

Alfred Health GP News

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

Contact us for any queries on
9076 2620, or email us at gp.liaison@alfred.org.au

Voluntary Assisted Dying: Alfred Health's approach

The Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017 came into effect on the 19th of June 2019. It allows a person in the late stages of advanced disease to take medication prescribed by a doctor that will bring about their death at a time they choose – often at home supported by family and friends.

Alfred Health's approach to Voluntary Assisted Dying is to partner with General Practitioners who, in the main, act as a patient's **coordinating medical practitioner**.

Alfred Health clinicians may act as **consulting medical practitioners**, when appropriate, providing expert opinion on a person's prognosis or capacity.

For inpatients who have approved access to Voluntary Assisted Dying medications, we will help to return them back to the comfort of their home, so they can use the medications at a time of their choosing.

Important information for GPs

- Prior to making a request for a consulting medical practitioner, please contact the GP Liaison Service on 9076 2620 to discuss the referral.
- After discussion with GP Liaison, a written referral should be faxed to The Alfred Health Specialist Clinics' central referral fax number on 9076 6938.
- GP Liaison will discuss each referral with the appropriate Head of Unit and keep the coordinating medical practitioner informed about the availability of consulting practitioners.

You can enquire about Alfred Health's Voluntary Assisted Dying approach by calling the GP Liaison Service on 9076 2620 or via email gp.liaison@alfred.org.au.

For more information:

- Voluntary Assisted Dying Navigators at Peter Mac 8559 5823
- [DHHS Information at Voluntary Assisted Dying](#)
- [Alfred Health's approach to Voluntary Assisted Dying](#)

Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction Clinical Care Program

The Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction (HFPEF) Clinic is a comprehensive clinic to diagnose, evaluate and treat patients with HFPEF, previously known as diastolic heart failure. In view of the limited traditional treatment options available, this clinic provides a streamlined, structured assessment and confirmation of the diagnosis using echocardiography and gold standard exercise right heart catheterisation. The clinic is intrinsically linked to the internationally renowned research program led by Professor David Kaye, and patients are offered early access to breaking trials of new drugs and devices available. The clinic is designed to complement the care provided by the patient's general practitioner and cardiologist, working in concert to provide advice regarding evaluation and management.



The HFPEF Clinical Care Program team, including Dr Shane Nanayakkara (2nd from left, front row) Prof David Kaye (4th from left, back row) and Assoc Prof Justin Mariani (2nd from right, back row.)

For more information and to refer, phone (03) 9076 2948, email HFPEF@alfred.org.au, or go to the [HFPEF clinic](#) website.

Please also find an article on Management of Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction here [https://www.clinicaltherapeutics.com/article/S0149-2918\(15\)01011-5/fulltext](https://www.clinicaltherapeutics.com/article/S0149-2918(15)01011-5/fulltext).

Bariatric Surgery referrals to The Alfred

The Alfred Bariatric Surgical Service provides assessment, management and review of patients requiring surgical management of obesity. Surgical interventions include laparoscopic banding, sleeve gastrectomy and gastric bypass.

In accordance with the Department of Health's framework for bariatric surgery, patients being referred to the Alfred Health bariatric service program should:

- have a BMI>40 OR a BMI<35, with two or more significant obesity-related co-morbidities eg hypertension requiring medication; type 2 diabetes mellitus; dyslipidaemia; obstructive sleep apnoea; pulmonary hypertension; obesity hypoventilation syndrome; and/or non-alcoholic fatty liver disease;
- be over 18 years of age at the time of referral;
- be younger than 65 years of age at the time of surgery;
- have attempted but not succeeded in achieving or maintaining clinically beneficial weight loss using non-surgical measures.

In addition to a referral, a completed [Bariatric Clinic Screening Assessment](#) form is required for referral to the service, and patients are required to participate in a health improvement and weight management program prior to receiving an outpatient appointment.

Further information about Bariatric Surgery at The Alfred can be found on the [Alfred Health website](#).

Social Prescription Seminar

Social prescribing is where health professionals refer patients to support in the community, in order to improve their health and wellbeing.

GPs and practice staff are invited to attend the **Social Prescription Seminar on Thursday, 12th September 6.30-8.30pm at Brighton Town Hall**, to hear from Prof Katherine Boydell (Black Dog Institute) and a panel of experts as they discuss social prescribing and its importance in improving health outcomes, facilitated by Maxine McKew. Highett Neighbourhood Community House, Castlefield Community Centre, Hampton Community Centre, Bayside City Council, Sandybeach Centre and Neighbourhood Houses Victoria are partners in the event.

For further information and to register, go to [Eventbrite](#).

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:

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| Thursday 11 th July | Radiation Oncology: Technology/ Biology Driving Future Directions. Presented by Dr Hany Elsaleh |
| Thursday 18 th July | Burnett Institute – Brendan Crabb |
| Thursday 25 th July | Gastroenterology – Peter Gibson |
| Thursday 1 st August | HARP – Felice Bourghmans |

Please note, the scheduled topics for the Grand Rounds may change.

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 Service at Alfred Health – we're here to help!



Our GP Liaison team –Tracey O'Connell (GP Liaison), Amelia Matlock (eReferral Lead), Dr Josie Samers (GP Consultant) and Lucy Bassett (VICM Project Manager) – 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 from Monday to Friday; phone 9076 2620 or email us gp.liaison@alfred.org.au.

We welcome your suggestions and feedback.

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