



6 December 2009

Participate in the National Hospital Cost Data Collection

Each year the Department for Health and Ageing produces the National Hospital Cost Data Collection (NHCDC) from a sample of public and private acute care hospitals throughout Australia. The report is invaluable to the sector and shows cost-weights, national average cost per separation and a breakdown of where costs are incurred for all Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups (AR-DRG), along with other useful statistical information.

Contributions by private hospitals to the collection are voluntary. The Department for Health and Ageing is asking for additional private hospitals to contribute to the collection to keep the sample size high in order to keep the collection going. Whilst there are some cost implications in preparing and submitting the data to the department, each contributor receives a special cost report specific to their hospital helping them to compare their cost data to the national average.

Individual hospital reports are not made public and care is taken when publishing national data ensure the anonymity of the contributing hospitals. If you would like to know more about the collection and see the cost reports please visit the [NHCDC website](#). If you are interesting in contributing to this collection please contact Peter Thomas, the policy manager at APHA as soon as possible on 02 6273 9000 or peter.thomas@apha.org.au

Don't forget to participate in the APHA Workforce Survey

Each year private hospitals train thousands of medical, nursing and allied health students. However our sector's contribution towards training and education in healthcare is often overlooked. APHA is conducting an extensive member survey to calculate the total amount of training that the private sector is currently carrying out, and to identify the barriers to more training being provided.

The survey can be completed electronically and is available on the www.apha.org.au website homepage. This is a comprehensive survey and will take some time to complete. All the results from the survey will be collated together and *no individual hospital will be identified*. Please take the time to complete the survey and ensure that your hospital is included – even if your hospital does not currently carry out training. It is important to have as high a response rate as possible to give the survey strong credibility.

If you have questions regarding the survey email [Peter Thomas](mailto:Peter.Thomas@apha.org.au) at the APHA Secretariat.

Cutting hospital deaths by preventing blood clots

Australians at risk of potentially fatal blood clots will benefit from NHMRC's new Australian Guideline for the Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism (VTE). These evidence-based guidelines developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) provide

recommendations on prevention of VTE for adult patients admitted to Australian hospitals.

VTE prevention, though the routine use of simple measures such as compression stockings, anti-clotting medication and venous pumping devices, keeps people out of hospital, reduces complication rates and saves lives. The Guideline is intended for use by doctors, nurses, pharmacists and allied health professionals but also provides useful information for consumers and those responsible for the quality and safety of Healthcare.

The Guideline and supporting documentation are available at:

www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/cp115syn.htm

New resources to help address pain management issues

A new pain management diary has been developed by Arthritis NSW and the National Prescribing Service (NPS) to help healthcare providers work with patients to determine optimum pain management plans. Doctors, pharmacists, physiotherapists, nurses, specialists and other health professionals are encouraged to promote the resource to patients which records the necessary information needed to make an accurate diagnosis and treatment regimen.

For a copy of the diary go to <http://www.nps.org.au/manageyourpain> or <http://www.arthritisnsw.org.au> or call Arthritis NSW toll free 1800 011 041.

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