



# APHA Vital Signs

A WEEKLY ROUND-UP OF NEWS VITAL TO THE PRIVATE HOSPITAL INDUSTRY

10 February 2013

## APHA Lobbying

This week, APHA President, Chris Rex and CEO, Michael Roff, held a series of meetings in Canberra with a number of key Members of Parliament to discuss the Government's proposed legislation to change indexation arrangements for the health insurance rebates. The legislation would have the effect of eroding the value of the rebate over time and reducing its impact as an incentive to take out and maintain health cover.

APHA received a good hearing from all MPs and will continue to engage with decisions makers as the legislation is expected to be introduced in the near future.

## 2013 Private Health Insurance Premium Rises

On Friday, Federal Health Minister Tanya Plibersek announced a 5.6% average increase to the private health insurance premiums. These increases will take effect from 1 April 2013.

For more information about the increase, visit:

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/364A299FBD8780DECA2578410080C91/\\$File/Premium%20round%20increases.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/364A299FBD8780DECA2578410080C91/$File/Premium%20round%20increases.pdf)

## Chemotherapy Inquiry

On Thursday 7 February, Senator Nick Xenophon successfully moved for a Senate Inquiry into the supply of chemotherapy drugs such as Docetaxel (which was subject to a price reduction on 1 December 2012).

The Inquiry, which must report by 22 April, will be conducted by the Senate Community Affairs Committee and will examine the following issues;

- (a) the supply of chemotherapy drugs such as Docetaxel, particularly in relation to:
  - (i) patient access to treatment,
  - (ii) cost to pharmacists and suppliers, and
  - (iii) **cost to the private and public hospital systems;**
- (b) any long-term sustainable funding models for the supply of chemotherapy drugs, including Docetaxel; and
- (c) any related matters.

If any hospital has concerns about, or information relating to the impact of the price reduction to Docetaxel, it would be appreciated if they could provide this to [Lucy Cheetham](#) at APHA as soon as possible.

## APHA National Congress March 2013

With only three weeks remaining, check out our [exciting program](#), packed with fantastic speakers,

including: Dr James Robinson, Kaiser Permanente Professor of Health Economics, University of California, Berkeley who will address 'Hospital Performance Measurement and Reward: The US Experience and Implications for Australia'. Dr Robinson brings years of experience and research from around the globe and is keen to share his knowledge with this audience.

The APHA National Congress is the premier opportunity to network with colleagues and discover the latest in healthcare for 2013. [REGISTER NOW](#) so you don't miss out!

For more information about the Congress please visit: [www.aphacongress.com.au](http://www.aphacongress.com.au)

## **ACSQHC - Consultation Draft Accreditation Workbook for Mental Health Services**

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (the Commission) has released the Consultation Draft Accreditation Workbook for Mental Health Services developed as a tool for health services implementing and being accredited to the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards and the National Standards for Mental Health Services.

APHA encourages facilities to provide feedback on this draft. Please forward comment to [Lucy Cheetham](#)

## **ACSQHC - Recognising and Responding to Clinical Deterioration**

To supports implementation of NSQHS Standard 9: Recognising and Responding to Clinical Deterioration in Acute Health Care.

A series of fact sheets about recognising and responding to physiological deterioration have been developed for mental health services.

[Fact sheet 1 \(PDF 262 KB\)](#) provides an overview of recognition and response systems

[Fact sheet 2 \(PDF 126 KB\)](#) provides information about the operational considerations of implementing a recognition and response system

[Fact sheet 3 \(PDF 227 KB\)](#) provides guidance about communicating about physiological deterioration

[Fact sheet 4 \(PDF 308 KB\)](#) provides some strategies for engaging mental health clinicians in the implementation of recognition and response systems.

## **Know someone in nursing who deserves an award?**

Recognise nurses, midwives, personal care attendants and assistants in nursing now by nominating them for the HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

Winners in three categories — Nurse of the Year, Team Innovation and Outstanding Graduate — will share a \$30,000 prize pool, courtesy of long-term HESTA awards sponsor, ME Bank.

While only nurses, midwives, personal care attendants and assistants in nursing are eligible to be nominated, it's important to remember that anyone can make a nomination.

Nominations close on 28 February 2013. Finalists will be announced in April. Interstate finalists will be flown to Melbourne for an awards dinner on Thursday 9 May 2013 where the winners will be revealed.

To make a nomination or learn more about the awards visit [hestaawards.com.au](http://hestaawards.com.au)

## **10th Innovative Practice in the Private Sector Conference & Awards – Call for submissions**

Private Hospitals Association of Queensland is calling for submissions for their 10th Innovative Practice in the Private Sector Conference & Awards. There will be four categories, with a prize of \$1,000 to each category winner. In addition, each of the category award winners will be eligible for the overall award which will carry a further \$4,000 prize to the winning hospital, judged by their peers.

The four categories are:

- Clinical Innovations
- Non-Clinical/Operational Innovations
- Innovations in Education & HR Management
- Innovations in Marketing and/or Community Awareness

Closing date for submission of abstracts is Monday 18 February 2013. For more information go to:  
<http://www.phaq.org/home.asp>

### **On the Radar - Issue 113**

On the Radar is a summary of some of the recent publications in the areas of safety and quality in health care. Some of this week's content includes:

*Evidence scan: Involving patients in improving safety*

*Recasting Readmissions by Placing the Hospital Role in Community Context*

*Gaining Ground: Care Management Programs to Reduce Hospital Admissions and Readmissions Among Chronically Ill and Vulnerable Patients*

*Patient reported outcome measures could help transform healthcare*

On the Radar is available via email or as a PDF document from  
<http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-resources/on-the-radar/>