



# APHA Vital Signs

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

7<sup>th</sup> October 2012

## APHA Office Closed

The APHA Secretariat will be closed on Monday, 8 October for Family and Community Day in the ACT. The office will re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday 9 October.

## APHA Annual General Meeting

An email was sent out on Thursday to eligible members advising details of the Annual General Meeting and supplying the proxy for each eligible member.

The AGM will be held on 29 October 2012 and as a quorum of 55% of member votes is required to convene a meeting it is essential that we receive your organisation's completed proxy form.

Completed Proxy forms must be received by APHA by 12.30pm on 27 October 2012. Instructions for submitting these are to be found on the form itself.

Should you have any queries in relation to this please contact [kathryn.lee@apha.org.au](mailto:kathryn.lee@apha.org.au).

## Mental Health Week 2012

This week is Mental Health Week and private hospitals from around the country are testing just how much Australians really know about some of the nation's most prevalent mental illnesses through our campaign, 'What do you know....about mental illness?' We have launched an interactive series of 'What do you know...' quizzes both online and in hospitals to help dispel negative stereotypes and common misconceptions associated with mental illness.

To check out our interactive quizzes on Facebook, go to:  
[www.facebook.com/valuingprivatehospitals](http://www.facebook.com/valuingprivatehospitals) and click on the Mental Health Quiz.

To see APHA's new Mental Health Week video on our YouTube channel, please see:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blh2IYTSGAY&feature=plcp>

To see the campaign materials or read our press releases, please see:  
<http://www.apha.org.au/media-centre/mental-health-week-2012/>

If you have questions on any of APHA's Mental Health Week activity, please contact Lisa Ramshaw on [lisa.ramshaw@apha.org.au](mailto:lisa.ramshaw@apha.org.au)

## PHIAC Premiums & Competition Unit Consultation

In the May Budget, the Government announced resources for the establishment of a Premiums and Competition Unit (PACU) within PHIAC. The PACU will enable PHIAC to provide Government with more detailed policy advice on industry pricing, cost drivers, insurance premiums and competition policy within the private health insurance industry.

Last week, APHA CEO, Michael Roff, met with staff from the Centre for International Economics, who have been engaged by PHIAC to research the markets and submarkets for private health insurance in Australia, and the competitive forces within those markets to assist with the establishment of the new Premiums and Competition Unit (PACU). The CIE is talking to a number of key stakeholders within the private health sector.

APHA understands a discussion paper will be released within a month and further comments sought before the CIE provides final advice to PHIAC.

### **Presentations made at the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman Seminar 20 September 2012**

Please find below a link to the presentations given at the Private Health Insurance Ombudsman's seminar in Melbourne last month.

<http://www.phio.org.au/complaints/industry-resources/phio-seminar-2012.aspx>

Presentations included: An overview of current issues from Ms Samantha Gavel Private Health Insurance Ombudsman; Recent Privacy Issues including e-health and Data Breach Notification by Professor John McMillan, Australian Information Commissioner; and Pre-Existing Conditions Case Studies including discussion of issues arising from genetic screening.

### **ACSQHC:**

New materials to support the standardisation of labelling in the perioperative area were released this past week and can be found at

<http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/user-applied-labelling/support-materials/>

- Label Recommendations Label Guide (A3 poster)
- A4 Label Education posters for epidural, intrathecal, regional and abbreviated container labels`
- Perioperative poster

Evaluations of label adherence to reusable hollowware containers in the operating room are posted on the above page as Report 1 (April 2012) and Report 2 (August 2012).

- The FAQs also include 2 new FAQs raised by sterile supply units in response to the increased volume of labels applied to reusable containers (Q5.12 and Q5.13) and are found at

<http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/user-applied-labelling/labelling-recommendations-frequently-asked-questions/>

The Commission has expressed gratitude to those health services implementing in the perioperative area who have given of their time to raise issues and provide models of pre-printed label sheets to assist development of these materials.

### **FIRST THINGS FIRST: NSW Infrastructure Strategy emphasises the role of private sector in health**

The NSW Infrastructure Strategy for 2012-32 released last week by Infrastructure NSW outlined: 'A prioritised capital program that will establish pro-actively planned 'health care precincts' with easy access to related private and public health services delivered by both government and non-government providers'. Infrastructure NSW recommends investigation of excess capacity in the private sector and options to purchase full hospital services for public patients from the private sector to cut waiting times.

The full report can be downloaded at

[http://www.infrastructure.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/SIS\\_Report\\_Complete\\_Interactive.pdf](http://www.infrastructure.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/SIS_Report_Complete_Interactive.pdf)

### **Leader for Commonwealth Review of Health Workforce Programs Announced**

Jenny Mason, former director-general of the New South Wales Departments of Human Services and Community Services, will lead a review of the Commonwealth Government's health workforce programs. The review was announced when the Federal Budget was released in May. A draft report is due by the end of 2012 and a final report is expected by March 2013

### **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:

*'Matching Michigan': a 2-year stepped interventional programme to minimise central venous catheter-blood stream infections in intensive care units in England*

*Why patients need leaders: introducing a ward safety checklist*

*Improving Medication Safety with Accurate Preadmission Medication Lists and Postdischarge Education*

*A systematic review of hand hygiene improvement strategies: a behavioural approach*

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

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