

Alfred Health GP News

Happy New Year!

**Welcome to the January edition of Alfred
Health GP news.**

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Contact us for any queries

on 9076 2620, or email us at gp.liaison@alfred.org.au.

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.

MBS-billed clinics at Alfred Health

A number of outpatient clinics at Alfred Health are MBS-billed services. On the doctor's behalf, The Alfred will bulk bill the cost of the consultation through Medicare. There is no out of pocket expense to the patient.

MBS-billed services require a current referral – please provide a 12 month referral to see the specialist of your choice at the requested clinic.

It is a Medicare requirement that referrals must be addressed to a nominated specialist. To assist you in providing referrals to a named specialist, you can access a complete list of specialists attending Specialist Consulting clinics and the Heads of Unit [here](#). Please note, from time to time, your patient may be seen by another specialist in that clinic, in order to expedite their treatment.

Save the date - The Alfred Allergy Symposium

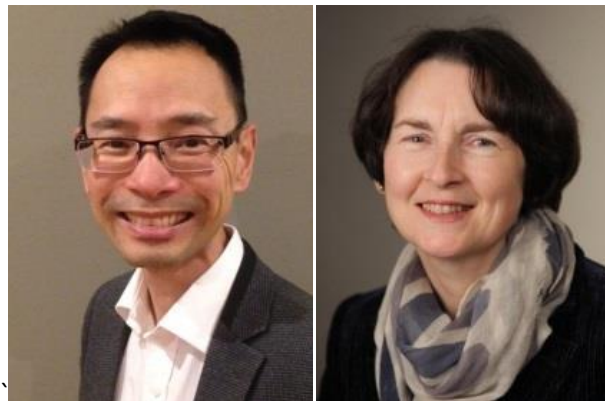
The Allergy, Asthma & Clinical Immunology Service at The Alfred is the largest adult service of its kind in Australia, accepting referrals from across Victoria. GPs are invited to attend **The Alfred Allergy Symposium**, to be held on Saturday 18th March 2017, 8:30am – 4:00pm in the AMREP Seminar Room, Alfred Hospital.

The day will take the form of a workshop with a major focus on interactive case discussions of important allergic presentations, developed with GP input.

Topics will include: Aero-allergy, thunderstorm asthma, drug allergy, food allergy, paediatric allergy, anaphylaxis & venom allergy, allergic skin conditions, occupational & environmental allergy.

The convenors are A/Prof Mark Hew and Prof Robyn O’Hehir, and presenters include A/Prof Robert Stirling, Dr Celia Zubrinich, Dr Julian Bosco, Dr Ryan Hoy, Dr Sam Mehr, and Dr Joy Lee.

Accreditation will be sought from the RACGP for 40 category one points.



Convenors A/Prof Mark Hew and Prof Robyn O’Hehir

The cost is \$180, and includes lunch and a course booklet. Register now for the early bird cost of \$150 (ends 10th February 2017.)

You can find further information and register [here](#).

Advanced Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Practice at the Alfred.

Advanced practice musculoskeletal physiotherapists (AMP) have been working in the Emergency, Orthopaedic and Neurosurgery Units at the Alfred since 2005. The following clinics operate at The Alfred:

- Osteoarthritis Hip Knee service (OAHKS)
- Neurosurgery and Orthopaedic physiotherapy screening clinics
- Neurosurgery (spinal) post-operative review clinic
- Primary contact within the Emergency Department (ED)
- ED soft tissue review clinic
- Post Arthroplasty Review (PAR) clinic.

Referral is made via usual channels to the specific units. Further triage may result in patient allocation to the physiotherapy service. All services are co-located within the specialist clinic where close liaison occurs with the medical unit. In the past 12 months (2015-2016) a total of 4251 patients were managed within the advanced musculoskeletal physiotherapy practice services.

Advanced scope practice physiotherapy clinic	Types of clinical presentations seen	Number of patients assessed	Number of patients fast tracked to surgeon	Number of patients discharged (improved following conservative management)
Post Arthroscopy Review	Uncomplicated hip and knee arthroplasties (up to 10 years follow up).	634	69 (same day assessment)	Not applicable
Orthopaedic screening	Hips, knee, spine and shoulder	754	159	187
ED review Primary contact in ED	Sprains and strains, simple fractures and spinal pain.	320 1554	2	193
Osteoarthritis Hip and Knee Service (OAHKS)	75% knee OA 25 % hip OA	650	187 (for consideration of joint arthroplasty)	153
Neurosurgery screening clinic	Cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine	339	71	93

Advanced musculoskeletal physiotherapists (AMP) have developed innovative ways of offering clinical services and have provided mentoring for more junior medical staff. They have excellent communication skills and work productively with the medical team and other allied health team members. At the Alfred, they must have at least 5 years of experience as a musculoskeletal physiotherapist, and have, or be working towards a Masters degree in musculoskeletal physiotherapy. All AMP's are required to undertake a competency based training and assessment program to be credentialed to work in these roles – this program includes additional training in radiology interpretation, differential diagnosis, pharmacology and pathology.

Research suggests that in terms of diagnostic accuracy, treatment effectiveness and economic costs, physiotherapists in AMP roles provide equal or better usual care when compared to medical practitioners (1, 2). At the Alfred we survey patients and general practitioners annually to gain feedback on our services and hence improve the quality of service provision. We attribute the success of the service to the high level of training that the physiotherapists receive and the collaborative model of care with the medical team.

The Alfred physiotherapy AMP team have led several Department of Health and Human Services funded projects implementing the Alfred AMP model of care into hospitals across Victoria and Australia and recently won the KoAweatea International Excellence in Health Improvement Award for 'Developing a flexible and sustainable workforce' for the project titled 'Working Above "PAR" with a Victorian State-Wide Initiative Introducing Physiotherapy Led Post Arthroplasty Review Services'

1. Comans, Raymer, O'Leary, Smith, Scuffham (2014) Cost-effectiveness of a physiotherapist-led service for orthopaedic outpatients, Journal of Health Services Research & Policy 19: 216)

2.Desmeules F, Roy J, MacDermid JC, Champagne F, Hinse O,Woodhouse LJ Advanced practice physiotherapy in patients with musculoskeletal disorders: a systematic review BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders 2012, 13:107 doi:10.1186/1471-2474-13-107

Seeking GP views to shape cancer services in our region

Southern Melbourne Integrated Cancer Service (SMICS) and the Monash Partners Comprehensive Cancer Consortium (MPCCC) recognise the importance and value of GPs in determining their priorities and ongoing work, and would like to invite you to help shape their Strategic Plan.

Have your say about the priority activities for cancer care and research in south-eastern Melbourne by completing [MPCCC's](#) strategic planning survey [here](#).

It will take 10 - 15 minutes of your time. Feel free to forward the link to your colleagues and patients and encourage them to participate too.

Those who complete the survey will go into a draw for a chance to win a \$100 David Jones voucher.

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.