

Alfred Health GP News

Welcome to the March edition of Alfred Health GP news.

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

Tips for accessing patient information and results

A common source of frustration for GPs is not receiving discharge summaries, outpatient correspondence, pathology or radiology results. Whilst we are continually endeavouring to improve Alfred Health's communication with GPs, there are a number of ways you can assist us in making sure you receive timely communication:

- Patients will be asked to nominate their GP when they present to hospital, whether in ED, outpatients or on admission, so that clinical communication can be sent to you. Please encourage your patients to make sure they have notified hospital staff of your current details, ideally by carrying a card with your name and practice details with them.
- If you have not received a discharge summary or pathology results, the most direct way to access results is by calling **Health Information Services on 9076 2644**. If you encounter any difficulties or have clinical queries, you can also contact the GP Liaison service on 9076 2620 or email gp.liaison@alfred.org.au
- For urgent outpatient referrals, or if your patient has an outpatient appointment but their condition changes and they need to be seen sooner, please contact the relevant unit registrar on call via switchboard (9076 2000) for clinical advice and to expedite their appointment.
- By ensuring you have your correct practice details listed with the Human Services Directory, and that your name is not 'withheld', Alfred Health will be able to send discharge summaries via secure encrypted electronic messaging (HealthLink) if you have the capacity to receive them.
- 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 to discuss 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. HARP referrals and requests for iron/blood transfusions can be faxed to 9076 5013.

Alfred Health eReferral

Last year, Alfred Health received a grant from the Better Care Victoria Innovation fund to implement an electronic referral system which enables outpatient referrals to be sent securely via encrypted electronic messaging directly from Medical Director and Best Practice software to The Alfred. Additionally, referrals generated from within participating practices' software are largely auto populated with patient information, and include referral guidelines and clinic criteria within the referral template. Referring GPs have immediate access to up to date guidance to ensure that patients referred are suitable and appropriately investigated when accepted onto the Alfred Health Specialist Clinic appointment wait list. Investigation results are able to be attached to the referral.

The project was piloted in five local practices last year, and was very positively received. GPs found the eReferral process simple, much preferred it to fax and appreciated the instant notification that their referral had been received.

If your practice uses either Medical Director or Best Practice software, and you would like to send outpatient referrals to The Alfred electronically, please contact Dr Josie Samers on 9076 2620 for further information.

Expanded MS and neuroimmunology services at Alfred and Caulfield

The Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology service has recently expanded to include two clinics at The Alfred and Caulfield. The clinics are held on Wednesday afternoons in the Alfred Outpatient clinics, 2nd floor Phillip Block, and Tuesday mornings at Caulfield Consulting Suites. The multidisciplinary clinic will be staffed by neurology consultants Assoc. Prof Anneke Van der Walt, Prof Helmut Butzkueven, Dr Olga Skibina, Dr Cassie Nesbitt and Dr Mastura Monif, a physiotherapist and an MS nurse consultant.



The clinic provides a comprehensive service for people with multiple sclerosis and other autoimmune conditions of the central nervous system such as neuromyelitis optica and neurosarcoidosis. Please include any imaging results, recent blood results and a list of previously trialled medication as well as the patient's current medication list with the referral. Please fax referrals addressed to your specialist of choice to The Alfred Specialist Consulting Clinics fax 9076 6938.

Prof Helmut Butzkueven and Assoc. Prof Anneke Van der Walt have recently joined the MS and neuroimmunology service at Alfred Health

Asthma and allergy course

The Allergy unit at The Alfred warmly invite you to join us for an educational symposium in allergy, to be held on **Saturday 17th March, 2018** from 8.30am to 4pm at the AMREP Education Centre, Alfred Hospital, Melbourne. The cost is \$180, and includes morning tea, lunch and the course booklet.

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

The RACGP has accredited the course for 40 category one points. To qualify for the points, participants must complete the predisposing and reinforcing activities and the feedback form, as well as attending the symposium. Details of these will be sent upon registration.

Registration is at the [Try Booking](https://www.trybooking.com/SCPG) website. If the link doesn't work, please copy and paste this address into your browser: <https://www.trybooking.com/SCPG>

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 15 th March	Breaking Bad Gout: A tale of crystals, drugs & transplantations. Dr Anita Wluka, Rheumatology
Thursday 22 nd March	Pharmacy
Thursday 29 th March	Emergency and Trauma Centre
Thursday 5 th April	Stroke

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 – 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. We welcome your suggestions and feedback.

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