NSW Collaborating Hospitals Audit of Surgical Mortality

NSW Members may recall that on July 2012, an article appeared in the Sydney media containing false and inflammatory statements from Professor Guy Maddern about private hospitals participation in the Collaborating Hospitals Audit of Surgical Mortality (CHASM – which is the NSW component of the Australian and New Zealand Audit of Surgical Mortality).

APHA contacted CHASM and Prof Maddern pointing out the false statements, requesting a retraction, and suggesting if they were serious about increasing private hospital participation, they should engage in a constructive process of discussion with the sector through the Australian Private Hospitals Association.

When neither CHASM nor Maddern were willing to apologise or correct the record, the APHA Board resolved that while the Association would be willing to work with CHASM to assist them to engage with the private sector, this would not occur until such time as an apology was received. Following the intervention of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the attached apology from Prof Maddern was recently provided to APHA. In addition, Prof Maddern has provided an undertaking that this apology will be published in full in the Chairman’s Report of the next ANZASM National Report. Against this background, the APHA Board has resolved that we will re-engage with CHASM.

Recently I met with the CEO of the Clinical Excellence Commission, Cliff Hughes, and the Chairman of CHASM, Peter Zelas, to discuss issues relating to private hospital participation in CHASM in NSW.

APHA member hospitals in NSW can expect to be contacted by representatives of CHASM in the near future with information about what is involved in the Audit of Surgical Mortality. While there is a high level of private hospital participation in the Audit in other States, APHA has emphasised to CHASM that participation is at the discretion of each hospital and it is up to CHASM to provide relevant information about the program to each private hospital.

Please contact me if you have any queries.

APHA, PO Box 7426, Canberra BC, ACT 2610