



8 July 2012

Save the date - 32nd APHA National Congress 3rd to 5th March 2013

The 32nd APHA National Congress is going to be held from 3rd to 5th March 2013 at the Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne. More information will be distributed as it becomes available but save the date and mark it in your calendars now.

NHCDC Workshops

This week the Price Waterhouse Coopers consultancy team commissioned by the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority held workshops with representatives from APHA, private hospitals and day surgeries and other stakeholders to discuss their preliminary recommendations in relation to the National Hospital Cost Data Collection (NHCDC). Their analysis indicated that to achieve reliable results, private sector participation would need to rise significantly to around 90 hospitals, including representation from at least 10 groups (i.e. organisations involving more than one hospital or day practice) and coverage of 60-61% of separations. Round 14 achieved coverage of only 37% of separations.

While there was agreement amongst workshop participants as to the value of cost data for benchmarking purposes and for use by the IHPA in determining government policy, there remains a lack of consensus regarding the extent to which data should be made available beyond participating hospitals and government agencies.

IHPA has advised that it will be writing to hospitals and day surgeries within the next few weeks to outline its intentions with respect to the collection and publication of private hospital cost data and to invite them to voluntarily participate in the next collection round. This letter will also seek to address the issue of protection for commercially sensitive data from access via Freedom of Information requests following legal advice received by IHPA.

APHA continues to liaise with IHPA closely on these issues and welcomes questions and comment from its members. Please contact Lucy Cheetham for further information at lucy.cheetham@apha.org.au.

ACHS Standards Committee

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards is seeking a private hospital representative to become a member of the ACHS Standards Committee. The ACHS Standards Committee reviews all proposed new ACHS standards, criteria and elements. The Standards Committee also ensures that all proposed additions or amendments to existing standards reflect contemporary best practice and encourage continuous improvement in quality.

Any member with interest in filling this position should contact Lucy Cheetham at APHA on (02) 62739000 or by email at lucy.cheetham@apha.org.au.

Latest Data on Surgery in Australian Hospitals (AIHW)

The latest data on surgery from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare is now available. Top line figures show that from 2010-11 of the 2.4 million separations involving surgery, 1.4 million were in private hospitals.

Between 2006-7 and 2010-11, hospitalisations involving surgery increased by an average of 2.4% for public hospitals and 4.1% for private hospitals each year. Between 2009-10 and 2010-11, the increase was higher for public hospitals than for private hospitals (2.7% and 2.1%, respectively). To read the full report go to: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/hospitals/surgery-2010-11/>

PHI Circular 51/12 - Prostheses List Information Sessions

The Department of Health and Ageing will be holding three information sessions, one in Melbourne on Thursday 19 July 2012 and two in Sydney on Friday 20 July 2012. Please note these sessions relate to Part A of the Prostheses List and the Health Technology Assessment Review.

The focus of the information sessions will be:

- Application Forms
- Clinical Evidence Requirements
- Amendments to Listings
- Update on the implementation of recommendations from the Health Technology Assessment Review

PHI Circulars are now available at the following:

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

Changes to GST legislation – third party procured GST-free health supplies

New legislation to extend the circumstances under which certain health-related supplies will be GST-free came into effect on 1 July 2012.

From 1 July, supplies by a health care provider are GST-free to the extent that the underlying supply of health related goods or services made by the health care provider to an individual is GST-free, where they are supplied to:

- an insurer in settlement of an insurance claim;
- an operator of a statutory compensation scheme or a compulsory third party scheme;
- an Australian government agency.

For more information go to <http://www.ato.gov.au/content/00318038.htm>

On the Radar - Issue 86

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:

Patient Safety: From Learning to Action 2012: Fifth Queensland Health report on clinical incidents and sentinel events in the Queensland public health system 2009–10 and 2010–11

National Voluntary Consensus Standards for Patient Safety Measures: A Consensus Report

Defining Patient Safety in Hospice: Principles to Guide Measurement and Public Reporting

Preventing overdiagnosis: how to stop harming the healthy

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

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