

# Alfred Health GP News

**Welcome to the November 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](mailto:gp.liaison@alfred.org.au).**

## **Stelazine (trifluoperazine) supply shortage**

Stelazine (trifluoperazine) is an older first-generation anti-psychotic medication. It is generally available in 1 mg, 2mg and 5 mg strengths. Since July 2016, Stelazine has been in short supply. Pharmacies can only access 2 mg tablets with an expiry date of January 2017. There is currently no notice of return to supply.

Patients with diagnosis of schizophrenia, schizo-affective disorder and bipolar disorder may be prescribed Stelazine alone or in combination with other psychotropic medication and managed in primary care. In the months ahead, in the face of short supply, they may 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.

GPs are advised to refer patients prescribed Stelazine 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 9076 9888 for both the St Kilda road clinic and Waiora clinic.

## **GP and practice nurse education – tell us what you think!**

Alfred Health has a range of enthusiastic specialists keen to link with GPs and practice nurses in our local area, and we aim to provide ongoing training and support relevant to your practice in the most effective and convenient way. We are looking at how best to provide education to GPs and practice nurses, and would greatly appreciate your feedback via a very short, **two minute survey** of what education interests you most and what format this might take. Suggestions for topics for ongoing education are very welcome. To provide your feedback, please visit the Survey Monkey link [here](#).

## Webinar Invitation: The Management of Family Violence in Primary Care Settings

GPs are invited to register to attend an upcoming webinar on the management on family violence in primary health care settings, held by Southern Eastern Health Providers association in partnership with the Southern Metropolitan Region Integrated Family Executive.

Family violence is commonly encountered in health care settings, and approaching patients requires additional skills in asking and responding. This webinar discusses:

- An approach to asking and taking a history about experiences of family violence;
- What responses patients would like to hear from their health practitioner;
- How to identify and manage family violence in primary care; and
- How to assist women and children to improve their safety and wellbeing.



Date: Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Time: 6:30 pm (Victoria)

Presenter: Kelsey Hegarty

For further details and to register [click here](#)

The webinar is presented by Kelsey Hegarty, a practising GP and a Professor of Family Violence Prevention at the Department of General Practice at The University of Melbourne and The Women's Hospital. Kelsey is also co-director of the Melbourne Alliance to End Violence against Women and Their Children (MAEVe).

## The Alfred Travel Medicine Clinic

Our Travel Medicine Clinic is a specialised clinic that provides expert travel health advice and information for travellers. Led by infectious diseases specialists, the clinic provides comprehensive travel consultations tailored to the individual, and is accredited to provide yellow fever vaccination and other vaccinations. The clinic can accommodate a range of travellers, including travellers with complex underlying medical issues (such as immunodeficiency) and people travelling for a range of purposes including business, leisure, overseas aid work, volunteer work and overseas postings.

Patients should allow up to 2 hours for their appointment. This includes a consultation, vaccine administration time and an observation period of 15-30 minutes post vaccination (depending on vaccines administered).

## The Ian Ferguson Vascular Laboratory at The Alfred

The Vascular Laboratory is a state-of-the-art facility for the assessment and treatment of arterial and venous disease for both inpatients and outpatients. The Vascular Laboratory welcomes referrals from GPs for services including:

- arterial duplex examination of carotid, renal, visceral and peripheral arteries
- venous duplex examination for deep venous thrombosis and chronic venous insufficiency

- plethysmography studies for venous post-thrombotic syndromes
- exercise treadmill studies evaluation of lower extremity occlusive disease
- duplex surveillance of lower extremity bypass grafts following surgery

The laboratory also has extensive experience of ultrasound guided compression treatment of false aneurysms following arterial catheterisation.

You can access a printable version of the Vascular Laboratory referral form [here](#).

### **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.

Upcoming Grand Rounds are:

Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Stroke
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	End of Year Celebration – FINAL GRAND ROUND FOR 2016.

For further information or to receive details of each week’s Grand Round by email, please contact Priyanka Chahal on 9903 0198, or email [P.Chahal@alfred.org.au](mailto:P.Chahal@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](mailto:gp.liaison@alfred.org.au).



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