



13 June 2010

Queen's Birthday Office Closure

The APHA Secretariat will be closed on Monday 14 June 2010 for the Queen's Birthday holiday. The office will re-open on Tuesday 15 June at 8.30am.

Medicare Levy Surcharge Thresholds for 2010-11

For the 2009-10 income tax year, the income thresholds for the Medicare levy surcharge were increased to \$73,000 per year for singles and \$146,000 per year for couples/families.

Under the *Tax Laws Amendment (Medicare Levy Surcharge Thresholds) Act (No 2) 2008*, the income thresholds are indexed each year by using indexation factors calculated for full time adult average weekly ordinary time earnings.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has advised that for the 2010-11 income tax year the income thresholds will be as follows:

- Singles Surcharge Threshold: \$77,000
- Family Surcharge Threshold: \$154,000 (the family threshold increases by \$1,500 for each dependent child after the first).

The new income thresholds will be available on the ATO's website in due course (<http://www.ato.gov.au/>). Further queries concerning the Medicare levy surcharge, including the income thresholds, should be directed to the ATO on 13 28 61.

National Consensus Statement: Essential Elements for Recognising and Responding to Clinical Deterioration

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care now has hard copy versions of the *National Consensus Statement: Essential Elements for Recognising and Responding to Clinical Deterioration*. If you would like a copy of this document, please forward your postal details to sonya.madramootoo@safetyandquality.gov.au

The National Consensus Statement was developed following wide consultation and sets out the agreed practice for recognising and responding to clinical deterioration. Developed as a generic document to apply to all patients in all acute care facilities in Australia, the Statement also provides sufficient flexibility to be applied in a range of different situations.

The Elements

Eight elements are included in the statement. Four relate to clinical processes that need to be locally delivered based on the circumstances of the facility in which care is provided. Four relate to the structural and organisational prerequisites that are essential for recognition and response systems to operate effectively. The elements in the Consensus Statement are:

A. Clinical processes

Measurement and documentation of observations
Escalation of care
Rapid response systems
Clinical communication

B. Organisational prerequisites

Organisational supports
Education
Evaluation, audit and feedback
Technological systems and solutions

Implications for you

In line with Health Ministers' decision, facilities will need to have systems in place to address all elements in the Statement. The Consensus Statement should guide health services in developing their own recognition and response systems in a way that is tailored to their patient population and the resources and personnel available, whilst being in line with relevant jurisdictional or other programs. The Consensus Statement has been developed for:

- clinicians and managers responsible for the development, implementation and review of recognition and response systems in individual facilities or groups of facilities.
- planners, program managers and policy makers responsible for the development of jurisdictional or other strategic programs dealing with recognition and response to clinical deterioration.

August edition of Private Hospital magazine – call for submissions

Feature your hospital's innovative work in Private Hospital magazine by submitting an article for publication. The August edition will be themed around innovation in private hospitals and will also provide readers information on speakers at this year's 30th Annual APHA National Congress. If your hospital has an innovative program you'd like to feature, please contact Lisa Ramshaw, APHA Public Affairs Manager at lisa.ramshaw@apha.org.au. All submissions are due 18 June 2010.

Prepare Your Entry to the 2010 Baxter Awards!

APHA would like to encourage all current members to submit an entry in the following awards categories:

Clinical Excellence
Ambulatory Care
Community Involvement

Entry is free and the submission criterion is short and simple to complete. Winners will be announced at the APHA 30th Annual National Congress Gala Dinner Awards Night – a night not to be missed.

Entries close on 30th July 2010. Download the Application Prospectus at www.apha.org.au

Review of *The 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.

As part of a thorough stakeholder engagement strategy, the NBA aims to keep relevant organisations and their members up-to-date with the progress of the review via regular email updates and invite interested groups, organisations and individuals to make submissions on the draft recommendations as they are made available for public consultation on the NBA website. For more information see <http://www.nba.gov.au/guidelines/updates.html>

Book Now: Early Bird Registration Discount - APHA's 30th Annual National Congress

Visit the dedicated APHA Congress website <http://apha2010congress.squarespace.com> and register your hospital's delegates for the APHA 30th National Congress. **Register now and take advantage of significant savings with the Early Bird Discount.**

The Congress will be held from Sunday 17 – Tuesday 19 October 2010 at the Hilton Hotel, Sydney.

A fantastic array of speakers will inform, explain, and present their views on the most important issues affecting Australia's Private Hospitals today, including Ged Kearney, Ann Fallon, Rosemary Bryant, Samantha Gavel, Fred Bently, Mark Cormack, Professor Chris Baggoley and more!

Make sure you and your colleagues are a part of celebrating the 30th Annual APHA Congress and take advantage of this opportunity to network with colleagues from around the country.

Register your delegates today!