

APHA expresses concern

Submissions made on Private Health Insurance legislation and Chemotherapy Funding



APHA filed a submission to the Senate Standing Committees on the Community Affairs' inquiry into the Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment (Base Premium) Bill 2013 which was passed on the 27 June 2013, along with the Private Health Insurance Amendment (Lifetime Health Cover Loading and Other Measures) Bill 2012.

The bills which provide significant concern with respect to the affordability of private health insurance and the consequences for patient access to hospital care are:

1. Private Health Insurance Legislation Amendment (Base Premium) Bill 2013

From 1 April 2014 the rebate for each private health insurance policy will be indexed by the lesser of the CPI percentage change or the change of the premium charged by a private health insurer that is approved by the minister.

2. Private Health Insurance Amendment (Lifetime Health Cover Loading and Other Measures) Bill 2012

The rebate on private health insurance is no longer payable the on Lifetime Health Cover loading paid by Australians who do not take out PHI by the age of 30.

Review of funding arrangements for chemotherapy services

APHA has made a submission to the Department of Health and Ageing's promised review of funding arrangements for chemotherapy based on feedback provided by APHA member hospitals. This review is separate from the senate review conducted early this year.

The aim of this review is to maximise the benefits consumers receive from chemotherapy infusions by ensuring efficient and effective clinical processes and appropriate funding arrangements for the preparation and supply of chemotherapy medicine infusions.

The review is not limited to the

chemotherapy dispensing services funded from the PBS. It also considers the funding of clinical services delivered as part of a cancer patient's chemotherapy treatment, and the different business models in the private and public health sectors that provide chemotherapy services and how these services have changed since the chemotherapy funding arrangements were implemented in December 2011.

PHIAC Data – detailed analysis from March quarter 2013

A detailed analysis report of the March quarter statistics from PHIAC are available from the member's area of the APHA website.

APHA's Research and Data Manager Dr Mehrdad Khodai-Joopari prepared this paper. Please direct any queries you may have to Dr Khodai-Joopari at research@apha.org.au.

Second tier default benefits reminder

The next scheduled meeting of the Second Tier Advisory Committee (STAC) will be held on Friday, 30 August 2013. Details regarding the process and a pro forma application form can be downloaded from the APHA website.

The current STAC-approved list of second-tier facilities can be found in Attachment A of the Private Health Insurance (PHI) Circular dated 28 June 2013, available at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-phicirculars2013-36>

Should you require further information please contact Andrea Versteegen at APHA on 02 6273 9000.

Save the date - APHA's National Congress

Save the date for APHA's 33rd Annual National Congress, which will be held on the 23-25 March 2014 at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre in Brisbane, Queensland. [PH](#)