



APHA Vital Signs

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

2 December 2012

Meeting with Minister Plibersek

Last Thursday, APHA met with the Minister for Health, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, to discuss a range of issues. This was the first opportunity that APHA has had to meet with Minister. APHA took the opportunity to raise our urgent concerns regarding chemotherapy. The meeting was also a valuable opportunity to discuss other issues:

- exclusionary products in health insurance
- partnerships with government in building health infrastructure
- e-health
- workforce, and
- safety and quality.

Chemotherapy Update

Notwithstanding entreaties from many stakeholders, including APHA, for a limited moratorium on the implementation of price disclosure in relation to Docetaxel while an alternative funding model is negotiated with all stakeholders, the Minister has insisted that the PBS price reduction scheduled for 1 December must proceed. Considerable additional data and information has been provided to the Department in the last week and the Minister has stated that she is pleased that discussion are in progress.

APHA continues monitor the issue closely and to provide regular briefings to the Department. As yet, no undertaking has been given as to the timeframe within which there will be any resolution. APHA has advised hospitals that they should therefore be implementing any contingency plans they have made.

APHA National Procedure Banding Schedule Update – changes effective 1 November 2012 and 7 December 2012

The latest update is now available on the members only area of the APHA website (requires APHA member login and password) <http://www.apha.org.au/members/procedure-banding-schedule/>

Health Workforce 2025

Volume 3 of the Health Workforce 2025 report was released this month, with projections suggesting that there will be enough medical specialists in Australia in 2025, but they won't be in the places where they are needed.

If you would like to know more about what APHA is doing to tackle these challenges and how you can get involved, contact Lucy Cheetham, lucy.cheetham@apha.org.au

Link to summary and full reports: <http://www.hwa.gov.au/news-and-events/news/09-11-2012/australia-will-have-enough-medical-specialists-just-not-where-we-nee>

Have you taken on a nurse graduate this year?

As you will be aware there is a great deal of concern at the shortage of placements available for graduate nurses. In the midst of this controversy the role of the private sector in providing graduate placements for Registered Nurses is being overlooked by some stakeholders.

If APHA is to effectively counter false perceptions and position the sector to play an effective part in responding to this important issue, we need to quickly get a better picture of the private sector's role. Do you have graduate programs for RNs? If so Mehrdad Khodai-Joopari would like to hear from you Mehrdad.Khodai@apha.org.au

HCP PHDB ECLIPSE Update

The Department of Health and Ageing are currently in the final stages of testing for the new version of Check-It 2 and hope to have it available for download from the Department website shortly. The data submission portal originally scheduled for launch in November has been delayed until early next year meaning the current submission process for HCP/PHDB files will remain the same in the short term.

Private Health Insurance (Benefit Requirements) Amendment Rules 2012 (NO. 8) and corrections to PHI Circular 67/12 – effective 8 November 2012

If you require further information please telephone: (02) 6289 9853/24 hour answering machine or email the enquiry to [Private Health Insurance Branch](#)

World's First National Report Card into Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Confronting statistics mean COAG can't walk away

Professor Allan Fels, Chair of the National Mental Health Commission, has said that Australia can improve the lives of millions of Australians if the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers – through COAG – reaffirm their commitment to mental health and have the courage to respond tenaciously to the first national report card into mental health and suicide prevention.

To view the Report Card, visit: <http://mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/our-report-card.aspx>

ABS Patient Experience Survey Findings 2011-12

The ABS Patient Experience Survey is conducted annually and collects national data on access and barriers to a range of health care services, including general practitioners, medical specialists and dental professionals, imaging and pathology tests, and hospital/emergency visits. Data is also collected on aspects of communication between patients and health professionals.

To view the findings, visit: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4839.0>

On the Radar - Issue 107

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:

Working towards People Powered Health. Insights from Practitioners

A Survey Of Primary Care Doctors In Ten Countries Shows Progress In Use Of Health Information Technology, Less In Other Areas

Do Patients Feel Comfortable Asking Healthcare Workers to Wash Their Hands?

Sharing Lessons Learned to Prevent Incorrect Surgery

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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