



APHA Vital Signs

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

19 August 2012

Victorian Elective Surgery Funding

Last week, APHA CEO, Michael Roff, was appointed to the Victorian Department of Health Competitive Elective Surgery Funding Industry Advisory Panel.

The Department is providing \$9 million in funding to test new approaches to deliver treatment to more Victorian elective surgery patients. The funding will be allocated on a competitive basis to drive efficiency and innovation in elective surgery. The Industry Advisory Panel will provide advice about key features of the design of the initiative, oversee the evaluation and provide advice to the Minister including extension of the program from 2012-13 and beyond.

It is anticipated that submissions will be sought from public and private hospitals in Victoria in mid-September for surgical services to be provided between January and June 2013.

Private Sector Intern Training

APHA was recently approached by DoHA to provide advice in relation to a recent announcement by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council that funding was available for the establishment of additional intern training placements in private hospitals. APHA was able to determine the number of training places that could be established by January 2013, providing accreditation could be achieved and funding was appropriate. This information was provided to a meeting of Health Ministers on 10 August. APHA is continuing to liaise with DoHA on this issue.

National Hospital Costs Data Collection

On 13 August, APHA was advised that Price Waterhouse Coopers had written to all private hospital CEOs to invite them to participate in Rounds 16 and 17 of the National Hospital Costs Data Collection. The APHA is pleased that the Independent Health Pricing Authority has significantly shifted its approach from that taken in past collection rounds by proposing substantial reduction in the level of detail provided in published data. IHPA's announcement substantially addresses the concerns raised by APHA.

PHIAC data - Headlines from June Quarter 2012

The Private Health Insurance Administration Council (PHIAC) released its quarterly statistics for the June quarter of 2012 on 16th August 2012. To read the highlights from the report head to the members area of APHA: <http://www.apha.org.au/members/information-paper-series/>

Change to date for payment of annual licence fees - NSW private health facilities

The Ministry of Health, NSW has written to all licence holders advising that the default date by which annual licence fees must be paid has been changed from 31 December to 30 September. This change was made in response to concerns that the due date of 31 December was highly inconvenient. This decision also brings private health facility licencing arrangements into line with the timeline for payment of annual licence fees under the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 which also require Clause 169 licence holders to pay an annual fee by 30 September. Licences now may be renewed online using the Government Licensing System and further information about this service will be provided to licence holders in due course. Any enquiries about the 2012 renewal process can be directed to the Minister of Health by email to: phcmb@doh.health.nsw.gov.au.

PHI Circular 55/12 - AUGUST 2012 PROSTHESES LIST

The revisions to the Protheses List for August 2012 have been published by the Department of Health and Ageing. The August 2012 Protheses List will take effect on 30 August 2012. It is anticipated that the Private Health Insurance (Protheses) Rules 2012 (No. 1) ('the Rules') will be available on the Department's website on 22 August 2012. Please note that the Rules are being registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI) with a commencement date of 30 August 2012. The full text of the Department's circular can be viewed at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-phicirculars2012-index1>.

APHA continues to work closely with the Department and other stakeholders to address important and long standing issues relating to the sustainable funding of prostheses. Such issues include:

- Ongoing benefit setting arrangements
- Generic devices
- Emerging technologies
- Clinical registries
- Criteria for Part C of the Protheses List
- Co-payments
- Definition of a 'prosthesis'
- Listing criteria
- the future of the Protheses List.

A working group under the auspices of the APHA Policy and Advocacy Taskforce will be formed to support APHA's work in this area. Any questions or comments you may have in relation to these issues can be directed to Lucy Cheetham, Director Policy and Research at lucy.cheetham@apha.org.au in the first instance.

Human Capital Alliance (HCA) - Workshops

Human Capital Alliance (HCA) is conducting a series of workshops in metropolitan and regional locations to test a draft Clinical Supervision Competency Framework and Implementation plan which HCA are developing on behalf of Health Workforce Australia (HWA). The workshops are being held in the months of August, September and October 2012. Each workshop will be for the duration (of a maximum) of 3 hours depending on the discussions of participants to each of the workshops. Refreshments will be provided. The specific objectives of this work are to:

1. Describe the roles and functions of clinical supervisors across the spectrum of health sector clinical education and training support contexts and a range of health professions (as specified in the Health Workforce Australia 2011: Clinical Supervision Support Program - Directions Paper, April 2011)
2. Determine
 - a flexible competency and educational structure that acts as a benchmark for the training and education of clinical supervisors;
 - measureable outcomes to demonstrate attainment of competence;
3. Develop a set of principles that promote the best use of the available clinical supervisors workforce; and
4. Facilitate an increased opportunity to build inter-professional collaboration and teamwork by developing a program based approach to clinical supervision competencies and curriculum rather than a professional based approach.

Workshops are scheduled as follows:

Adelaide	30 August
Geelong	30 August
Sydney	31 August
Perth	4 September
Canberra	6 September
Melbourne	13 September
Hobart	17 September
Brisbane	18 September
Darwin	19 September

Melbourne 11 October
Townsville 18 October
Orange 25 October
Rural and Remote teleconference TBA October.

People with an active interest in clinical supervision and clinical training are encouraged to attend. If you would like more information about these workshops please contact Lucy Cheetham, Director Policy and Research at lucy.cheetham@apha.org.au.

Victorian Department of Health Bulletins

The latest edition of the HDSS Bulletin will be uploaded to the HDSS website at <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hdss/>

To update your contact details, please complete the [Application for Addition or Modification to HDSS Contacts List](#) on the [HDSS website](#).

On the Radar - Issue 92

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:

When doctors and patients talk: making sense of the consultation

What is preventable harm in healthcare? A systematic review of definitions

Safety management in different high-risk domains – All the same?

Achieving the 'perfect handoff' in patient transfers: building teamwork and trust

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