

GP Connect

Keeping GPs informed in the changing primary health landscape



**WA Primary
Health Alliance**
Better health, together

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PERTH NORTH, PERTH SOUTH,
COUNTRY WA
An Australian Government Initiative

31 October 2019

National breast implant recall

There is emerging evidence both locally and internationally of an association between certain breast implants and the risk of a rare cancer known as breast implant anaplastic large cell lymphoma (BIA-ALCL). The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) continues to review and assess all of the breast implants available in the Australian market.

In August, Allergan voluntarily recalled their unimplanted Biocell macro-textured breast implants and tissue expanders and Emergo also cancelled their Airxpanders Aeroform tissue expanders.

In September, the TGA published its decision to recall and suspend a number of other breast implants and tissue expanders. Updates on the breast implant recall and suspension and the full list of recalled and suspended products can be found at the [TGA's Breast Implant Hub](#).

BIA-ALCL is a rare form of non-Hodgkins lymphoma. It is not breast cancer, which forms from cells in the breast, but a cancer of the lymphatic system. The most common presenting symptoms are breast asymmetry, pain, delayed effusion or seroma, or, less commonly, a mass or lymphadenopathy. The TGA has published fact sheets for both [health professionals](#) and [consumers](#).

Patients can also call HealthDirect on 1800 022 222 for further information.

Read about the upcoming Healthpathways WA event at Rockingham Hospital on linking primary and tertiary care and other GP education on page 3.



GP Hospital Liaison Updates

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

New policy for better opioid prescribing on discharge from SCGH

In recognition of the high prevalence and difficulties of managing patients who misuse opioids in the community, an expert working group from the Acute Pain Service, pharmacy and other clinicians at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital have made some important changes to the practice of prescribing opioids on discharge from hospital. Discharge opioid medication will now be more closely scrutinised in light of the policy's three target areas:

- Acute pain should resolve quickly and therefore opioids prescriptions should be short
- If patients do not need opioids in the 24 hours prior to discharge, they shouldn't need them on discharge
- A weaning plan should be provided with discharge opioid medication to both the patient and the GP.

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Hospital liaison GP, Dr Lucy Gilkes can be contacted with questions or concerns at lucy.gilkes@health.wa.gov.au

GPs may also wish to review the 'Prescribing Schedule 8 Medicines' HealthPathway.

Dr Lucy Gilkes
Hospital Liaison GP
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
Lucy.Gilkes@health.wa.gov.au

Perth Children's Hospital

New PCH resources for children transitioning to adult healthcare

The Perth Children's Hospital website now includes useful information for young people (and their families), transitioning from paediatric to adult health services. This includes a [useful factsheet](#) on how to access GP appointments, billing and how to get a Medicare card.

Currently available to access under 'Patients and Visitors', this information will also be made available on the Liaison GP page under 'Health Professionals'.

Dr Maree Creighton
Hospital Liaison GP, Perth Children's Hospital
maree.creighton@health.wa.gov.au
Available: Tuesday 9am-12pm and Wednesday 12pm-5pm

Clinical Updates

NDIS Toolkit

Brightwater has developed a new [NDIS toolkit](#) to help guide GPs and their patients with a disability to effectively plan for the NDIS. Funded by the Department of Communities Disability Services, the toolkit can help patients register for the NDIS and provide GPs with resources explaining the process for NDIS eligible patients, the role of health professionals and available supports.

There is also some information in the 'Disability and Sickness – Payments and Support' HealthPathway.

In case you missed the Measels outbreak update...

Visit our [online news hub](#) to read the update from Dr Paul Effler, Associate Director, Communicable Disease Control Directorate

HealthPathways WA Update

HealthPathways has recently published the newly-localised 'Rheumatology' stream, including 'Ankylosing Spondylitis', 'Arthritis', 'Giant Cell Arteritis (Temporal Arteritis)', 'Gout', 'Polymyalgia Rheumatica', 'Single Swollen Joint', and the 'Rheumatology Requests' information for Western Australia. This includes inclusion/exclusion criteria and mandatory information required before referring to tertiary care.

Changes to allied health service referrals for DVA clients

Changes to allied health service referrals for DVA clients

To improve the quality of care for Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) clients, changes to DVA treatment cycle for allied health referrals have now commenced. GP referrals to allied health providers will be valid for up to 12 sessions or a year (whichever ends first), and patients may have as many treatment cycles as the GP determines are needed.

At the end of the treatment cycle, the allied health provider will send a report back to the GP for review of the treatment progress and assess if further treatment is clinically required.

The new referral arrangements apply to Gold Card and White Card holders, excluding exercise physiology and physiotherapy services for Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Gold Card holders.

There is no change to referral arrangements between GPs and medical specialists (including surgeons and psychiatrists). More information about the changes is available on the [DVA website](#).

Financial support for partners of rural doctors

Partners of rural Western Australian GPs, hospital doctors and medical specialists can apply for a Rural Health West Partner Education Grant to assist with their own training and education expenses that will enhance their employment opportunities whilst living in a rural location. Grants of up to \$1000 are available. Partner Education Grants may reimburse costs associated with study or training, including but not limited to, course fees, purchase of resources or directly associated travel. For guidelines and an application form, visit <https://www.ruralhealthwest.com.au/general-practice/family/partner-education-grants>

Education Events



HealthPathways WA GP Education Event at Rockingham General Hospital: Linking Primary to Tertiary Care PLUS CPR Refresher

Presented by Rockingham Peel Group and Rockingham General Hospital in partnership with WA Primary Health Alliance; HealthPathways WA, this full day event will cover a variety of topics and also provide GPs with an opportunity to connect with local service providers. Education sessions include:

- Syphilis and STIs by Dr Lewis Marshall
- Allied Health & NDIS by Belinda Whitworth & Mark Burrows
- Aged Care Transition by Deb Jones
- Dementia by Dr Nisha Antony
- Menorrhagia & Urinary Incontinence by Dr Yadav Yogender
- Endocrinology by Dr Krish Chikkaveerappa
- Paediatric ADHD by Dr Colin Derrick

Presentations will be followed by an optional one hour CPR session at a cost of \$99 for RACGP members and \$121 for non-members.

Date: Saturday 9 November
Time: 8:30 AM - 3:30PM
Venue: Rockingham General Hospital
 Education Centre Lecture Theatre
 Elanora Dr, Cooloongup 6168

Accreditation: 40 Cat 1 RACGP QI&CPD and 30 ACRRM PRDP points.

Registration and more information :
<https://waproject.healthpathways.org.au/Events/RGH/GPEventNov2019.aspx>

TADPole: Treating Alcohol and Other Drugs in Primary Care
 WA Primary Health Alliance
 Saturday 16 November

Australasian Doctors' Health Conference
 Rural Health West
 Friday 22 - Saturday 23 November

NDIS Toolkit: A useful resource for service providers - Geraldton
 Brightwater
 Thursday 7 November

Family and Domestic Violence During Pregnancy: Why Antenatal Care Matters
 Perth Children's Hospital
 Wednesday 27 November

Clinical Update on Bone and Mineral Disorders for Busy GPs
 Arthritis WA
 Saturday 30 November

Palliative Care Education for GPs working in Residential Aged Care
 Cancer Council WA
 Thursday 5 December

For more information on upcoming GP education events or to register, visit wapha.org.au/events