

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

Chronic pain management GP symposium



The Acute Pain service at Alfred Health are holding a GP symposium “Agendas surrounding the management of chronic pain in the community” on **Saturday 2nd December from 8am-5:00pm**. The symposium will be held at The Alfred, Commercial Rd Prahran. Topics include multidisciplinary management of back pain, weaning patients off complex multimodal analgesics, and managing opioids in the community.

The symposium has been accredited by the RACGP for 40 Category 1 CME points. The cost is \$180 and includes morning tea and lunch. Further details will be available and emailed through shortly, but to register your interest please email us at gp.liaison@alfred.org.au

The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre: some handy tips

- The ED admitting officer welcomes calls from GPs for advice and if patients are being sent to the Emergency and Trauma Centre. The direct telephone number for the Admitting Officer is 9076 2960. Please phone the AO for advice or prior to sending patients to Emergency and Trauma Centre.
- There can be a reluctance to administer analgesia when sending a patient to the ED; however, analgesia will never mask assessment of the cause and it is always appropriate to give at least paracetamol and/or ibuprofen (depending on the patient and suspected cause.)

- The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre is currently undergoing a major redevelopment with building works due to be completed in February 2018. Although this can affect waiting times and has impacted the area for new patients, we are trying as best we can to have 'business as usual.'
- Children are not routinely seen at The Alfred and should not be directed to The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre. Acutely unwell children should be referred to the Royal Children's Hospital or Monash Medical Centre, Clayton. If children are less unwell or need a procedure (including suturing and fracture management) they can be directed to the Sandringham Emergency Department. All Sandringham Emergency Consultants and Registrars are trained in the management of acute paediatric issues.
- 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 Medical Day Unit admissions for iron and blood transfusions etc. The hotline can also be utilised for complex care patients who are deteriorating in the community, not only for advice but also to link in with HARP services, outpatient clinics, home visits etc. The GP Hotline number is 0428 626 183.
- [MATS \(Mobile Assessment and Treatment Service\)](#) and [GEM \(Geriatric Evaluation and Management\) at Home](#) can organise appropriate patients to be assessed in residential care or at home, as an alternative to sending patients to the Emergency Department.
- If your patient already has an outpatient appointment but needs to be seen sooner (but is not acutely unwell), please contact the unit registrar via Switchboard on 9076 2000 to arrange an earlier review rather than sending the patient to the Emergency Department.

General Surgery clinic now at Caulfield Hospital

Ms Lara Freeman, General Surgeon, is commencing a clinic at Caulfield Hospital from November 21st. Ms Freeman currently consults at Sandringham, and provides general surgery consultation including hernias; skin and subcutaneous lesions; gallbladder surgery; haemorrhoids, anal fistulae and fissures; varicose veins; carpal tunnel; and ingrown toenails. Patients are seen in the Caulfield Consulting Clinics, and surgical procedures are performed at Sandringham Hospital.

Patients can be referred by faxing a referral addressed to Ms Lara Freeman at Caulfield Consulting Clinics 9076 6435, or phone 9076 6800 for more information.

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.

Please note there are only two grand rounds remaining this year before the break over the festive season.

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

Upcoming Grand Rounds are:

Thursday 9th November	Cases from clinical outcome review: A Stitch in Time - Early identification and management of Behaviours of Concern. Dr Evan Symons.
Thursday 16 th November	Stroke

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.

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.