



APHA Vital Signs

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

9 June 2013

APHA Office Closed

The APHA Secretariat will be closed on Monday, 10 June 2013 for the Queen's Birthday long weekend. The office will re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday 11 June.

Submission to the Inquiry Regarding the Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment (Base Premium) Bill 2013

Last week APHA filed a [submission](#) to the Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs' inquiry into the Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment (Base Premium) Bill 2013. The submission outlined that the legislation is of significant concern because of its impact on the affordability of private health insurance and consequences for patient access to hospital care.

PHIAC Releases Research Paper – “Competition in the Australian Private Health Insurance Market”

A research paper incorporating the observations expressed from 28 submissions, including APHA's, as well as some additional research and data analysis has now been released. The report paper can be downloaded at www.phiac.gov.au/industry/premiums-and-competition-unit/

An electronic discussion forum will take place from the 12 June 2013 on the PHIAC website.

WorkCover NSW: Increase in Rates Effective from 1 June 2013

In response to advocacy from APHA and member hospitals, WorkCover NSW has agreed to an increase in private hospital fees. A once-off increase will be effective from 1 June 2013 and subsequently indexation will apply from 1 July 2013. The updated Workers Compensation (Private Hospital Rates) Order 2013 has been placed in the [Government Gazette](#) for 31 May 2013, pages 2318 to 2321. The [WorkCover NSW Private Hospital Fee Schedule 2013](#) can be found online.

WorkCover NSW has also undertaken to index rates annually in future years. In coming weeks the APHA will be continuing to hold discussions with WorkCover NSW with a view to seeking improvements to the funding schedule used by WorkCover NSW. Members are encouraged to raise issues that they would like to see addressed through this process. Questions and comments to [Lucy Cheetham](#).

The National Disability Insurance Scheme

DisabilityCare Australia, the national disability insurance scheme ('the scheme') will be launched from July 2013 in four locations:

- Hunter area, New South Wales
- Barwon area, Victoria
- South Australia (for children) and
- Tasmania (for young people).

Further sites in the [Australian Capital Territory](#) and [Northern Territory](#) will be launched from July 2014 and Queensland by 2019.

For more information about DisabilityCare Australia and the rollout of the scheme from 1 July 2013 visit the [website](#) or email NDISenquiries@fhcsia.gov.au or call 1800 800 110.

National Cancer Workforce Strategic Framework

Health Workforce Australia has outlined [five recommendations in its National Cancer Workforce Strategic Framework](#), released last week as part of a plan for how to respond to increased workforce demands as Australia's population lives longer and the incidence of cancer increases. The framework explores the key issues for the cancer workforce and identifies innovation and reform that can be applied nation ally.

PHI Circular 32-13: Guidelines for Recognition of Private Hospital-Based Rehabilitation Services

The [Guidelines for Recognition of Private Hospital-Based Rehabilitation Services](#) have been revised by the Consultative Committee on Private Rehabilitation (CCPR). They are intended to provide guidance to hospitals and health funds in determining private health insurance benefits for private hospital-based rehabilitation care. The Guidelines may also be of assistance to State/Territory health authorities and their public hospitals in the treatment of Medicare and privately insured patients.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding this Circular, please email privatehealth@health.gov.au.

Reappointment of PMHA Independent Chair and Network Chair

APHA, AMA, PHA and DoHA have confirmed the reappointment of Mr Philip Plummer, as the Independent Chair of the PMHA and Ms Janne McMahon OAM, as the Chair of the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network (Australia) for the duration of the Agreement from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2015.

PBM Guidelines - June 2013 Update

The Patient Blood Management Guidelines for June 2013 are now available on the National Blood Authority's [new website](#). Updates include:

- [Module 1 Critical Bleeding/Massive Transfusion](#)
- [Module 2 Perioperative](#)
- [Module 3 Medical](#)
- [Module 4 Critical Care](#)

If you have any questions, please contact guidelines@blood.gov.au

TGA Updates

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and Medsafe have developed an [Early Warning System](#) to communicate potential safety concerns with therapeutic products. The system includes current and historical information on safety concerns for medicines and medical devices that the TGA has identified through its therapeutic product vigilance program.

The TGA has also developed an [email alert service](#) notifying subscribers when new or updated TGA guideline have been published on the TGA Internet site. If you want to receive information notifications from the TGA, please subscribe to the [TGA Consultations email list](#).

On the Radar - Issue 129

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:

Patient-centred leadership: Rediscovering our purpose

Measuring Patient Experiences in Primary Health Care: A review and classification of items and scales used in publicly-available questionnaires

Practices to prevent venous thromboembolism: a brief review

Clinical supervisors: are they the key to making care safer?

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

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