



# APHA Vital Signs

20 September 2009

## WHO's High 5s Medication Reconciliation Program

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is inviting Australian hospitals (and area/regional health services) to participate in the World Health Organization's High 5s Medication Reconciliation Program. Details are available on the Commission's web site at [http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/internet/safety/publishing.nsf/Content/PriorityProgram-06\\_MedRecon](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/internet/safety/publishing.nsf/Content/PriorityProgram-06_MedRecon)

Expressions of interest are sought from 10 hospitals or area/regional health services. Participation will involve testing a standard operating protocol designed to assure medication accuracy at transitions of care. The protocol is part of the World Health Organization's High 5s patient safety project, an international collaborative project for which the Commission is the Australian lead technical agency. Participating hospitals will have an opportunity to focus on medication reconciliation in high risk areas. They will also have high visibility and recognition from implementing and evaluating the standing operating protocol and for their leadership in standardising patient care processes.

**Expressions of interest must be submitted before 31 October 2009.**

Assuring medication accuracy at transitions of care, through medication reconciliation, is one of five evidence based solutions for patient safety within the World Health Organization's High 5s project. Australia is one of up to ten countries (which include UK, USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia as lead countries) participating in the High 5s program. Further information about the High 5s program is available from <http://www.high5s.org/bin/view>

## Medication Safety Errors Seminar

A Medication Safety Errors Seminar will be conducted by the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Patient Safety (CRE-PS) on Friday 30 October. This program has been developed in collaboration with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care and the Safe Medication Management Unit, Medication Services Queensland, Queensland Health.

The seminar will focus on:

- current strategies being implemented at national and state level (session 1);
- medication safety in the electronic age (session 2);
- managing high risk medication (session 3); and
- implementing what we know works (session 4).

Speakers from Queensland, South Australia, Northern Territory, NSW and Victoria will ensure that this is a highly informative and worthwhile seminar to attend. It will be of interest and relevance to doctors, nurses, pharmacists, patient safety managers, consumers, risk managers and healthcare administrators.

For more information and to register see [www.crepatientsafety.org.au](http://www.crepatientsafety.org.au)

## Eye health labour force in Australia

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a new report on the delivery of eye health care in Australia. The report states eye health care is undertaken by an eye health labour force that consists of ophthalmologists, ophthalmic nurses, optometrists, orthoptists, optical dispensers, optical mechanics. The number of full-time equivalent ophthalmologists, optometrists and orthoptists increased by 15% , 11% and 20% respectively between 2001 and 2006. Ophthalmologists are on average older than other eye health workers. In 2006 the average age of ophthalmologists was 52 years. The average age of the other eye health occupations ranged from 36 years (orthoptists) to 46 years (ophthalmic nurses). The report can be downloaded at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10722>

## APHA 29<sup>th</sup> National Congress to end on a High Note

APHA has assembled a panel of high-powered experts for the final session of the 2009 National Congress. **This session will be held on Tuesday, 13 October from 2:25pm-3:45pm.**

In our own version of "Q&A", our panellists will bring a range of unique perspectives to discuss the theme of "**Politics, Policy and Health Reform.**" This not to be missed session will provide delegates with distinctive insights into the health reform process, how policy travels through the corridors of power (and who helps or hinders it along the way), the "politics" of health and how this plays out in the media and in public debate.

The panel will provide assessments of the Government's performance to date on health care issues and the discussion will be opened up to questions and comment from delegates.

### Moderator

Glenn Milne

### Panellists

Rob Knowles – The Commissioner

Gerardine Kearney – The Unionist

Karen Middleton – The Journalist

Jannette Cotterell – The Lobbyist

**Register for the APHA National Congress online at**  
[www.apha.consec.com.au](http://www.apha.consec.com.au)

Expert Panel Session: "Politics, Policy and Health Reform"  
Tuesday, 13 October from 2:25pm-3:45pm

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