

ANZSPM Member eNews – 14 May 2020

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COVID-19 updates

Australian COVID-19 Palliative Care Working Group (ACPCWG)

ANZSPM continues to work with the ACPCWG on supporting the palliative care response to COVID-19 in partnership with Palliative Care Australia (PCA), Palliative Care Nurses Australia (PCNA), the Australasian Chapter of Palliative Medicine (AChPM) of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and the End of Life Directions for Aged Care (ELDAC) program.

ACPCWG-related updates and resources are below:

- Latest ACPCWG newsletter (5 May 2020)
- An online hub of resources can be found on the CareSearch website.

ANZSPM COVID-19 Special Interest Group (COVID-19 SIG) releases guidance documents

ANZSPM guidance documents developed by the COVID-19 SIG relating to palliative care in the COVID-19 context are available [here](#).

NZ Taskforce on COVID-19

COVID-19 related resources for NZ health care professionals can be found hosted on the Hospice NZ website [here](#).

AUS: Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice for the health and aged care sector

The Australian Department of Health regularly provides up-to-date and authoritative information and advice on COVID-19 for the health and aged care sector [here](#).

NZ: Health advice and latest updates on COVID-19

The Ministry of Health in New Zealand provides regular updates, information and health advice on COVID-19 on its website [here](#).

AUS: Industry Code for Visiting Residential Aged Care Homes during COVID-19 published

An Industry Code for Visiting Residential Aged Care Homes during COVID-19 has been released by aged care peak bodies and consumer advocacy organisations. The Code creates a nationally consistent approach that ensures residents can receive visitors while minimising the risk of spreading COVID-19. The Code was finalised after public consultation with consumers and aged care providers. For more information, please [click here](#).

AUS: National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce

The National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce brings together peak health professional bodies across Australia whose members are providing clinical care to people with COVID-19. The Taskforce is also in the process of establishing a dedicated palliative and aged care panel to support the guideline development process. Access the latest updates and clinical guidelines from the Taskforce [here](#).

AUS: Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care: FAQ on elective surgery

To assist health service organisations, clinicians and consumers following the resumption of elective surgeries in the COVID-19 environment, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) has developed guidance on standard and transmission-based infection prevention and control precautions. The Commission released frequently asked questions (FAQs) to support health service organisations (HSOs) and clinicians to implement these requirements, and to help consumers, patients and carers to understand what the changes mean for them. Please click on the links below to access the new resources:

- [FAQs for clinicians on elective surgery](#)
- [FAQs for consumers on elective surgery](#)

ARTICLE: COVID-19 and the quality use of medicines: evidence, risks and fads, Australian Prescriber | 8 May 2020, early release editorial

The COVID-19 pandemic is rapidly evolving and determining the appropriate response is complex. The severity of COVID-19 and the limited evidence for any treatment have added to the complexity of clinical decision making and prescribing. A vaccine is not yet available, but decisions about treatment are needed now. Full editorial: <https://www.nps.org.au/assets/ER-05.05.20-COVID-and-QUM-Softproof-v3.pdf>

Government News

AUS: AIHW report on Chronic Pain in Australia

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has released its latest report titled 'Chronic Pain in Australia'. To read the report, please click [here](#).

ANZSPM updates

ANZSPM Webinar: *Palliative Care during the COVID-19 pandemic: experiences from a busy London Hospital*

Please join us on **Monday 18 May 2020 at 6.00pm AEST** to hear from UK palliative care specialist, Dr Sabrina Bajwah on *Palliative Care during the COVID-19 pandemic: experiences from a busy London Hospital*. Dr Bajwah will be joined by Dr Rachel Wiseman, ANZSPM Aotearoa Committee Chair. ANZSPM is pleased to present this webinar through the support of the RACP's webpilot team.

