



APHA Vital Signs

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

2 September 2012

Working Together on Workforce

This week, representatives of the APHA and Catholic Health Australia (CHA) met together to work out how to give a higher profile to private and not for profit hospital priorities in workforce development and reform.

As a first step APHA and CHA will work together to address the lack of awareness outside the sector of the size and complexity of the private and not for profit hospital sectors and the diversity of ways hospitals and day surgeries are investing in their people and in the workforce of the future. Rather than wait for others to propose solutions that are too often inappropriate, the clear consensus coming out of this first discussion was that now is the time for the industry to articulate for itself what is needed.

APHA Council 2012/ 2013 Elections

Nominations for APHA Council positions, closed on 27th August. A ballot is required in three electorates:

- For Profit, Small Independent,
- Not for Profit, Small Group Large Independent, and
- Not for Profit, Small Independent.

In accordance with the rules of the Constitution, chief representatives of members in these electorates have been invited to vote for their preferred representative. These chief representatives should have received an email inviting them to follow a link to vote on Friday 31st August.

The ballot closes at 4 pm on 14th September 2012, with declaration of results and announcement of the 2012/2014 Council expected on 28th September.

Should you have any queries in relation to this please contact kathryn.lee@apha.org.au.

Specialist Training Positions

APHA has raised concern with the Department of Health and Ageing and with Colleges about the lengthy delays in finalising specialist training positions for 2013. APHA has been advised that the Department is still finalising contracts with Medical Colleges.

Attention Day Procedure Centres - Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) Field Review

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) is currently developing a product for day procedure centres to provide the organisation-wide evaluation and quality improvement program that is EQUIP, without duplication of assessment against the National Safety and Quality Health

Service Standards. EQUiPNational Day Procedure Centres is designed to provide a seamless, organisation-wide quality improvement framework.

It includes the ten National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards:

- Governance for Safety and Quality in Health Service Organisations
- Partnering with Consumers
- Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infections
- Medication Safety
- Patient Identification and Procedure Matching
- Clinical Handover
- Blood and Blood Products
- Preventing and Managing Pressure Injuries
- Recognising and Responding to Clinical Deterioration in Acute Health Care
- Preventing Falls and Harm from Falls

EQUiPNational Day Procedure Centres provides a further five Standards that focus on the performance of non-clinical systems as part of a comprehensive organisation-wide assessment:

- Service Delivery
- Provision of Care
- Workforce Planning and Management
- Information Management
- Corporate Systems and Safety

ACHS is undertaking a field review to determine the content of EQUiPNational for Day Procedure Centres and has written to all its Day Procedure Members inviting participation but all interested parties are invited to participate as well.

Please view the latest draft of EQUiPNational Standards together with an online survey via a link on the ACHS website at <http://www.achs.org.au/FieldReviewDPC/>

If you would like further information about this field review, please contact The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (02) 9281 9955 or spd@achs.org.au.

If you have issues or questions that you would like APHA to raise on your behalf please contact Lucy Cheetham at lucy.cheetham@apha.org.au.

2012 Changes to PBS Pricing Arrangements – National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Amendment Regulation 2012 (No. 4)

Amendments to the *National Health (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Regulations 1960* will commence on **1 October 2012**, to make flow-on changes for price disclosure, ex-manufacturer pricing and prescriber bag arrangements in accordance with changes to the *National Health Act 1953*.

The *National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) Act 2012* received royal assent on 28 June 2012 and will commence on 1 October 2012. An explanation of the changes to the Act is available at <http://www.pbs.gov.au/info/industry/pricing/pricing-arrangements>.

Schedule 7 of the amended Regulations sets out the fall-back approved ex-manufacturer prices for 16 brands of pharmaceutical items. These prices form part of the transition from 'approved price to pharmacists' to 'approved ex-manufacturer price' which applies for all medicines from 1 October 2012. However, any price agreement or determination made separately for 1 October 2012 will override the price in the Regulations, and future prices may be set out in other

agreements or determinations.

The amending Regulation and its Explanatory Statement are available at <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2012L01552/Download>

PHI Circular 57/12 - AMENDMENT TO THE PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE (PROSTHESES) Amendment Rules 2012 (No. 3) effective 30 August

PHI Circulars are now available via the following link:

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

On the Radar - Issue 94

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:

Improving care transitions: Optimizing medication reconciliation

Standardized postoperative handover process improves outcomes in the intensive care unit: a model for operational sustainability and improved team performance

Last Orders: Follow-up of Tests Ordered on the Day of Hospital Discharge

Individualising type 2 diabetes management: new treatment options and models of care

On the Radar is available via email or as a PDF document from

<http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-resources/on-the-radar/>