

Alfred Health GP News

Welcome to the December edition of Alfred Health GP news.

Wishing you all the very best for the festive season,

and a safe, happy and healthy new year

from the GP Liaison team.

Our Alfred Health specialists can come to you!

Alfred Health has a range of enthusiastic specialists keen to build links with GPs in the local area. Specialists from General Medicine, Emergency and Psychiatry are available to visit practices near The Alfred, Caulfield and Sandringham hospitals to attend breakfast or lunchtime practice meetings in 2017. The specialists can cover any topics of interest, provide information about hospital services, or participate in case discussions. If you would like consultants from your local hospital to come to your practice, please contact us on 9076 2620 or by email to gp.liaison@alfred.org.au to express your interest for participation in our program in 2017.

Outpatient improvement projects are underway

Alfred Health is committed to improving the ambulatory care provided for your patients. Two projects will be underway in the next year to improve our outpatient services:

1. The Outpatients Demand Management project will implement an electronic referral management system as a platform to receive quality referrals and communicate with GPs, combined with the implementation of innovative models of care to address the needs of waiting patients. This approach will enable a systems approach to managing demand and improving appropriate access to outpatient services.
2. A telehealth project will further expand and enhance the utilisation of telemedicine to provide specialist consultations for patients in rural and remote areas.

These projects aim to enhance the efficiency of our outpatient services, facilitate referrals, improve communication with GPs and provide better patient experience and outcomes.

Integrating care for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

Alfred Health is working to improve the integration of care for our chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients together with GPs and community services. We have established a strong collaboration between our inpatient units of General Medicine, Respiratory, Emergency and Aged Care Medicine across Alfred Health, and are using a standardised set of evidence-based interventions (Care Bundle) that has been demonstrated to improve outcomes for these patients. We aim to ensure that all patients with an exacerbation of COPD receive high quality care regardless of how they enter Alfred Health or the treating unit. We are now looking to establish best practice in supporting the GP care of patients following discharge and in the event of subsequent development of an exacerbation.

One component of this COPD Care Bundle is the creation of an electronic COPD Action Plan (for appropriate patients) during a patient's inpatient stay (similar to the Lung Foundation of Australia's plan). To complement the Action Plan, an Emergency Medication pack will also be provided to these patients. Patients will be given their COPD Action Plan to take home, and a copy will be sent to the patient's GP (along with the patients' discharge summary).

We hope to provide further information face to face during GP practice meetings: a representative from the COPD Model of Care Project Working Group can come to your practice meeting to provide further information. If you would like further information or to arrange a practice visit, please telephone Harvey Newnham on 99030198 or the GP Liaison team at gp.liaison@alfred.org.au.

Further updates on this integrated care project will be provided in future newsletter editions as the model progresses.

Dr Charles Varley retires from practice this month

After many years consulting at Caulfield Hospital, Dr Charles Varley will be retiring from practice this month. Please note that his clinic will not be taken over by another consultant, and referrals should be directed to an alternative specialist.

Modecate (Fluphenazine deconate) to be discontinued

Modecate (fluphenazine deconate) is an older first-generation long-acting injectable antipsychotic. It is currently available as 12.5mg/0.5mL, 25mg/mL and 50mg/2mL ampoules. Alfred Psychiatry has received notification that Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia Pty Ltd intends to discontinue the manufacture of Modecate. This is a worldwide withdrawal and supplies may be exhausted by March 2017.

The intended withdrawal of supply of Modecate follows the recent advice that Stelazine (trifluoperazine) another older first-generation oral antipsychotic medication is going out of supply in early 2017.

Patients with a diagnosis of Schizophrenia, Schizo-affective disorder or Bipolar disorder may be prescribed Modecate or Stelazine alone or in combination with other psychotropic medication and

managed in primary care. In the months ahead, they will require a changeover to alternative anti-psychotic medication. This exposes the patients to risk of relapse of their mental health condition with emergence of rebound psychosis and/or withdrawal emergent tardive dyskinesia.

General Practitioners are advised to refer such patients residing in the Alfred psychiatry catchment for a primary mental health assessment in order to draw up an appropriate treatment plan involving cross over to alternative anti-psychotic regime. Referrals can be made by ringing

St Kilda Road Clinic: Phone 9076 9888

Waioara Clinic: Phone 9076 4700

Mobile Aged Psychiatry: Phone 9076 6012.

Seeking GP views to shape cancer services in our region

Southern Melbourne Integrated Cancer Service (SMICS) and the Monash Partners Comprehensive Cancer Consortium (MPCCC) have recently engaged Healthcare Management Advisors to develop the MPCCC Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

SMICS and the MPCCC recognise the importance and value of GPs in determining their priorities and ongoing work, and would like to invite you to participate in a focus group to help shape their Strategic Plan.

The session will likely take place mid-December and be of approximately 1 hours duration. If you would be interested in attending the focus group contact Linda Maddaford at Linda.maddaford@monashhealth.org by Wednesday, 15th December and you will be contacted to book in the most convenient date.

Outpatient services over the holiday period

Please note that Outpatient clinics will be closed from Friday 23rd December 2016, reopening on Tuesday 3rd January 2017. There will be a clinic on Thursday 29th December for emergencies only.

For urgent referrals during this period please contact the unit registrar.

GP Liaison at Alfred Health – we're here to help!



Our GP Liaison team – Dr Josie Samers and Tracey O'Connell – are here to assist you in navigating Alfred Health. Whether it's a missing discharge summary, assistance with getting an outpatient appointment or suggestions on how we can do things better, we are here to help. Our office is attended on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays; phone 9076 2620 or email us gp.liaison@alfred.org.au.



If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please email us at gp.liaison@alfred.org.au.