



11 March 2012

APHA office closed – Monday 12 March

The APHA Secretariat will be closed on Monday 12 March 2012 due to the Canberra Day long weekend. The office will re-open for business as usual Tuesday 13 March 2012 at 8:30am.

Extraordinary General Meeting

A letter has been sent to the chief representative of voting members advising that an Extraordinary General Meeting will be held on 3 April 2012, to consider changes to the APHA constitution.

These amendments provide for APHA to utilise available technology in attending to statutory communications with Members. The changes provide for electronic means as the default method of communication with Members with respect of company notices. The changes will assist with the use of online voting for Council vacancies.

The letter contains information about the proposed changes and a proxy form. For further information please contact .lee@apha.org.au.

National Procedure Banding Schedule – Amendments

Amendments have been made to MBS Ophthalmology Items as under, effective 1 March 2012.

New Item Numbers: 42738 & 42739 (Band 3 (interim band) – Surgical)

These new item numbers provide for paracentesis for the injection of therapeutic substances and/or the removal of aqueous or vitreous, when undertaken as an independent procedure – that is, not in conjunction with other intraocular surgery. Practitioners billing item 42739 must keep clinical notes outlining the basis for the use of anaesthetic.

Item 42740 – Amended Description (Band 3 – Surgical)

Item 42740 has been amended and provides for intravitreal injection of therapeutic substances and/or the removal of vitreous for diagnostic purposes when performed in conjunction with other intraocular surgery.

There were no other amendments in the March MBS update, affecting the Banding Schedule. The updated National Procedure Banding Schedule with an effective date of 1 March 2012 (Excel Spreadsheet), together with a Summary of Changes (Word document) is available at the following link [://www.apha.org.au/members/procedure-banding-schedule/](http://www.apha.org.au/members/procedure-banding-schedule/)

Hand Hygiene information released on *MyHospitals* website

Hand hygiene data, showing compliance rates against a national benchmark of 70%, has been released on the Federal Government's *MyHospitals* website. Data from 233 public hospitals has been published on the site. The 70% benchmark is an interim benchmark based on advice from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care and is used to compare how often staff in a hospital follow hand hygiene procedures before and after coming into contact with

patients. The benchmark will be reviewed over time.

'Like' your private hospital and win \$1000 Voucher for Apple products



APHA's Valuing Private Hospital campaign fun Facebook Competition is now open for you and your staff to start sharing what you 'like' about your APHA member hospital. Just take a photo of something that you 'like' at your facility, make sure you include the Facebook 'like' thumb board that your hospital champion has been sent in your photo and upload it to our contest area on our Facebook page.

The competition will be open for photo submissions until Sunday 25 March on the "Australia's Private Hospitals" campaign Facebook page [://www.facebook.com/#!/valuingprivatehospitals](http://www.facebook.com/#!/valuingprivatehospitals).

Please submit your photo by the 25th of March. Public voting for their favourite photo will open on 26 March to coincide with Private Hospitals Week and the winner will be announced on Friday afternoon of Private Hospitals Week (30 March). The winner will receive a \$1000 voucher to spend at the Apple store. Full terms & conditions can be found on our Facebook page.

CRE-PS The Safe Ward Seminar Thursday 29th March 2012

The Centre of Research Excellence in Patient Safety (CRE-PS) is running a seminar titled; "The Safe Ward" on Thursday 29th March 2012 in Melbourne.

This seminar is aimed at clinical leaders in nursing, medical and allied health. To view the program please go to [://www.crepatientsafety.org.au/seminars/2012seminars.html](http://www.crepatientsafety.org.au/seminars/2012seminars.html).