



21st November 2010

Health Technology Assessment Review Consultative Committee

The Federal Minister for Health, Hon Nicola Roxon has invited APHA to participate in an ongoing stakeholder consultative committee to provide advice to the Department as the *Review of Health Technology Assessment in Australia* (HTA Review) recommendations relating to improving the Prostheses List are implemented. The stakeholder consultative committee will provide a forum for APHA to participate throughout the implementation of the HTA Review recommendations relating to the Prostheses List arrangements.

Private Health Insurance coverage has reached 10 million

The top line figures in the PHI coverage are:

- ~ At 30 September 2010, 10,064,043 people, or 44.8% of the population, were covered by hospital treatment cover. This is the first time there been more than 10 million people in Australia with hospital insurance since the introduction of Medicare.
- ~ There was a 0.2 percentage point increase in the percentage of the population covered compared to the June 2010 quarter.
- ~ There was an increase in coverage of 90,179 insured people in the September 2010 quarter. Single policies rose by 19,950 and family policies by 20,303 during the quarter. This resulted in an overall increase of 40,253 hospital policies.
- ~ For the 12 months to 30 September 2010, the number of insured people with hospital treatment cover has increased by 243,080 and 127,271 policies.
- ~ The most notable increase in coverage during the quarter was for people aged between 20 and 24, compensating for a decrease in this age group in the June 2010 quarter
- ~ During the September quarter, insurers paid a out total of \$2, 323 million in benefits for hospital treatment, a decrease of 0.7% on the June quarter. The benefits were comprised of:
 - o \$1, 617 million for hospital services such as accommodation and nursing;
 - o \$377 million for medical services;
 - o \$327 million for prostheses; and
 - o \$1.6 million for nursing home type patients.

Most benefits are paid was the 60-79 group.

Just over 5% in hospital benefits paid per person, from \$855.83 to \$899.90. Accommodation and nursing accounted for the largest proportion of hospital benefits (\$630.89 per person) followed by medical costs (\$141.46) and prostheses (\$127.56).

APHA will send out a detailed analysis of the data to members once PHIAC has released the key data tables.

The Australian Health Ministers Conference

The Australian Health Ministers Conference was held on 12 November 2010 in Adelaide, to discuss and continue to drive health reform.

As a snapshot, the following matters were addressed:

- Agreement that the MyHospitals website will go live in December 2010.
- Approval of an implementation strategy for the promotion of the Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Health Care, produced by the NHMRC.
- Progress made under the National Hand Hygiene Initiative.
- Endorsement of the first Australian National Maternity Services Plan.
- Revised standard of English language competency for overseas trained nurses.
- Support for development of a national approach to reduce some ingredients in fast foods.
- Reaffirmation of Ministers to work collaboratively on health reform.
- Agreement on Implementation Strategy for Fourth National Mental Health Plan.

The meeting communiqué, which is also available from the Australian Health Ministers Conference website at <http://www.ahmac.gov.au/site/home.aspx>

Report to the Nation – Breast Cancer

The *Report to the Nation – Breast Cancer 2010* provides a snapshot of current knowledge about breast cancer in Australia in an easy to understand format. It includes the most up-to-date information on incidence, mortality and survival for breast cancer in Australia, using the latest available data.

The *Report to the Nation – Breast Cancer 2010* is an online resource, available for download from the NBOCC website: <http://www.nbocc.org.au/view-document-details/bcncr-the-report-to-the-nation-breast-cancer-2010>.

Release of the National Hospital Cost Data Collection (NHCDC) Round 13 (2008-09)

The Department of Health and Ageing would like to notify the industry that the NHCDC Round 13 (2008. 09) Cost Weights are available in AR-DRG v5.2 for public hospitals and AR-DRG v5.1 for private and private day hospital facilities. Cost weight tables can be accessed at:

http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Round_13-cost-reports

The NHCDC Round 13 (2008-09) Cost Report will be released on the Department's website shortly. All Round 13 participants will receive a hard copy of the Report including Cost Weights, collated data and analysis. Participation rates for this round were as follows:

- ~ 262 public hospitals, representing 52% of public hospitals and 91% of acute separations for the year;
- ~ Specialist Women's and Children's Hospitals (Peer Group A2) are fully represented;



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al Hospitals (Peer Group A1) are represented;
senting 49% of all private hospitals and 71% of total acute
separations, and

59 private day hospitals facilities, representing 26% of all facilities and 41% of total
separations for the year.

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