


Date: 24 May 2009Level 3, 11 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600. PO Box 7426, Canberra BC ACT 2610. [P]: (02) 6273 9000, [F]: (02) 6273 7000, [W]: www.apha.org.au**APHA MEDIA RELEASE – CAN
TREASURY MODELLING BE TRUSTED?**

APHA put out a media release on Monday following the release of data by PHIA that showed that private health insurance coverage grew by 45,000 individuals over the first quarter of 2009. Read the media release [here](http://www.apha.org.au/read/2436434745.html):
<http://www.apha.org.au/read/2436434745.html>

**APHA MAKES SUBMISSION TO
REVIEW OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY
ASSESSMENT**

As reported in earlier editions of Weekly News, the Federal Government is reviewing the Health Technology Assessment regime. APHA is represented on the Stakeholder Reference Group for the Review. We have also made our formal submission to the review, recommending that the system be reformed and a process akin to that of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee be put in place. Please contact Barbara Carney if you would like a copy of the submission.

Barbara.carney@apha.com.au**NEW AIHW REPORT**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a new report: *National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data collection: 2008 report* (available on the internet only). The report shows an increase of around 2500 in the number of people being treated for opioid addiction in 2008.

Click on the link for the media release that gives the report highlights. This will take you to the full report.
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20090521.cfm>

**CHANGES TO THE SUBCLASS 457 VISA
PROGRAM**

The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship. Senator Chris Evans, has announced that the Government had released draft regulations outlining the proposed new sponsorship obligations for employers of temporary skilled overseas workers on Subclass 457 visas. These regulations propose removing the requirement for employers to cover health costs for temporary overseas workers. Instead, Subclass 457 visa holders will be required to take out private health insurance at their own expense.

The Department of Health Circular on this matter can be found at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-phircirculars2009-25_09.htm

**BUILDING/RENOVATION/MAJOR
WORKS PROGRAMS AT PRIVATE
HOSPITALS**

The August edition of *Private Hospital* magazine will showcase recent building and major works programs at private hospitals across the country. Please contact Lisa Ramshaw to discuss your recent project and whether you would like it included in the August edition. Please contact Lisa Ramshaw at lisa.ramshaw@apha.org.au. Deadline for submissions will be Friday 19 June.

PLEASE SEND BACK YOUR DETAILS!

Please remember to send your member hospital details to (marie.mccoy@apha.org.au) in order to be able to use the new APHA website from the moment it launches. Thank you to all of those who have promptly sent back their information.

ON-LINE SURVEY RE: SUBACUTE CARE

There has been little discussion in the medical literature in Australia of access and discharge barriers as they pertain to subacute care. To try and help expand the understanding of the scope of this problem and foster further research, Dr Peter New, Head of the Acute Rehabilitation program at Southern Health, has put together an on-line survey that takes about 10 minutes. The survey is directed at rehabilitation and aged care physicians, and members of senior hospital management with responsibility for patient flow/discharge between acute and subacute hospitals, and/or from subacute hospitals into the community.

The survey can be completed by going to:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=uZZp6jjjRnVcjB9ed36JLQ_3d_3d

**NEW INDICATORS TO HELP DRIVE
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN THE NHS**

A list of more than 200 indicators of high quality care in the NHS in the UK is being published for the first time to help clinicians drive up the quality of care they deliver to patients. The Indicators for Quality Improvement will help measure the quality of care clinicians deliver, highlight areas for improvement and track the changes they implement. They span the three dimensions of high quality care: patient safety, effectiveness of care and patient experience. Clinicians can choose from the list the indicators that are most relevant to their work.

For more information see <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/services/measuring-for-quality-improvement>