



APHA Vital Signs

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

20 October 2013

QLD Legionella Report Released

Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young's Review of the prevention and control of Legionella pneumophila infection in Queensland was tabled in the QLD Parliament last week. The review fully investigated circumstances surrounding two cases of Legionnaires disease at The Wesley Hospital in May/June this year and makes recommendations regarding the future management of Legionella pneumophila in Queensland including measures to improve:

- Regulation
- water supply to health and residential aged care facilities
- water infrastructure and water quality management, including periodic testing
- electronic data management, notification and follow-up of cases of legionellosis
- national collaboration and consistency information for the community.

The review can be viewed online at <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/legionnaires/>

The full media statement issued by Minister Springborg can be viewed here: <http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2013/10/17/nationwide-cooperation-required-to-control-and-prevent-legionella>

APHA Member Forum: Social Media for APHA Member Hospitals & Day Surgeries

APHA will present a number of hands-on workshops on social media for staff working at APHA hospitals and day surgeries. These workshops are free for APHA members and will take place in NSW, VIC, QLD, ACT, SA and WA. To find out more information about the member forum, please visit: <http://www.apha.org.au/2013/10/apha-member-forum-social-media-for-apha-member-hospitals-and-day-surgeries/>

Dates and Venues:

- 21 November 2013 – Canberra – APHA Office
- 27 November 2013 – Sydney – North Shore Private
- 28 November 2013 – Brisbane – Greenslopes Private Hospital
- 2 December – Melbourne – Epworth Richmond
- 4 December - Perth – TBC
- 6 December – Adelaide – Western Hospital

Please RSVP to [Lyndal Bailey](#) as places are limited.

Reminder APHA Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on 28 October 2013 and as a quorum of 55% of member votes is required to convene a meeting it is essential that we receive your completed proxy form (sent earlier this month to members and available on the APHA website).

Completed proxy forms must be received by the APHA by 2.00 pm on 26 October 2013 and instructions for submitting these are included on the form.

Should you have any queries in relation to this please contact: ruth.mcgorman-mann@apha.org.au.

Managing Blood and Blood Product Transfers Guide Public Consultation

The National Blood Authority (NBA) has developed a guide for Managing Blood and Blood Product Transfers which is now open for public consultation until Sunday, 17 November 2013. The material and submission information is available on the NBA website at: <http://www.blood.gov.au/public-consultation>.

If you have any questions, please contact [Lucy Cheetham](#) at APHA.

Improving the Management of Cognitive Impairment in Acute Care

The former Department of Health and Ageing funded the Commission to use the NSQHS Standards and other potential mechanisms to provide the basis for nationally coordinated improvement in the care of patients with cognitive impairment in acute care. The responsibility for this portfolio is now with the Department of Social Services.

There are two phases to the project. Firstly, a draft handbook will be developed to guide services in improving care of people with cognitive impairment within the context of the NSQHS Standards. The Commission will then consult extensively on this draft resource between October and December 2013 and, subject to approval, will release the final handbook in early 2014. Secondly, in the event there are safety and quality issues that have not been adequately addressed within the NSQHS standards, consideration will be given to possible solutions to address these issues.

Consultation will focus on how well the draft handbook:

- Raises awareness of cognitive impairment as a safety and quality issue;
- Provides a useful guide to actions, strategies and resources to improve safety and quality; and
- Demonstrates how actions can be mapped to the NSQHS Standards.

Feedback will be sought through an online consultation survey and a national round of consultation forums.

The online consultation survey will be available for completion between Monday, 14 October 2013 and Friday, 13 December 2013.

The consultation forums will be held for both consumers and health care professionals on the following dates:

- 29 October 2013 – Canberra
- 7 November 2013 – Darwin
- 13 November 2013 – Brisbane
- 19 November 2013 – Perth
- 21 November 2013 – Adelaide
- 26 November 2013 – Sydney
- 29 November 2013 – Melbourne
- 4 December 2013 – Hobart
- 6 December 2013 – Broken Hill

To express your interest in participating in a consultation forum, please [click here](#).

To download a copy of the draft handbook, please [click here](#).

Position Vacant: Director, Strategy and Business Development at

UnitingCare Health

UnitingCare Health are looking to employ a Director of Strategy and Business Development. For more information, please visit: <http://www.seek.com.au/job/25403881>

On the Radar - Issue 148

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:

Improving The Quality Of Health Care: What's Taking So Long?

The Long Wait For Medical Excellence

High-Reliability Health Care: Getting There from Here

Engaging patients in medication reconciliation via a patient portal following hospital discharge

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