



# APHA Vital Signs

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

16 December 2012

## APHA Office Christmas Shutdown

This will be the last Vital Signs newsletter for 2012. The APHA secretariat will be closed for the Christmas shut-down period from Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2012 from noon and will re-open 2 January 2013 at 8.30am. APHA wishes you a merry Christmas and a happy and safe new year.

## 2012 Annual Review

As the year comes to a close, APHA has released our 2012 Annual Review, highlighting the work and achievements of the Association throughout the year. In a year of diverse challenges, we are proud of our achievements and invite you to read our full review of 2012 activities here:

<http://www.apha.org.au/media-centre/annual-reports/2012-annual-review/>

## APHA National Congress – Earlybird Registration Closes 18 January

If you are heading off on holidays soon don't forget to register for APHA's 32nd National Congress which will be held 3-5 March 2013. Earlybird Registration closes on 18 January and you do not want to miss out! Register today at [www.aphacongress.com.au](http://www.aphacongress.com.au)

## National Standards Accreditation

By now all hospitals and day surgeries should have received a full package of the National Standards from the Australian The package comprises a boxed set of the published standards together with a USB drive containing electronic versions of these documents. This boxed set provides the latest version of: the NSQHS Standards (September 2012), Improvement Guides for each Standard (October 2012) and Accreditation Workbooks for day procedure services and hospitals (October 2012). Please ensure that you refer to these editions when undertaking any accreditation related activities as they include significant changes from the earlier consultation versions. These documents, along with detailed evidence-based resources are also available on the Commission's website at [www.safetyandquality.gov.au](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au). The Commission's Advice Centre also welcomes any inquiries or comments on any aspect of accreditation and is able to provide practical advice on issues of interpretation. You can contact them via email on [accreditation@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:accreditation@safetyandquality.gov.au) or by phone 1800 304 056. APHA will continue to monitor closely the roll out of National Standards accreditation in 2013.

## Medical Training in the Private Sector

On 9 November Health Ministers agreed on the need for improved coordination of medical training by working with trainees, employers, educators and government through a new National Medical Training Advisory Network which has subsequently met for the first time. Participants included APHA representative Gavin O'Meara. Also welcome is the statement issued by The AMA this week supporting medical training in the private sector. APHA will continue to push vigorously for an appropriately resourced and sustained commitment to medical training pathways in the private sector. We are keen to hear from you regarding your experience in tendering or negotiating to take medical interns and registrars for 2013. Contact Mehrdad Khodai-Joopari: [mehrdad.khodai@apha.org.au](mailto:mehrdad.khodai@apha.org.au)

## Patient Blood Management Guidelines - Register for BLOODportal by 31 December

The NBA has updated their email distribution system with the introduction of BLOODportal.

BLOODportal allows users to register at a single location and subscribe to mailing lists relating to transfusion in Australia. To continue automatically receiving these updates you must re-register by the end of 2012.

The Patient Blood Management Guidelines December 2012 progress update is currently available on the NBA website: <http://www.nba.gov.au/guidelines/updates.html>

Questions regarding these updates should be directed to [guidelines@nba.gov.au](mailto:guidelines@nba.gov.au).

### **On the Radar - Issue 109**

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:

*Overarching goals: a strategy for improving healthcare quality and safety?*

*Hospital Pay-For-Performance Programs In Maryland Produced Strong Results, Including Reduced Hospital-Acquired Conditions*

*National and Local Medication Error Reporting Systems-A Survey of Practices in 16 Countries*

*Why do clinicians not refer patients to online decision support tools? Interviews with front line clinics in the NHS*

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