



3 June 2012

National Health Performance Authority

Last week APHA met with senior officials and Board members of the National Health Performance Authority (NHPA). The NHPA was established in October 2011 and its role is to monitor and report on the comparable performance of Local Hospital Networks, public and private hospitals, and primary health care organisations.

The NHPA recently released a Performance and Accountability Framework, which can be accessed at <http://www.nhpa.gov.au/internet/nhpa/publishing.nsf/Content/perfaccountframe-lp>

Discussions with NHPA focussed on developing a mechanism and framework for the private hospitals sector to provide input and assistance to NHPA in relation to;

- Developing a reporting framework for private hospitals (this will not be the same framework that will apply to public hospitals)
- Identifying appropriate indicators to be reported by private hospitals
- Ensuring NHPA processes do not impose any additional burden on private hospitals
- Rationalisation of existing reporting requirements.

NHPA has sought APHA input on its draft data plan and has asked to present to APHA's Safety & Quality Taskforce.

Prepay your Private Health Insurance Premium Now to Retain Your Rebate

As our members are aware, the Federal Government will commence income testing to determine the level of rebate on private health insurance and will increase the Medicare Levy Surcharge (MLS) for high income earners with no health insurance from 1 July 2012.

APHA is recommending to members that they should remind their staff, volunteers and doctors to contact their health fund now to prepay their health insurance premiums by 30 June 2012. By doing so, they will protect their current rebate for at least another twelve months. Some funds are even allowing up to 18 months of pre-payment.

ACSQHC: Open Disclosure Standard Review - Consultation open

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has announced that consultation on the review of *the Open Disclosure Standard* is now open.

<http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/open-disclosure/the-open-disclosure-standard/>

All materials have been uploaded to the web site. Please visit:

<http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/open-disclosure/the-open-disclosure-standard/consultation/>. See the website for dates of consultation forums in your area.

PHI Circular 36/12 now available

PHI Circular 36/12 - Guidelines For Determining Benefits For Private Health Insurance Purposes For Private Mental Health Care (2012 Edition) is now available. PHI Circulars can be found via the

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

ACSQHC: Patient Centred Care Newsletter - Issue 6

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Patient Centred Care Newsletter is now available via the following link: <http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-resources/newsletters/patient-and-consumer-centred-care-newsletters/>

On the Radar - Issue 81

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:

Common patterns in 558 diagnostic radiology errors

An institution-wide handoff task force to standardise and improve physician handoffs

Effects of an online personal health record on medication accuracy and safety: a cluster-randomized trial

Comparing physician and patient perceptions of quality in ambulatory care

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