



APHA Vital Signs

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

18 November 2012

Chemotherapy Update

Last Thursday, APHA CEO, Michael Roff attended a meeting in Brisbane of concerned stakeholders (patients, patient advocacy support groups, specialist doctors, private hospitals, community and hospital pharmacists, cancer clinics, wholesalers and third party compounders) involved in the delivery of chemotherapy services to patients.

The meeting was addressed by the Minister's representatives from the Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA); Ms Felicity McNeill, First Assistant Secretary, Pharmaceutical Benefits Division and Mr Kim Bessell, Assistant Secretary, Pharmaceutical Access Branch.

The aim of this meeting was to discuss the impact on patients of government policy that refuses to recognise the true cost of delivering chemotherapy to patients.

While the Departmental representatives explained they were there to listen and understand concerns, they explained that in their view, it would not be possible to put a moratorium on the December 1 price reductions, and gave no commitment that anything would be done to avert the potential consequences if there was no change to policy before December 1.

Against this background, APHA will be distributing resources on Monday to hospitals to help them inform patients of the potential consequences of this change.

Chemotherapy Survey

On 8 November, APHA distributed a Members Bulletin including a link to a short survey on the provision of chemotherapy services, asking for information about the number of infusions, chairs and separations provided by each facility. A number of facilities are yet to respond to this survey and the more responses we receive, the better we will be able to quantify the impact of the proposed cuts.

To access the survey, please use the link from the previous Member's Bulletin or contact Jodie Bremer at Jodie.bremer@apha.org.au or (02) 6273 9000.

PHIAC data - Headlines from September Quarter 2012

The Private Health Insurance Administration Council (PHIAC) released its quarterly statistics for the September quarter of 2012 on 16th November 2012.

The highlight of this release can be accessed at: <http://www.apha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/PHIAC-data-headlines-from-September-Quarter-2012.pdf>

AOHA will be distributing its detailed analysis of the PHIAC data in coming weeks.

Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA)

The inaugural Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) Annual Report was released this week and can be downloaded from:

[http://www.ihoa.gov.au/internet/ihoa/publishing.nsf/content/061255667DF68BE0CA257948007A4256/\\$File/annual-report.pdf](http://www.ihoa.gov.au/internet/ihoa/publishing.nsf/content/061255667DF68BE0CA257948007A4256/$File/annual-report.pdf)

PHMA Hospital Managers' Survey

The PMHA wishes to extend a sincere thanks to the 81% of Hospital Managers who participated in the Hospital Managers' BPD Survey online. The response rate has been excellent, providing valuable information about BPD service provision in the Australian private psychiatric sector.

The PMHA also wishes to thank the APHA, members of the APHA Psych Committee and Lucy Cheetham, APHA Head of Policy and Research, for their efforts in supporting and promoting this survey with private psychiatric hospitals round Australia. Findings will be available in 2013 on the PMHA website.

PHIAC Circular 12/32 – Premiums and Competition Unit Discussion Paper 1 – Competition in the Australian Private Health Insurance Market

This PHIAC circular is now available at the following link:

<http://www.phiac.gov.au/circulars/2012/1232/>

This circular initiates a consultation round on the first of a series of discussion papers from the Private Health Insurance Administration Council's (PHIAC) Premiums and Competition Unit (PACU).

This discussion paper provides an opportunity for the industry and other interested stakeholders to comment on the private health insurance market and the current state of competition in the industry. PHIAC invites written submissions on any issues raised in the discussion paper. Respondents are provided with consultation questions to prompt consideration of particular issues. Insurers and stakeholders should not feel limited to responding to these questions.

Submissions from stakeholders will be considered and incorporated into a final report, due for release in early 2013. This report will form the foundation for the future work of the PACU and will inform PHIAC, industry and consumers of the competitive forces at work in the private health insurance industry.

An electronic version of the discussion paper is available on PHIAC's website at www.phiac.gov.au/for-industry/consultation-opportunities/

Written submissions should be submitted by COB Monday 21 January 2013.

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.

APHA wants to share what is happening at your hospital with the rest of the world!

Whether you're looking for new employees, wanting to promote your hospital's events or news – APHA is here to help. APHA offer a free service to its members which allows for them to make the most of APHA's website and social media.

If you have a job, event or news regarding your hospital, please send it through to Lyndal Bailey, APHA's Communication Officer at Lyndal.bailey@apha.org.au.

On the Radar - Issue 105

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:

The 'Global Outcomes Score': A Quality Measure, Based On Health Outcomes, That Compares Current Care To A Target Level Of Care

The Longer The Shifts For Hospital Nurses, The Higher The Levels Of Burnout And Patient Dissatisfaction

Contemporary Evidence About Hospital Strategies for Reducing 30-Day Readmissions: A National Study

A New Tool To Give Hospitalists Feedback To Improve Interprofessional Teamwork And Advance Patient Care

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

APHA, PO Box 7426, Canberra BC, ACT 2610