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APHA OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE EASTER WEEKEND

Members are advised that the APHA Secretariat will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday. The office will re-open on Tuesday 14 April at 8.30 a.m.

REQUEST FOR DATA ON SENTINEL EVENTS

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) as part of fulfilling its function to 'report publicly on the state of safety and quality' is publishing a report on safety and quality in November 2009. While this report will be based around the Commission's priority programs it will also include information on the sentinel events.

In line with the process undertaken to enable the inclusion of private hospital sector data in last year's report, the Commission's Private Hospital Sector Committee has suggested that a similar industry collection coordinated through the Australian Private Hospitals Association, Catholic Health Australia, and Healthscope Pty Ltd be initiated for publication in the Commission's National Report 2009. This week, we wrote to all APHA members to request data on the number of sentinel events in your facility in 2007/2008.

The data you provide will be strictly protected and will not be used for purposes other than the Commission's 2009 report.

We would appreciate receiving your data by Friday 8 May 2009 so that it can be consolidated and forwarded to the Commission.

MEASURING AND REPORTING MORTALITY IN HOSPITAL PATIENTS

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released this report as part of the National Indicators Project commissioned by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare. The report aims to develop national indicators for in-hospital mortality. The report first surveys the scholarly literature on the topic from the mid-nineteenth century on. The authors then discuss the modelling used in the project, and present the results. The report concludes that it is possible to produce national indicators of in-hospital mortality using the Australian National Hospital Morbidity Database, and that findings will have the same degree of reliability as those reported internationally.

The report can be found at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/hse/hse-69-10729/hse-69-10729.pdf>

FEEDBACK SOUGHT ON USE OF MEDICINES IN PALLIATIVE CARE

The National Prescribing Service Ltd (NPS) has invited health professionals and interested health organisations to provide feedback on a consultation report about medicines issues in palliative care and end of life, which will guide future NPS programs in this area.

In mid 2008, NPS consulted key health organisations and individuals on the perceived gaps in achieving quality use of medicines (QUM) in palliative or end of life care.

Following these consultations, the report titled '*Understanding the issues and exploring the strategies to achieve quality use of medicines in palliative care and end of life*' was

developed in collaboration with Palliative Care Australia (PCA).

NPS is seeking responses and comments on the report from a wide range of health professionals and interest groups by **Wednesday 20 May 2009**. The consultation report is available for download at http://www.nps.org.au/members_and_stakeholders.

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESSES AT PRIVATE HOSPITALS

Does your hospital have a successful solution to help the environment? Do you have an environmentally sustainable program or an innovative answer to waste disposal? Does your hospital have a kitchen garden where items grown are used in the hospital or are grown for therapeutic purposes? If you have any environmental programs running at your hospital, please contact Lisa Ramshaw, APHA's Public Affairs Manager who is planning the June edition of Private Hospital Magazine. Lisa can be contacted at Lisa.Ramshaw@apha.org.au or on 02 6273 9000.

SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN DEATHS FROM CVD OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS

Deaths from cardiovascular disease (CVD) and coronary heart disease (CHD) have been declining since the late 1960s, resulting in a substantial saving of lives, and in the extension of life for the Australian population, according to a report released on 7 April by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The full report may be found at:

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10688>