n398k4>

APHA Offers Jobs Board on Our New Website

APHA will launch our new website imminently. APHA members will be able to post employment vacancies at their hospitals on the new site and visitors to the site will be able to see the vacancies listed by state or territory. If you have any job vacancies you would like to advertise on the new site, please contact Lisa Ramshaw, APHA Public Affairs Manager on lisa.ramshaw@apha.org.au or 02 6273 9000.

Health Quality and Safety Workshop Series

ACHS and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care are partnering to organise workshops on three key themes:

- Medication Safety
- Working with Consumers
- Multidisciplinary Teamwork for Safety

The workshops will be held in four locations throughout October and November. For more details go to: <http://www.achs.org.au/HealthcareWorkshop/>

South Australian Day Hospital Function

The Australian Day Hospital Association (South Australian Committee) is presenting the South Australian Day Hospital Function on Wednesday 19 August from 5pm to 7.30pm. The function will take place at the Adelaide Eye & Laser Centre in Eastwood. All South Australian day hospitals are invited. For more information see: <http://tinyurl.com/kjbppv>

Private Health Insurance (Prostheses) Amendment Rules 2009 (No. 2)

The Private Health Insurance Branch has issued a circular to inform stakeholders of an amendment to the Private Health Insurance (Prostheses) Rules 2009 which commenced on 15 August. In addition, a further two changes have been identified. For a consolidated list of amendments see: <http://tinyurl.com/kvqro3>

Private Hospital Magazine – October edition

The October edition of *Private Hospital* magazine will feature articles on Women's Health initiatives at private hospitals. Internationally, October is recognised as Breast Cancer Month and many

hospitals may have awareness campaigns and/or research activities occurring at their facilities. Lisa Ramshaw, APHA Public Affairs Manager, would like to hear from hospitals with interesting women's health initiatives. Please contact her on 02 6273 9000 or lisa.ramshaw@apha.org.au with details of your hospital's activities. The deadline for magazine submissions is 18 August.

29th Annual APHA National Congress

Don't forget to register for the 29th Annual APHA National Congress to be held from Sunday 11 – Wednesday 13 October 2009 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel Melbourne. See www.apha.consec.com.au for registration details.

The Congress Program includes Keynote Addresses from international and Australian leaders in healthcare. **Brad Kappalman, CFO** of Washington Hospital Center in Washington D.C. will be addressing the Congress on Tuesday 13 October for his keynote address on **e-Health and Patient Outcomes**.

Increasing healthcare costs are a big issue in healthcare. We need to run our healthcare organisations, decrease expenses and increase revenues while staff costs increase and payers focus more on outcome based funding, linking payments to quality of care. Technology promises the ability to help with many of these issues. **Other industries have made extensive use of technology to drive their businesses.** But is there any evidence it makes a difference in health? This presentation looks at **how information will have an increasing effect on the provision of healthcare** and the improvement of health outcomes when properly implemented and linked into health organizations' overall strategy, are improving health and business outcomes.