



APHA Vital Signs

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

16 September 2012

Backbench Meeting

Last week, APHA CEO Michael Roff was invited to present to the Legal Affairs, Social Affairs and Immigration Backbench Policy Committee. The briefing covered the role and contribution of the private hospitals sector within the Australian health system and discussed a number of key issues facing the sector including the potential impacts to flow from means-testing health insurance rebates and the growth in exclusionary health insurance products.

National Party Conference

Over the weekend, Michael Roff attended The Nationals Federal Conference meeting in Canberra and held meetings with a range of MPs, Senators and Shadow Ministers, highlighting the vital role played by the private hospitals sector in delivering health services in regional Australia.

DoHA

APHA also met with a Deputy Secretary and senior officers from the Department of Health and Ageing to discuss issues relating to the transition to the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards. These included APHA's proposal for a potential amendment of the Private Health Insurance (Accreditation) Rules to specifically recognise the NSQHS Standards as the requirement to be eligible to receive health fund benefits, in addition to being the quality requirements for 2nd tier default benefit eligibility. Moves to harmonise other accreditation schemes, such as that required for Diagnostic Imaging, with the NSQHS standards were also discussed.

Amendments to National Procedure Banding Schedule - Effective 13 September 2012

There have been 3 amendments to the Procedure Banding Schedule effective as of 13 September 2012. These amendments can be viewed in the members area of the APHA website:

<http://www.apha.org.au/members/procedure-banding-schedule/>

APHA's New Communications Officer

On Friday APHA said good-bye to our Communications Officer for the past two years, Rebecca Angove. Rebecca is off to London to seek fame, fortune and fun. We also said hello to Lyndal Bailey, who will replace Rebecca as APHA's Communications Officer. Lyndal will continue Rebecca's work on gathering stories for Private Hospital magazine, assisting with APHA's social media accounts, and helping with the Valuing Private Hospitals campaign. Lyndal can be contacted on lyndal.bailey@apha.org.au. Welcome Lyndal and all the best Rebecca from all of us at APHA!

Health Care Social Media list

APHA is a proud member of the Mayo Clinic Social Media Network (MCSMN). This week, the MCSMN announced that they will take on the management of Ed Bennett's Health Care Social Media List (which lists all US hospitals with a social media presence). The MCSMN has international members (like APHA) and will focus on building the list to include all Network members. They plan to be able to host sub-lists, including a list of all hospitals in Australia who have a social media presence. APHA would like to help with this project and are asking for your assistance. If your hospital has some sort of social media presence (a facebook page, a Twitter account, a blog, a Pinterest account, or all of the above) please send Lisa Ramshaw an email (Lisa.Ramshaw@apha.org.au) with links to your social media accounts. Lisa will compile a list and

ensure it is uploaded to the MCSMN global list. If you would like to see the Health Care Social Media List as it currently stands, check out <http://network.socialmedia.mayoclinic.org/hsnl-grid/>

National Blood Authority - Patient Blood Management Guidelines

The Review of the *NHMRC/ASBT Clinical Practice Guidelines on Fresh Blood Components (2001)* will result in the production of six modules as part of a comprehensive, evidence-based, Patient Blood Management Guideline. The modules are being produced in three phases as follows:

Module 1 - Critical Bleeding/Massive Transfusion The Module, the accompanying Quick Reference Guide and a *Massive transfusion protocol template* can be ordered or downloaded free of charge from the NBA website.

Module 2 - Perioperative The Module, the accompanying Quick Reference Guide and a *Preoperative haemoglobin assessment and optimisation template* can be ordered or downloaded free of charge from the NBA website.

Module 3 - Medical The Module and the accompanying Quick Reference Guide are due to be published later this month. They will be available to order or download free of charge from the NBA website.

Module 4 - Critical Care has been submitted to NHMRC consideration in November 2012.

Module 5 - Obstetric and **Module 6 - Paediatric/Neonate** The NBA is currently seeking consumer representatives for membership in the Clinical/Consumer Reference Groups for these modules. Please see the NBA website for further information at www.nba.gov.au and instructions on how to apply.

Guidelines for determining benefits for Private Health Insurance purposes for Private Mental Health care (2012 edition)

Contact details for matters related to the Guidelines have changed. Any inquires may be directed to Nathan Hyson, A/g Director, Legal Policy and Consumer Strategies Section, Private Health Insurance Branch, Department of Health and Ageing via telephone on (02) 6289 9452, or via email to nathan.hyson@health.gov.au.

A copy of the Guidelines which are unchanged since their release in May 2012 can be accessed following this link:

<http://www.pmha.com.au/Portals/4/PublicDocuments/GuidelinesForDeterminingBenefitsForHealthInsuranceBenefitsPurposesForPrivateMentalHealthCare/Guidelines%20for%20Determining%20Benefits%202012%20Edition.pdf>

Commencement of the Public Health Act 2010 and the Public Health Regulation 2012

The Public Health Act 2010 and the Public Health Regulation 2012 commenced on **1 September 2012** and while many of the provisions of the earlier legislation will continue, the new Act and Regulation contain a number of requirements that will impact on a range of health practitioners.

To support implementation of the Act and Regulation, information sheets have been developed on specific areas, such as the procedures for notification of certain diseases and for the notification of deaths after anaesthesia or sedation. These and other materials can be accessed through the NSW Ministry of Health webpage dedicated to Public Health Legislation: www.health.nsw.gov.au/phact.

On the Radar - Issue 96

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:

Best care at lower cost: The path to continuously learning health care in America

A 10 year (2000-2010) systematic review of interventions to improve quality of care in hospitals

Simulation to enhance patient safety: why aren't we there yet?

Impact of a hospital-wide hand hygiene initiative on healthcare-associated infections: results of an interrupted time series

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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