



11 April 2010

Private Hospital Week – 26-30 April

APHA's exciting new campaign Valuing Private Hospitals will be launched during the week of 26-30 April. The flagship event that week will be an address at the National Press Club in Canberra by Chris Rex, APHA President. Chris will speak on 'Private Hospitals: We Do So Much More'. If you would like to attend the address, tickets can be purchased on the National Press Club website, www.npc.org.au. APHA will be coordinating other activities during the week as well.

Toolkits for hospital champions were sent out this past week. If your hospital is interested in participating in this national campaign but has not nominated a champion yet, there is still time to do so by emailing Lisa Ramshaw at the Secretariat at lisa.ramshaw@apha.org.au.

Second Tier Default Benefit Applications

The Department of Health has changed the address where Second Tier Default Benefit applications need to be sent to:

Secretariat
Second Tier Advisory Committee
c/o Department of Health & Ageing
MDP 401
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

The cutoff date for the next round of applications is 7 May 2010. Don't forget to include 9 copies of your application.

Private Hospital magazine – June edition

The June edition of *Private Hospital* magazine will be themed around Safety & Quality in Private Hospitals. If you have an innovative program running in your hospital that improves your safety and quality, we'd like to hear from you. Submissions of articles are due by Monday 19 April.

Victoria Proposes an Alternative Health Reform Plan

The Victorian Premier, John Brumby, has released a plan for health reform that is an alternative to the national plan presented last month by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. Whilst framed in the Victorian context, the proposal is a national plan. It calls for an immediate 50/50 split of Commonwealth and State funding for public hospitals. Any "transfer" of GST to the States is opposed. The Victorian plan is titled "Putting Patients First" and other features of it are:

- Increased investment in prevention programs to help people stay healthy, and avoid chronic illnesses which can result in unnecessary hospitalisation;
- Increased investment in primary and aged care for patients would receive more appropriate care in a non-hospital setting such as a GP clinic or a residential aged care

service, reducing pressure on public hospitals;

- Increased investment in workforce, buildings and equipments, and innovation including more money for ehealth and setting up a National Reform and Innovation Fund.

As with the Federal Government's Plan the Victorian proposal calls for activity based funding to be implemented nationally. It advocates that State Governments, rather than the Commonwealth's proposed Local Health Networks, as retaining all responsibility for public hospitals.

The Victorian proposal may be downloaded at

<http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/component/content/article/9991.html>

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) is meeting on 19 April to discuss health reform.

Save That Date! 2010 APHA National Congress

APHA will be celebrating its 30th Annual National Congress in Sydney this year! This is an important milestone for the Association and everyone should be there! Mark your calendars for 17-19 October 2010. More information on the program and speakers will be distributed soon.

APHA / BAXTER Awards for Quality & Excellence

It is time to start thinking about your entry for the 2010 APHA / Baxter Awards for Quality & Excellence. The application prospectus will be distributed to members soon with details how your hospital staff and the successes they have achieved may be recognised at the National Congress Gala Dinner. Entry categories will be in 3 areas: 1) Clinical Excellence, 2) Ambulatory Care, and 3) Community Involvement. This year finalists will feature in a special, dedicated session at the National Congress: a Finalists' Showcase for the APHA / Baxter Awards. Stay tuned!

Product recall – silicone gel breast implants

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced that, following consultations with TGA, the silicone gel breast Implants manufactured by Poly Implant Prothese (PIP) of France Medical Visions Australia Pty Ltd are being recalled. This affects all non implanted silicone gel breast implants manufactured by Poly Implant Prothese (PIP). The recall applies to all models of this type of implant. The product is being recalled following concerns by the French medical device regulatory authority (AFSSAPS) that there may be an increased incidence of ruptures with this product. The TGA is urgently investigating the product and reports of its failure. The TGA will provide further information on www.tga.gov.au.

Keep Your Staff Up-to-Date

APHA provides **FREE** copies of *Private Hospital* magazine to all member hospitals. What better way to keep your staff up-to-date with the happenings in the private hospital industry than having copies of the magazine in your staff tea rooms or break rooms? Please contact Elise at admin1@apha.org.au to organise copies to be sent to your hospital.