



APHA Vital Signs

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

9 September 2012

APHA Launches Mental Health Awareness Campaign

With nearly 50% of the Australian public suffering from mental illness at some point in their lives and with Mental Health Week (October 7-13) fast approaching, APHA has launched its new Mental Health Awareness campaign this week to engage the public and breakdown the negative stigmas that surround mental illness.

Entitled 'What do you know...' the aim of the campaign is to highlight different mental illnesses and peoples knowledge of them through an interactive quiz. APHA has created wallet size quiz cards and posters which link to our Facebook page where people can test their knowledge about the different disorders. The quiz cards and A4 posters have been sent to all 182 APHA member hospitals who participate in the Valuing Private Hospitals campaign. Next week, participating hospitals will also receive posters asking 'What Do You Know about Being Covered for Mental Illness?' in an attempt to educate the public that there is only a two month waiting period on psychiatric hospital cover on private health insurance policies.

Besides the posters, quiz cards and Facebook quizzes, APHA is also undertaking a major national media campaign around this issue. Already in the past week we have achieved coverage or have pieces in the pipeline for the following: Doctor (a newsletter for GPs and Specialists in Sydney), Brisbane News, 96.5 Radio in Brisbane, 4BC Mornings, Australian Women's Health and Fitness and Channel 10 in Melbourne.

As mental illness is widespread in our community it is appropriate that all APHA member hospitals participate in this campaign. If your facility would like to take part, please contact Lisa Ramshaw at the APHA Secretariat on lisa.ramshaw@apha.org.au

Check out the campaign quizzes on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/valuingprivatehospitals

APHA Facts about Private Hospitals page updated

Last week the Australian Bureau of Statistics released the results from the 2010-11 national census of private hospitals in its report; Private Hospitals 2010-11. APHA has updated the private hospital Facts document based on these findings, this can be found at <http://www.apha.org.au/advocacy/resources/>

The full ABS report is available at <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4390.0?OpenDocument>

Contracting between the public and private hospital sectors project

The Health Policy Research Institute at the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) has approached the APHA seeking participation in a research project that examines short-term contracting for delivering inpatient services between the public and private hospital sectors in Australia. Although contracting for inpatient services is now fairly common in Australia, very little research has been done on the topic. As a result, policymakers know very little about the

risks and opportunities that arise from contracting. The project team are looking to interview a number of senior hospital executives from the private hospital sector about public sector contracting. If you would like to contribute to this project by participating in a confidential interview, please contact Lucy Cheetham at lucy.cheetham@apha.org.au.

The project is a collaboration between The Health Policy Research Institute at the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA), the Catholic Health Australia (CHA) and the Menzies Centre for Health Policy.

National Accreditation

On 1 September, the Commission wrote to all hospitals and day surgeries regarding the implementation of accreditation against the National Standards. APHA has been pressing for the release of specific information for some time. While this most recent communication clarifies some issues it still leaves others unresolved. Significantly the Commission has announced the establishment of a National Safety & Quality Advice Centre as a national service of advice, support and, if required, dispute mediation between health services and surveyors during the survey.

Support will be provided by telephone, email and, if necessary, in person to health services undertaking accreditation activities. The Commission also advises it will be providing copies of Safety & Quality Improvement guides and Accreditation Workbooks to assist with preparation for accreditation in the coming weeks.

National Hospital Cost Data Collection (NHCDC) Round 16

PwC has advised APHA that following the email sent out on 13th August 2012 requesting an expression of intention from private hospitals to participate in Round 16, the required 60% minimum participation level for overnight facilities have been achieved and that the Round 16 Private Sector NHCDC collection will be proceeding.

For more information or further queries in this regard, please contact 1800 NHCDC0 [1800 642 320] or email nhcdcprivate@au.pwc.com.

New Version (version 1.9.0.2) of Check-It 2 Released

The Check-It 2 validation program has been updated and is available for download on the Department of Health and Ageing's website. Changes to Check-It 2 Version 1.9.0.2 updated on 5 September 2012 to include:

- Validation for data up to 31 October 2012
- New Hospital Provider Identifiers
- New Insurer Identifiers
- MBS Items (August 2012)
- Prostheses Schedule (August 2012)
- 2012 Australian Postcodes

If you require further information please telephone: (02) 6289 9853 or email the enquiry to Private Health Insurance Branch

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

Health Insurance Insider Issue

The Private Health Ombudsman has published the second edition of the consumer bulletin Health Insurance Insider. This edition addresses questions that consumers should consider when going to hospital. The bulletin can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://phio.org.au/publications/publications/health-insurance-insider.aspx>

On the Radar - Issue 95

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:

Disclosure of Harmful Medical Errors in Out-of-Hospital Care

A Framework for Encouraging Patient Engagement in Medical Decision Making

Physical environments that promote safe medication use

Twenty-four/seven: a mixed-method systematic review of the off-shift literature

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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