



# APHA Vital Signs

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

11 November 2012

## APHA National Congress Registration is now OPEN!

APHA would like to invite you to register for the **APHA 32nd National Congress** being held from Sunday 3 - Tuesday 5 March 2013 at Crown Conference Centre in Melbourne, Australia. The Congress in 2013 is being held in association with the New Zealand Private Surgical Hospitals Association (NZPSHA).

**Registration is now open. [Click here to register now!](#)**

The program offers a variety of sessions that will appeal to a wide cross-section of participants from all areas of the private healthcare system. This year the program will focus on international experiences in health care, how to break down generational barriers in the workplace, consumer issues, workforce, mental health, e-health innovations and much more.

**To view the draft program please [click here](#).**

In addition to the keynote and plenary speakers, the Congress will facilitate debate and discussion through a program of formal and informal networking opportunities, and present a showcase of industry innovation at the Congress Trade Exhibition. APHA's 32nd National Congress will deliver a thought provoking and informative look into the hot issues impacting private hospitals in 2013.

For more information about the Congress please visit: [www.aphacongress.com.au](http://www.aphacongress.com.au)

## Ministerial Discussions

Last Monday, APHA CEO, Michael Roff met with the Victorian Minister for Health and Minister for Ageing, the Hon David Davis MLC.

Discussions covered a wide range of issues including private patients in public hospitals, elective surgery tendering, the role of private hospitals in Victoria's health service delivery planning, the federal government's proposals to change the indexation of health insurance rebates and health workforce training in the private sector.

## Health Workforce Roundtable

Last Thursday, APHA joined with Catholic Health Australia and other private sector representatives for a Private Healthcare Roundtable as part of the Australian Government Review of Health Workforce Programs.

The objective of the review is to analyse and assess the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of Commonwealth programs and activities designed to increase, train, support, plan for and distribute the Australian health workforce.

There was a high degree of consensus amongst participants about the as yet untapped potential of the private sector to expand health workforce training capacity. A range of barriers to this expansion were identified and number of possible solutions discussed, including:

- A better understanding of the priorities of the private sector

- Better integration of the private sector into planning processes
- A level playing field for allocation of funding
- The removal of the need for state-based approval processes
- More responsiveness from Universities about the quality of graduates they produce
- The need for a Private Sector Advisory Board to report to the Minister and/or a Private Training Entity to coordinate funding for health workforce training in the private sector.

The Review is expected to produce a draft report by the end of 2012 and a final report by the end of March 2013.

## **Circular 2012-67: PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE (BENEFIT REQUIREMENTS) AMENDMENT RULES 2012 (NO. 7)**

The Private Health Insurance (Benefit Requirements) Amendment Rules 2012 (No.7) (the Amendment Rules) were registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI) on 31 October 2012 (F2012L02114 ) and take effect on 1 November 2012, or the day after registration.

On 1 November 2012, changes to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items took effect. The Amendment Rules amend MBS items in Schedules 1 and 3 of the Private Health Insurance (Benefit Requirements) Rules 2011 (the Principal Rules). The changes are necessary to maintain consistency between the MBS item codes listed in the Principal Rules and the MBS from 1 November 2012.

The amendments also reflect an indexation of 1.9% to the MBS Schedule fees in Schedule 1 of the Principal Rules.

The full details of this bulletin can be found

at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-phicirculars2012-67>

## **Federal Minister Welcomes Leadership on Medical Interns**

Health Minister Tanya Plibersek on Friday congratulated those jurisdictions that are working with the Commonwealth to fund additional medical internship training in public and private hospitals.

Under the agreement WA, the ACT, Queensland and NT will fund an additional 32 internships in their public hospitals. In return the Commonwealth will fund an additional 84 intern places in 2013, almost all in private hospitals.

For more information, visit: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr12-tp-tp094.htm>

## **National Procedure Banding Schedule**

Please be advised that National Procedure Banding Committee is not meeting until 19th November 2012 to discuss bandings of the new item numbers (30687 & 48694) – effective 1/11/2012. Therefore, unfortunately APHA will not be able to release the Banding Update effective 1/11/2012 until after the Committee has met and the bandings have been determined. The new list will be circulated as soon as possible after 19/11/2012.

## **BloodSafe eLearning Australia**

BloodSafe eLearning Australia is leading the way in quality education and clinical excellence for blood components and transfusion practices.

Their online courses are designed to advance the practice of health care professionals and improve

patient outcomes.

The free courses, which have been developed by a multidisciplinary group of expert clinicians. These include:

- Clinical Transfusion Practice
- Collecting Blood Specimens
- Transporting Blood
- Postpartum Haemorrhage
- Iron Deficiency Anaemia
- Critical Bleeding

For more information, visit <https://www.bloodsafelearning.org.au/node/23>

## **On the Radar - Issue 104**

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:

*Inviting Patients to Read Their Doctors' Notes: A Quasi-experimental Study and a Look Ahead*

*Assessment of teamwork during structured interdisciplinary rounds on medical units*

*E-prescribing: A focused review and new approach to addressing safety in pharmacies and primary care*

*Call to Action: Safeguarding the Integrity of Healthcare Quality and Safety Systems*

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

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