



APHA Vital Signs

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

27 January 2013

APHA Office Closed

The APHA Secretariat will be closed on Monday, 28 January 2013 for the Australia Day Public Holiday. The office will re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday 29 January.

Changes to Second Tier Administrative Arrangements

A new version of the Administrative Arrangements for the Second Tier Default Benefits for Overnight and Day Only Treatment has been published by the Department of Health and Ageing. This document and associated materials can be found at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-phicirculars2013-07>

Hospitals currently eligible for second-tier benefits that continue to hold an accreditation certificate that was used for their second-tier eligibility may continue to use that accreditation for the purposes of re-applying for second-tier eligibility until that accreditation expires. When their existing accreditation expires, the hospital will be required to meet the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, subject to the implementation timelines specified by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare. Details of these timelines are available at:

<http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/accreditation/flexible-arrangements-for-2013/>

The next Second Tier Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Friday, 22 February 2013. The closing date for applications to be considered at that meeting is Friday, 15 February 2013.

Please note that applicants are required to submit nine stapled copies of their application and at least an original plus one covering letter to:

Second Tier Advisory Committee Secretariat
Australian Private Hospitals Association
PO Box 7426
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

Information which must be included in applications is outlined in the [Sample Application](#) located on the Australian Private Hospitals Association Website.

APHA Response to Competition in the Australian Private Health Insurance Market

In its response to the discussion paper released by PHIAC in November 2012, APHA has emphasised that Second Arrangements, sometimes erroneously regarded as a floor pricing mechanism, provide protection for private hospitals in the face of selective contracting by health funds. Given that there has been significant consolidation in the health fund market since 1997 when these arrangements were first introduced, Second Tier Arrangements are arguably of even greater relevance now.

To view the submission, visit: <http://www.apha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/PHIAC-Response-APHA-letter-head.pdf>

Annual Data Reports Published This Week

The HCP Annual Report 2010-2011 and PHDB 2011-12 Annual Report have been released on the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) website. These reports include data received from private health insurers detailing patient statistics.

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-casemix-data-collections-publications-HCPAnnualReports>

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-casemix-data-collections-publications-PHDBAnnualReports>

Training for Educators Using Simulation in Clinical Education

Health Workforce Australia has funded training for educators who use any form of simulation in clinical education. This is provided through the NHET-Sim program (see <http://www.nhet-sim.edu.au/>) being delivered through Monash University. For further information contact [Mehrdad Khodai-Joopari](#).

Standards Australia – Clinical Decision Support

APHA invites expressions of interest from clinical practitioners/informatics experts to nominate for the Standards Australia Clinical Decision Support Sub-Committee. Projects include:

- Virtual Medical Record Profile;
- Standards-based Clinical Decision Support in Australian Primary Care Systems; and
- Integration Specifications for Australian Point of Care Systems to interoperate with Independent Clinical Decision Support Services, Components and Applications.

For more information contact [Lucy Cheetham](#).

National Hospital Cost Data Collection - Round 16

As at 18 January, 60% of hospitals had fully submitted data for this round and an additional 6% of hospitals were in-progress. The PwC team will shortly provide feedback to participants. There will be 3 separate reports produced from the Round 16 study, namely:

- The individual hospital's costed output;
- The public report containing cost weight relativities across 4 cost buckets; and
- The participants-only report which will include cost information together with cost weight relativities across all cost buckets (similar to the report produced in prior years).

For further information contact: Angela Leary-Smith or Julia Smith
1800 NHCDC0 [1800 642 320] or email nhcdcprivate@au.pwc.com.

Private Hospital Magazine – April 2013 – Submissions requested

The new National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards came into effect on 1 January 2013. In the April edition of Private Hospital, we would like to feature articles from hospitals who have done considerable work towards the standards and showcase any innovative programs for standards implementation. The deadline is 11 February 2013 and we are looking for articles of between 500 and 1000 words long. Please contact [Lyndal Bailey](#) if you are interested in making a submission to the magazine.

On the Radar - Issue 111

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:

Health Policy Brief: Reducing Waste in Health Care

Improving Patient and Worker Safety—Opportunities for Synergy, Collaboration and Innovation

Tapping Front-Line Knowledge: Identifying Problems as They Occur Helps Enhance Patient Safety

The role of chief executive officers in a quality improvement: a qualitative study

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

APHA, PO Box 7426, Canberra BC, ACT 2610