



# APHA Vital Signs

27 September 2009

## Hand Hygiene Workshop – APHA Congress, Sunday 11 October

This workshop on Sunday 11 October from 1.00pm to 3.15pm is being led by the two people at the core of the National Hand Hygiene Initiative - Marilyn Cruickshank who manages the program for the Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care and Phil Russo the National Project Manager who oversees the program for Hand Hygiene Australia.

National reporting by hospitals of hand hygiene compliance rates commenced earlier this year with the number of hospitals reporting steadily increasing. Let's ensure that the private hospital sector is well represented and stays at the forefront of this initiative!

This workshop is targeted to CEOs and Executive Staff and will provide a first hand opportunity to hear the basics of the hand hygiene program including the auditing and reporting component of the 5 hand hygiene moments as well as the strategies and key steps required to implement the program within their own facilities.

There will be a presentation that includes some of the reports that have been generated in the initial reporting periods and also the opportunity to discuss the reporting opportunities and requirements across the private hospital sector.

Hand hygiene in health care is important because at any one time over 1.4 million people worldwide are affected by healthcare associated infections (HAI) with the risk in developing countries 2-20 times higher than in developed countries. Globally, there are about 59 million healthcare workers with up to 10 million hands treating and touching patients, up to 15 times a day. These hands can be the mediators of harmful microbes; each touch putting patients lives at risk.

If you did not tick the box on the Congress registration form to indicate your attendance, please email [Margie@consec.com.au](mailto:Margie@consec.com.au) to help us facilitate the logistics. Attendance to this workshop is free and highly encouraged.

## Productivity Commission Report release dates

The Productivity Commission will release its draft report for the commissioned study into public and private hospitals on **15 October 2009**. Interested parties are invited to provide feedback on the draft report through further written submissions. Submissions will need to reach the Commission by no later than **9 November 2009** to enable their full consideration prior to completion of the study. Further information can be found on the Commission's website, [www.pc.gov.au](http://www.pc.gov.au) (see under 'Current Projects').

## New Reviews of Surgical Procedures

The Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures - Surgical (ASERNIP-S), an approved HealthInsite information partner, conducts systematic literature reviews on the safety and effectiveness of new surgical techniques. They also conduct clinical and research audits or studies, identify and assess new and emerging techniques by horizon scanning, and provide input into the production of clinical practice guidelines.

The latest reviews published by ASERNIP-S include:

#### Systematic literature reviews

- Permanent and semi-permanent dermal fillers
- The effect of fatigue on surgeon performance
- Treatments for varicose veins

#### Rapid reviews

- Clinical treatments for wrist ganglia
- Diagnostic arthroscopy for conditions of the knee
- Male non-therapeutic circumcision
- Treatments for varicose veins
- Upper airway surgery for the treatment of adult obstructive sleep apnoea

The full range of ASERNIP-S reviews is accessible through the publications page of the ASERNIP-S website at [www.surgeons.org](http://www.surgeons.org).

### APHA National Congress: International Keynote Address

Sir Neil McKay, CEO East of England Strategic Health Authority in the UK, will address the APHA National Congress on **Tuesday, 13 October, 9:00am – 10:00am**. He will discuss “Choice and Contestability in Healthcare Reform in England” in what promises to be an enlightening and interesting look into healthcare decision making overseas. How can Australian hospitals compare themselves and the decisions they have to make with hospitals overseas? Attend this exciting keynote address on Tuesday morning to learn more.

### ACSQHC Update Newsletter

The latest Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's update newsletter has been posted on the APHA website. The newsletter can be found in the members area of the site, <http://www.apha.org.au/members/safety-and-quality/>

### Invitation to Participate in the National Hospital Cost Data Collection (NHDCDC) Round 13

The Department of Health and Ageing is pleased to advise that the Round 13 (2008–09) NHDCDC will soon commence for public, private and private day hospital facilities and would like to invite all hospitals to participate and nominate training preferences.

The Round 12 NHDCDC Cost Report was released on 14 September 2009, reporting cost and activity data for 89% of acute public hospital separations, 72% of private hospital separations and 46% of private day hospital facility separations. The Report can be accessed at: [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Round\\_12-cost-reports](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Round_12-cost-reports)

As requested by stakeholders, the timing of the collection has been brought forward for the private sector, starting in October rather than December.

If you would like to participate in the Round 13 study, please send your expression of interest to the Department via email [nhcdc@health.gov.au](mailto:nhcdc@health.gov.au) ASAP.

### NHMRC/ASBT Clinical Practice Guidelines on Fresh Blood Components

The Review of *The NHMRC/ASBT Clinical Practice Guidelines on Fresh Blood Components (2001)* is currently being undertaken under the auspices of the Australian & New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) with funding, project management, and secretariat services provided by the National Blood Authority (NBA) on behalf of all governments. The August update is currently available on the NBA website <http://www.nba.gov.au/guidelines/updates.html>

### Health Technology Assessment Review

As part of its ongoing consultation with stakeholders during the HTA Review, the Department of Health and Ageing is conducting a second round of focus groups to explore options to address the Review Terms of Reference. Focus groups will be held in Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney. Each focus group will run for three hours, with space for 15 stakeholders per session.

Dates for the second round of focus groups are detailed below. Details on times can be found at [www.health.gov.au/htareview](http://www.health.gov.au/htareview)

Sydney - 30 September  
Canberra - 2 October  
Adelaide – 6 October  
Melbourne – 8 and 9 October

Please note spaces will be strictly limited to one representative per organisation. To register your interest in attending an 'options' focus group, please nominate your preferred session by sending an email to [htareview@health.gov.au](mailto:htareview@health.gov.au)

Please provide the name of your organisation, your nominated attendee and your contact details. Your place and venues will be confirmed by return email.

Background information will be provided to participants prior to the focus groups. For more information about the HTA Review, visit [www.health.gov.au/htareview](http://www.health.gov.au/htareview)

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