APHA National Congress Wrap Up
The 2011 APHA National Congress was held this week from the 16-18 October at the Hilton Sydney. The event showcased a diverse range of speakers, sessions and social events for all delegates. Presentations from the speakers will be available on the APHA website by Wednesday 26 October. Informal feedback so far shows the event was well received by the delegates who attended and the exhibitors. Formal evaluation surveys have been emailed to participants to give us their feedback on how the Congress could be improved next year. This feedback will be invaluable when we plan the 2012 event.

APHA/Baxter Awards Gala Dinner
The 2011 APHA/Baxter Awards were presented last Monday night at the APHA/Baxter Gala Dinner at the APHA National Congress. Hosted by Gold Logie winning Karl Stefanovic, the Awards night was one of fun, glitz, glamour and fantastic music. Congratulations to Epworth Rehabilitation Brighton, Ramsay WA & John Flynn Private Hospital for taking out the awards in Ambulatory Care, Community Involvement and Clinical Excellence respectively. A huge thank you goes to Baxter Health Care for sponsoring the awards and also to the judging panel of George Kazzi (Baxter), Dr Michael Smith (ACSQHC), Stephen Walker (St Andrew’s Hospital) and Michael Roff (APHA).

APHA Congress and Gala Dinner Photos
Photos were taken throughout Congress by the official photographer Richard Gregario and are available here: //www.rgphotography.com.au/gallery/v/Corporate/

APHA launches Facebook Virtual Gift Store
APHA has launched the Facebook Virtual Gift Store. This is a Facebook application that allows you to send virtual gifts to other Facebook friends. The gifts are chocolates, a racecar, flowers, teddy bears, soccer ball and balloons. This is an interactive way to get involved with the Valuing Private Hospitals Campaign and continue to spread the word virally about the value of private hospitals in the community. Come and ‘Like’ our page to send your friend a virtual gift. //apps.facebook.com/aphagifts/

Consultation on the NSQHS Standards Guides for Health Services
The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is currently seeking comment on the draft guides that have been developed to assist health service organisations implement the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards. These Standards were endorsed by Australian Health Ministers in September 2011. The NSQHS Standards aim to improve the safety and quality of care for patients and provide a clear statement about the level of care consumers can expect from health services. The Commission developed the guides to support health services better understand what is required to meet the NSQHS Standards and to provide information about tools and resources that may be of use.

APHA and all health services have been invited to make a written submission on one, or all, of the draft Guides.

A copy of the consultation paper is available to download as well as the guides for Hospitals and Day
PHI Circular 75/11 – Reminder: data reporting requirements for private hospitals
The purpose of this circular is to remind the Commonwealth declared private hospitals (both overnight and day-only) of their obligation to submit monthly data to the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) under the Private Health Insurance Act 2007 (‘PHI Act’) and associated Rules.

PHI Circulars are now available via the following link:

On the Radar – Issue 58
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 weeks content includes:

Windows into Safety and Quality in Health Care 2011
Aging Gracefully? Patient Safety Advocates Call for Ongoing Skills Assessments for Older Physicians
Electronic Prescribing Within an Electronic Health Record Reduces Ambulatory Prescribing Errors

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

APHA, PO Box 7426, Canberra BC, ACT 2610