



# APHA Vital Signs

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

14 July 2013

## **TGA ALERT: GE Healthcare nuclear medicine imaging systems – recall for product correction**

Health professionals and consumers are advised that GE Healthcare, in consultation with the TGA, has initiated a recall for product correction for a number of its nuclear medicine imaging systems. GE Healthcare has advised hospitals and radiology clinics that have the affected nuclear medicine imaging system to stop using the machine until it can be inspected by a GE technician. For further information, visit: <http://www.tga.gov.au/safety/alerts-device-nuclear-medicine-imaging-system-130709.htm> [click here.](#)

## **Invitation to Nominate as APHA Representative on ACHS Working Parties.**

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards has invited APHA to nominate a private hospital sector representative to two important working parties:

- The working party for the Gynaecology Clinical Indicator Set and
- The working party for the Hospital Wide CI Sets.

Those with relevant expertise are encouraged to nominate by contacting Lucy Cheetham via [lucy.cheetham@apha.org.au](mailto:lucy.cheetham@apha.org.au) or 02 6273 9000.

## **Prostheses List**

APHA has become aware that Prostheses List status of the Stalif C device manufactured by Orthotech Pty Ltd for cervical fusions has been disputed by some health funds. We understand that discussions between Orthotech and the Department are continuing.

The next meeting of the Health Technology Advisory Committee will take place on 24 July if there are any concerns that members would like APHA to raise on their behalf please contact Lucy Cheetham via [lucy.cheetham@apha.org.au](mailto:lucy.cheetham@apha.org.au) or 02 6273 9000

## **NSW - Advance Planning for Quality Care at End of Life - Action Plan**

This Action Plan provides the way forward for NSW Health implementing advance care planning in the NSW public health system over the next 5 years. It also identifies strategic partnerships with other government agencies and sectors to improve this aspect of planning for end of life care in primary, acute and aged care settings. This Action Plan seeks to normalise Advance Care Planning and improve end of life care by integrating patients' wishes into the management of chronic life-limiting illness. It seeks to ensure that patients are provided with care consistent with their wishes, within therapeutic limits, always focused on quality symptom management and best practice.

For further information, visit: [Advance Planning for Quality Care at End of Life - Action Plan 2013–2018](#)

## **TGA ALERT: Dynamic Locking Screws**

Consumers and health professionals are advised that Synthes Australia, in consultation with the TGA, is recalling unused stock of its 3.7 mm and 5.0 mm Dynamic Locking Screws. Synthes Australia has also issued a related hazard alert to hospitals and surgeons. For further information, visit: <http://www.tga.gov.au/safety/alerts-device-dynamic-130704.htm>

## **TGA ALERT: Cementless Columbus Knee System – withdrawn from the ARTG**

B. Braun Australia, in consultation with the TGA, is withdrawing the cementless version of the Columbus Knee System from the [Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods \(ARTG\)](#). B. Braun Australia has also issued a related hazard alert to surgeons. The decision to withdraw the cementless Columbus Knee System from the ARTG is based on an analysis of data collected by the Australian National Joint Replacement Registry (NJRR), which revealed that this device has a higher than anticipated revision rate. Please note that only the cementless version of the Columbus Knee System is affected by this action. For further information, visit: <http://www.tga.gov.au/safety/alerts-device-columbus-knee-system-130709.htm>

## **Second Tier Default Benefits Reminder**

The next scheduled meeting of the Second Tier Advisory Committee (STAC) will be held on Friday, 30 August 2013. Those hospitals wishing to apply need to submit an application to APHA by Friday, 9 August 2013. Details regarding the process and a pro forma application form can be downloaded from the [APHA website](#).

The current STAC-approved list of second-tier facilities can be found in Attachment A of the Private Health Insurance (PHI) Circular dated 28 June 2013, available at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-phicirculars2013-36>

Should you require further information please contact Andrea Versteegen at APHA on [andrea.versteegen@apha.org.au](mailto:andrea.versteegen@apha.org.au) or 02 6273 9000.

## **On the Radar - Issue 134**

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:

*Information technology interventions to improve medication safety in primary care: a systematic review*

*The Effects of Quality of Care on Costs: A Conceptual Framework*

*Value for money in health care: Varying performances across Canada*

*In Focus: Using Behavioral Economics to Advance Population Health and Improve the Quality of Health Care Services*

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