The following link should be used to register for the free webinar via the RACP:
https://racp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pyEiGmYqRnmCxMTsb7XizQ

Dr Sabrina Bajwah is a Clinical Senior Lecturer at King's College London and an Honorary Consultant in Palliative Care. Dr Bajwah has been a member of the NICE Quality Standards Committee for Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis and has also been a member of the Emergency Oxygen Guideline Group for the British Thoracic Society and Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis clinical and research advisory committees for the British Lung Foundation. She now works clinically within the palliative care team at King's Health Partners, London and runs the first interstitial lung disease palliative care clinic in the UK whilst continuing to drive forward respiratory palliative care research. Her other main area of research interest are different models of palliative care. She is currently completing a Cochrane Review on the Effectiveness of Inpatient Palliative Care and is part of the OPTCARE Neuro team who delivered the largest neurology palliative care study in the world earlier this year.

Save the date: upcoming ANZSPM webinar series supported by RACP

Please save the dates for the following ANZSPM webinars which we are once again bringing to you with the support of the RACP's webpilot program. More information including registration details to follow. If you have any questions, please email info@anzspm.org.au

ANZSPM webinar topic (tbc)	Speaker	Speaker presentation date & time
Public Health Palliative Care including a consideration of the post-COVID PHPC directions	Dr Bruce Rombold	24-Jun-20; 6pm AEST
Advance Care Planning and incorporating VAD: the adult & paediatric perspective	A/Prof Jenny Hynson & Dr Barbara Hayes	22-Jul-20; 6pm AEST
Palliative care in pandemics	Dr Rachel Coghlan & A/Prof Will Cairns	24-Aug-20; 6pm AEST
Update on opioids for breathlessness	Prof David Currow	28-Oct-20; 6pm AEDT
Haematology and Palliative Care	Dr Rob Weinkove & Dr Zoe McQuilten	24-Nov-20; 6pm AEDT

ANZSPM membership renewal delayed

The ANZSPM membership renewal period for 2020-21 memberships has been delayed as ANZSPM is going through a change of banks. We will notify members by email when we open membership renewals for 2020-21 and thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions about your membership, please email info@anzspm.org.au!

External call for expressions of interest

RACP: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: DoH Pain Management Implementation Liaison Group

We have received notification from the RACP that the Department of Health has invited the RACP to appoint a single RACP member to participate in the Pain Management Implementation Liaison Group (ILG). The Department is establishing an ILG to support the implementation of changes to Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items resulting from the recommendations of the MBS Review Taskforce.

These recommended changes have not yet been considered by Government, which means a firm date cannot be provided of when they will be implemented. The role of the ILG is to provide advice on the implementation of the MBS changes and mitigate any unintended consequences or barriers for patients. The ILG does not have the authority to reconsider, remove or overturn decisions and recommendations that were made by the Taskforce or those that will be considered by Government. However, the ILG may provide advice to the Department where issues relating to implementation of the recommendations may arise.

Selection Criteria:

Briefly state how your knowledge, qualifications, experience and personal attributes apply to each criterion below:

1. Reason for interest in representing the College for the participation in The Pain Management Implementation Liaison Group (ILG).
2. Please briefly detail your expertise and current work relevant to this area.
3. Do you have any previous or current professional or personal connections that may give cause for perceived conflict of interest with The Department of Health?

Please note any appointed member will have their contact details shared with the external body unless we are asked not to.

Term and Commitment:

- To adhere to the College's Code of Conduct
- Provide the RACP with a report or summary of meeting discussions and outcomes as agreed with the Policy and Advocacy department.
Under current arrangements, ILG nominees may be remunerated for their participation until 30 June 2020. Once RACP has appointed a RACP member to the ILG, the Department of Health will contact the individual to assess whether they will be eligible for payment. Once eligible nominees have returned the required paperwork to the Department, further information, including proposed meeting dates, will be provided.
- For Pain Management ILG Terms of Reference please email RACPConsult@racp.edu.au.
- The DoH will cover travel and accommodation costs as outlined in the attached ILG member factsheet.

