



25 April 2010

Private Hospitals Week – This week

This is the first ever Private Hospitals Week, created to share with the community some facts and personal stories about the diversity of our hospitals and the care we provide to Australians around the country. It also encourages the community to share their stories about why they value private hospitals.

Each day this week is focused on a theme. On Monday we will begin the week in a solemnly fashion to commemorate and remember those who fought for our country, at Anzac day services for veterans and their family members in some of our hospitals.

With our staff being our biggest asset, private hospitals locally, and the APHA nationally, will celebrate the passion and commitment of our people and the role they play every day in making lives better on Tuesday. The APHA also plans to make an exciting announcement on Tuesday for all private hospitals staff across the country.

On Wednesday, hospitals are organising activities to show their patients how much they are valued.

Thursday will see Chris Rex, APHA President give an address on private hospitals and health reform at the National Press Club in Canberra.

We will shine a spot light on our regional private hospitals and the great work they are doing in local communities on Friday.

Finally we will close the week showcasing private hospitals' investment in clinical research, again something that few in the community automatically associate with the private sector.

Throughout the week, the Secretariat is working on media opportunities in order to promote our member hospitals and the vital work they do. If your hospital has organised an activity of any kind for private hospitals week, please let Lisa Ramshaw know.

We have more than 100 hospitals taking part in the week. They have each nominated a champion to manage the campaign on the ground. If your hospital hasn't nominated a champion but would like to get involved in the campaign which will run until the end of the year, please email Lisa Ramshaw at lisa.ramshaw@apha.org.au.

Health reform – Update from COAG

The Council of Australian Governments (with the exception of Western Australia) have reached an agreement to establish a National Health and Hospitals Network. There are three key areas of concern to private hospitals within the agreement.

- Under the agreement there will be mandatory reporting on the performance of all public

and private hospitals.

- A new National Pricing Authority will be set up to determine the efficient price of hospital services within the public sector. It may draw on data from private hospitals.
- There will not be any change to the current financial arrangements of private patients in public hospitals

No detail was specified within the agreement on the treatment of public patients within private hospitals as has been mentioned previously. APHA are analysing the detail of reforms and how they might impact on private hospitals. Copies of the COAG agreement can be found here <http://www.coag.gov.au/>

APHA representative re-appointed to the National Prostheses and Devices Committee

The Federal Minister for Health, Nicola Roxon, has re-appointed Paul Fitzmaurice of Ramsay Healthcare to the National Prostheses and Devices Committee for the period up to 31 August 2010.

Western Australia suspends paediatric flu vaccinations

The WA Government has suspended its free flu vaccine program for aged under five after 22 children suffered febrile convulsions and were taken to hospital.

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care launches program to improve the safety of patients receiving medicines in hospitals.

The ACSQHC, together with 28 participating hospitals across Australia has launched a program to introduce standardised procedures to collect and check information about each patient's medicines much more rigorously and accurately, starting from when the patient is first admitted to hospital and continuing through each stage of the patient's hospital treatment when medicines may change. The procedures are also designed to make sure that when the patient is finally discharged, they and their doctor will also get an accurate and comprehensive list of the medicines they may need to take once they are back in the community. Hospitals will start implementing and evaluating the standardised procedures in high risk areas, beginning with patients 65 years and older who are admitted through the emergency ward to inpatient services. The initiative is part of a World Health Organization campaign to improve patient safety – the WHO High 5s Project. . Other countries participating in the initiative are Canada, the Netherlands, France, Germany and the United States.

Further information may be found at

http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/internet/safety/publishing.nsf/Content/PriorityProgram-06_MedRecon

Medical Device Safety National Workshop, 25 June 2010 (SYDNEY)

The ACSQHC is holding a national workshop on medical device safety on 25 June in Sydney. The workshop will comprise:

- presentations by keynote speakers on medical device issues,
- case study presentations on specific devices, device incidents or incident series, and
- a panel discussion and plenary.

Dr Rohan Hammett, the National Manager of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) will present at the workshop, and there will also be a presentation on the findings of the 2009 Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Review. Registrations for the workshop are now open via

<https://www.catalystevents.com.au/MedicalDeviceSafety.asp>. The early bird registration fee is \$50 (inclusive of GST) which closes on 31 May 2010. Registrations received from 1 June 2010 will be \$75 (inclusive of GST).