



## APHA Vital Signs

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

30<sup>th</sup> September 2012

### APHA Office Closed

The APHA Secretariat will be closed on Monday, 1 October for Labour Day. The office will re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday 2 October.

### ACSQHC's Standards Advice Centre Now Open

The ACSQHC has announced the opening of its Advice Centre to provide advice and support during the transition to the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards. The Advice Centre will help ensure health services have a consistent and shared understanding of the NSQHS Standards. It is now open for enquiries from health service organisations, surveyors and accrediting agencies regarding the new hospital accreditation requirements. The Advice centre can be accessed by calling 1800 304 056 (normal business hours Australian Eastern Standard Time) or via email [accreditation@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:accreditation@safetyandquality.gov.au))

Additional support will be provided to health service organisations undertaking accreditation during 2013, including:

- Establishing networks of similar health service organisations to provide regular telephone contact, resources, support and expert information as they prepare for accreditation.
- Providing access to experts, and onsite visits where necessary.
- Developing strategies to support small rural health services undertaking accreditation.
- Mediation: The Commission will take calls that are made jointly from surveyors and health service organisations during 'on site' visits

Further information will be available on the Commission website over the coming weeks at [www.safetyandquality.gov.au](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au)

### EQIPNational to provide seamless transition to new health accreditation requirements

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) this week launched their comprehensive new EQIPNational program. The program provides a broader approach for healthcare organisations to improve quality and safety as the extra five standards offer an organisation-wide assessment, representing both clinical and non-clinical systems and processes.

The five extra Standards cover: Service Delivery, Provisions of Care, Workforce Planning and Management, Information Management and Corporate Systems and Safety and their integration provides a consistent quality and safety accreditation regime across an organisation.

For more information on the program is available at <http://www.achs.org.au/publications-resources/equiplnational/>

### **National Health Indicator Report Shows Measureable Gains in Health Care**

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) has released the 13<sup>th</sup> *Australasian Clinical Indicator Report 2004-2011* (ACIR) this week. The report focuses on the steady improvements in five areas of health, with notable deterioration in four others identified.

The ACIR is Australia's only report that analyses historical trends and enables comparison of results between peers. Commentary on the data across the 22 sets of indicators has been provided by health colleges, societies and associations with relevant expertise in each area and informs the interpretation of the raw findings.

To download this report, please visit <http://www.achs.org.au/publications-resources/australasian-clinical-indicator-report/>

### **The Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia - Timeline for 2012 graduates to meet English language skills registration requirements - Amended Policy, Effective September 2012.**

The amended policy released on 18 September ensures that 2012 graduates are not disadvantaged by new policies introduced by the transition this year to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme). It also ensures public protection standards are being maintained by explicitly making English language competence an element of their supervised provisional practice.

The Board's mandatory *English language skills registration standard* came into effect on 1 July 2012. It requires all applicants for initial registration to demonstrate English language skills at International English Language Testing System (IELTS) academic level 7 or the equivalent. An internationally qualified applicant or an applicant who did not complete their secondary education in English must demonstrate that they have the necessary English language skills for registration purposes.

Information about the English language skills and other mandatory registration standards – which set out requirements in relation to continuing professional development, criminal history, professional indemnity insurance, and recency of practice – is available from Registration Standards section of the Board's website [www.medicalradiationpractice.gov.au](http://www.medicalradiationpractice.gov.au).

## **Correction- New Version (version 1.9.0.2) of CHECK-IT 2**

The Department of Health and Ageing have advised that their PHI Circular 58/12 contained an incorrect link to the new version of CHECK-IT. The correct link is <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-casemix-hcp-hcpchecker.htm>

The full text of this corrected circular can be downloaded from <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-phicirculars2012-index1>

## **Patient Blood Management Guidelines: Module 3 Medical**

The National Blood Authority has announced the release of Patient Blood Management Guidelines: Module 3 Medical. The Guidelines and accompanying Quick Reference Guide and Technical Reports are now available and can be ordered or downloaded for free of charge from the NBA

Website: <http://www.nba.gov.au/guidelines/module3/index.html#guidelines/module3/med-quick-ref.pdf>

## **On the Radar - Issue 98**

*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:

*Addressing healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance from an organizational perspective: progress and challenges*

*Task uncertainty and communication during nursing shift handovers*

*Colleges call for screening of all hospital patients to cut toll from venous thromboembolism*

*Reasons to be hopeful: streams of renewal in healthcare*

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