The eHealth Legislation: Discussion Paper

The consultation on draft Clinical Care Standards on Delirium and Hip Fracture is now available for public consultation. The Commission is seeking feedback via an online consultation updated: Clinical Trials Ready.

The consultation is an understanding of the views of stakeholders, including clinical trial sites, on a number of fundamental aspects of the Clinical Trials Ready initiative.

The purpose of the paper is to encourage discussion and feedback within the community and healthcare sector about the proposed legislative changes. If there are any questions or comments on proposed legislative changes, please contact Lucy Cheetham by 17 May 2015.

Sixth Pharmaceutical Agreement signed

The Sixth Pharmaceutical Agreement was signed this week between the Federal Government and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. The key elements of the agreement are:

- A new Administration, Handling and Infrastructure (AHI) Fee for Section 90
- An increased investment in community pharmacy programs and services
- An ongoing commitment to additional funding for chemotherapy
- Changes to price disclosure arrangements (for F2), which will see prices for generics reduce by as much as 50 per cent from October 2016
- Price reductions (for F1) for drugs listed for five or more years
- An independent review of pharmacy remuneration and location rules to be conducted during the 6CPA to inform future arrangements
- Removal of low-cost over-the-counter medicines from the PBS
- The option for pharmacies to discount the patient co-payment paid for PBS items

The APHA continues to engage with Health Minister Sussan Ley and with the Department of Health regarding the impact of this agreement on the private hospital sector. If you have further questions or comments including issues that you would like APHA to raise on your behalf, please contact Lucy Cheetham. Here's the full text of the agreement.

Tasmanian Budget announced

The Tasmanian Budget, announced on 28 May, allocated an additional $100 to provide essential public hospital services, including elective and emergency surgery. This is on top of the previously announced $76 million commitment to reduce waiting lists with an Elective Surgery program.

The budget includes further funding for the $3 million Hospital Alternative Program, including restoring the successful Home in the Home initiatives and $2.4 million for Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services. It included an additional funding of $8.3 million for the maintenance and upgrades of hospitals and health centres across the state, including the Launceston General Hospital, Flinders Island Hospital, Launceston Ambulance Station and other rural facilities. The budget also commits to ongoing operational funding for the North-West Regional Cancer Centre at Burnie due to be fully operational in 2015-16.

For further details, click here.

ABS releases publication on private hospitals data for 2013-14

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has released a publication that presents data for the private hospital sector in 2013-14. It contains three main chapters and is supported by two data cubes. The first chapter covers summary information about private hospitals. The second and third chapters cover more detailed information for acute and psychiatric hospitals, and for free standing same day facilities respectively. Click here for more details.

Consultation updated: Clinical Trials Ready – Concept and Criteria

The consultation Clinical Trials Ready – Concept and Criteria has been updated. The closing date has been extended from 12 June to 26 June 2015. The intended outcome of the consultation is an understanding of the views of stakeholders, including clinical trial sites, on a number of fundamental aspects of the Clinical Trials Ready initiative.

Consultation on draft Delirium and Hip Fracture Care Clinical Care Standards

In collaboration with consumers, clinicians, researchers and health service organisations, the Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care has developed two draft Clinical Care Standards on Delirium and Hip Fracture Care. These draft Clinical Care Standards are now available for public consultation. The Commission is seeking feedback via an online survey or in writing by close of business Friday, 3 July 2015.
Find out about the consultation process and access the draft Clinical Care Standards, indicator specifications and factsheets.

On the Radar – Issue 223

On the Radar is a summary of some of the recent publications in the areas of safety and quality in healthcare. Some of the latest content includes:

- The practice of system leadership: Being comfortable with chaos
- Insensible Losses: When The Medical Community Forgets The Family
- Does Employee Safety Matter for Patients Too? Employee Safety Climate and Patient Safety Culture in Health Care
- Role of cognition in generating and mitigating clinical errors
- Human Factors Engineering: Its Place and Potential in OR Safety
- Have your say about research in health communication and participation
- BMJ Quality and Safety online first articles

Issue 223 and previous issues of On the Radar are available via email or as PDF documents from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care’s website.

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