To apply:

- If you are interested in applying, please complete the three questions above and provide your brief CV (maximum 3 pages) by close of business **Thursday 21 May 2020** to RACPConsult@racp.edu.au.

AUS: National Palliative Care Week 2020



National Palliative Care Week is an annual event organised by Palliative Care Australia and supported by the Department of Health to raise awareness and understanding about palliative care in the Australian community. In 2020, National Palliative Care Week will be held from Sunday 24 May – Saturday 30 May, with the theme: "Palliative Care... It's more than you think." Please visit PCA's website to download campaign resources (including banners, posters, social media tiles and signature blocks) to help raise awareness of palliative care. You can also join the conversation on social media, using the [#NPCW2020](#) and [#morethanyouthink](#) hashtags.

Other updates

Palliative Medicine Reports (PMR) publishes first six inaugural open access articles

Palliative Medicine Reports (PMR) is the open access companion journal to the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. PMR publishes open access peer-reviewed articles covering medical, psychosocial, policy, and legal issues in serious illness and end-of-life care. The first articles have now been published and can be accessed online. ANZSPM is an official affiliate of *Palliative Medicine Reports*. ANZSPM members are invited to participate in the journal and will receive a special discount of 25% off the Article Processing Charge (APC) when they publish their accepted articles. For more information including email alert sign-up, please [click here](#).

New RACP Pomegranate Health episode: [Ep58: Billing Part 2—Compliance and the Free Market](#)

This episode continues the discussion from Episode 56 about medical billing in Australia. Almost 500 million Medicare rebates are processed every year and for the most part these are claimed appropriately. But non-compliant billing could be costing the health system over 2 billion dollars annually. The vast majority of this comes down to misunderstanding of the conditions around MBS items, according to Loryn Einstein of Medical Billing Experts. Please click here to download the episode.

Redefining palliative care: A new consensus-based definition, *Journal of Pain & Symptom Management* | Online – 6 May 2020

The International Association for Hospice & Palliative Care (IAHPC) developed a consensus-based definition of palliative care (PC) that focuses on the relief of serious health related suffering, a concept put forward by *The Lancet* Commission Global Access to Palliative Care & Pain Relief.

Full text: <https://bit.ly/3dtSyHp>

Upcoming Events

Please note: In light of the evolving situation around the current COVID-19 pandemic, many events previously promoted in our eNews may have been postponed, cancelled or moved to a virtual format. ANZSPM strongly advises members to check this with the event organiser directly.

NPCW Palliative Care Morning Tea, Facebook live event | 25 May 2020, 10.30am – 11.30am

On 25 May 2020, Palliative Care Australia will host an exclusive virtual morning tea with His Excellency General, the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of Australia and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, Joint Patrons of Palliative Care Australia (PCA). Their excellencies will be interviewed by Di Darmody, highly experienced ABC Perth Broadcaster and friend of PCA. Their conversation will focus on “comfort, compassion and connection” in end-of-life care. It will highlight how essential it is to have a “holistic” approach to caring for seriously ill and vulnerable people – showcasing the importance of supporting (and respecting) people’s emotional, spiritual and cultural needs as part of their overall care. To register and joint this Facebook Live event, please click here.

The International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) 2020 Annual Conference | 1-3 October 2020 | Geneva, Switzerland

For more information please visit: <https://siog.org/content/siog-2020-annual-conference-0>

EUROPALL2020: European Conference on Controversies in Palliative Care | 29-30 Oct 2020 | Munich, Germany More information is at <https://europall2020.com>

Palliative Care Nurses Australia Conference | 22-23 Nov 2020 | Pullman Albert Park, Melbourne VIC

More information at <https://www.pcna2020.org/>

Careers

For the latest positions advertised on the ANZSPM website – visit the ANZSPM Careers pages for details!

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Our standard office hours: Mon-Fri 9.15am-2.45pm AEST

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