



# APHA Vital Signs

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

8 December 2013

## APHA Annual Review

The APHA 2013 Annual Review is now available for viewing on the APHA website. The Annual Review is a compendium of activities undertaken on your behalf by the Association.

It is also our opportunity to publicly recognise those who have assisted in our work throughout 2013. We thank you for your efforts and for your assistance.

To view the APHA Annual Report please [click here](#).

## Chemotherapy Review

On 30 November 2013, the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP and the Minister for Health, the Hon Peter Dutton MP announced that the additional funding of \$60 per chemotherapy infusion will be provided for a further 18 months from 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2015 to support the provision of chemotherapy services at their current levels.

The Government also announced measures to simplify a number of administrative processes, to reduce the red tape burden faced by prescribers, pharmacists and hospitals when prescribing, dispensing and claiming for PBS medicines.

APHA has welcomed this announcement in response to representation by APHA and other key stakeholders.

To view a copy of the Report from the Review of Funding Arrangements for Chemotherapy Services please visit

<https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/chemotherapy-review>

For information on the new fee arrangements please visit

[http://www.pbs.gov.au/info/publication/factsheets/shared/revised-arrangements-for-chemotherapy#New\\_remuneration\\_arrangements](http://www.pbs.gov.au/info/publication/factsheets/shared/revised-arrangements-for-chemotherapy#New_remuneration_arrangements)

## APHA National Procedure Banding Schedule Update with Effect from 1 January 2014

There have been amendments to some MBS descriptors with effect from 1 January 2014 and therefore please find on the APHA website (members area) an updated National Procedure Banding List effective 1 January 2014.

Should you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact [Andrea Versteegen](#) or telephone 02 6273 9000.

## Pricing Framework for Australian Public Hospital Services 2014-15

The Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) has released its [Pricing Framework for Australian Public Hospital Services 2014-15](#). The Pricing Framework provides the methodology used to determine the [National Efficient Price \(NEP\)](#) and the [National Efficient Cost \(NEC\)](#) and is put together through extensive consultation with jurisdictions and stakeholders.

The NEP and NEC Determinations will be published on the IHPA website in February 2014.

## **WA: New Clinical Supervision of Students e-learning Package for Rural and Remote Allied Health and Nursing Clinicians**

In 2013, the WACHS Allied Health Clinical Education Program undertook the development of an inter-profession eLearning Package with funding made available by Health Workforce Australia.

The online package is free training, covering everything from planning, commencing, carrying and evaluating student placements. Designed for rural and remote allied health and nursing professionals and appropriate for both experienced supervisors and those new to supervision, the course can be completed singularly or together as a whole course.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.health.wa.gov.au/wactn/home/resources.cfm>

## **NSW: Up-scheduling of Alprazolam**

In response to the increasing illicit use of alprazolam and evidence of physical and psychological symptoms of alprazolam dependence, alprazolam is to be up-scheduled from Schedule 4 to Schedule 8 of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons on 1 February 2014.

Under the requirements of the NSW Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008, from 1 February 2014 alprazolam preparations must be obtained, receipted, stored, recorded, prescribed, supplied, administered and destroyed as for all other Schedule 8 medications

For further information, please visit:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical/Pages/alprazolam-upscheduling.aspx>

## **APHA National Congress – Registrations Open**

APHA has opened registration for the 33rd National Congress to be held 23-25 March 2014 at the Brisbane Convention Centre.

To register, visit: [www.aphacongress.com.au](http://www.aphacongress.com.au)

## **On the Radar - Issue 155**

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 at a Glance 2013: OECD Indicators*

*Hard Truths: the Journey to Putting Patients First.*

*Economic Evaluation of the Impact of Medication Errors Reported by U.S. Clinical Pharmacists*

*International Journal for Quality in Health Care*

On the Radar is available via email or as a PDF document from

<http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-resources/on-the-radar/>