

Alfred Health GP News

**Welcome to the March 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.

The Alfred Allergy Symposium

It's not too late to register 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 cost is \$180, and includes lunch and a course booklet. The symposium has received approval for 40 category one points with the RACGP QI&CPD program.

You can find further information and register [here](#). Please note registrations close at noon on Thursday 16th March.

The Alfred GP Hotline

The General Medicine unit has a dedicated phone number for GPs to call for direct access to a registrar to arrange admissions directly to the ward, or MDU admissions for iron/ blood transfusions etc. The hotline can also be utilised for advice if GPs wish to speak with a physician about a complex patient. **The GP Hotline number is 0428 626 183.**

The HARP registrar will be attending to these calls from 8am - 5pm, Monday to Friday. After hours, the calls will be taken by the General Medicine Streaming Registrar.

Urgent outpatient referrals

If you have a patient who requires an urgent outpatient appointment, please contact the Unit Registrar via Switchboard on 9076 2000 to discuss, in addition to faxing a referral. If you are concerned about the delay in an outpatient appointment, or if the patient's condition deteriorates, please contact the Unit Registrar to discuss and expedite the patient's care.

Health warning on mosquitoes and Ross River virus

Residents and visitors to Victoria are being warned to protect themselves against mosquito-borne diseases such as Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus and Murray Valley encephalitis.

Ross River virus has been detected in mosquitoes in southern metropolitan Melbourne, in addition to regional Victoria, indicating that there is a risk of mosquito-borne infection across Victoria. West Nile / Kunjin virus has been detected in a sentinel chicken in Shepparton.

Please advise patients that the best protection from mosquito-borne diseases is to avoid mosquito bites – use mosquito repellent containing picaridin or DEET, wear long and loose fitting clothing when outside, and ensure accommodation is mosquito proof.

Direct patients to the [‘Beat the Bite’](#) campaign page on the Better Health Channel for more information on ways to protect against mosquito bites.

Please consider the possibility of mosquito-borne disease in patients presenting with a compatible illness, especially after travel to regional Victoria. Notify Murray Valley encephalitis immediately on suspicion and Ross River and Barmah Forest virus after laboratory confirmation.

Zoster Vaccine contraindicated in immune-compromised patients.

Zoster vaccine is now available for 70-79 year olds under the National Immunisation Program.

Zoster vaccine is safe and effective for immune-competent patients, but it is a live vaccine and is contraindicated in patients who are immune-compromised.

In addition to being contraindicated for those with previous anaphylaxis to the vaccine or its components, it is vital all GPs are aware of the following contraindications, which include, but is not limited to:

- Haematological or generalised malignancies (including those not on treatment): e.g. lymphoma, acute or chronic leukaemia, Hodgkin's disease;
- Solid organ or bone marrow transplant recipients (with exceptions as advised by specialists);
- HIV/AIDS (with exceptions as advised by specialist) or other congenital/acquired immunodeficiencies;
- Current or recent high-dose systemic immunosuppressive therapy: e.g. chemotherapy, radiation therapy, oral corticosteroids, disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs.

The assessment of immune status can be complicated in some patients. If in doubt, defer vaccination and seek advice. For further information, please see the [CHO alert](#) and the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#), or contact the Infectious Diseases registrar via Switchboard on 2076 2000.

GPs are invited to attend Grand Rounds at The Alfred

The Alfred Hospital Grand Round is the premier weekly event on campus where physicians, surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, anaesthetists, researchers, Alfred Health registrars and other trainees enjoy a convivial and educational atmosphere with a broad cross-section of their colleagues. GPs are warmly invited to attend.

The Alfred Grand Rounds are held **each Thursday in the AMREP seminar room, from 12.30 – 1.30pm**. Lunch is provided from 12pm. Each session begins with a 5 minute clinical vignette for discussion, followed by the main presentation of 45 minutes duration, with time for questions.

The program includes speakers from most disciplines, including medicine, surgery, anaesthesia, trauma and the on-site research institutes.

Upcoming Grand Rounds are:

Thursday 16 th March 12.30-1.30pm AMREP Seminar Room, The Alfred	Rheumatology
Thursday 23 rd March	Pharmacy
Thursday 30 th March	Workplace behaviours
Thursday 6 th April	Psychiatry

For further information or to receive details of each week's Grand Round by email, please contact Mary Toye on 9903 0198, or email m.toye@alfred.org.au.

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.