

In this edition of GP News, you'll find a wealth of information, including resources for GPs and training opportunities.

If you have any feedback or questions, please [email the GP Liaison team](#).

In this edition:

- Shared Maternity Care Affiliate re-credentialing finalisation and education requirements for the next triennium
- Updated RWH referral templates for practice software: Maternity and Women's Health
- Sick cell added to Newborn Bloodspot screen
- Public Fertility Care outcomes and available services
- Continuing Professional Development

Recredentialing for Shared Maternity Care Affiliates



Finalisation of re-credentialing for 2026-2028

Re-credentialing applications for the 2026-2028 triennium for Shared Maternity Care Affiliate (SMCA) GPs, obstetricians and midwives have been finalised.

If you did not re-credential, you have been removed as a credentialed shared care provider from the Shared Maternity Care Collaborative (SMCC – Mercy Health, Northern Health, Royal Women's Hospital and Western Health). If this is the case, thank you for your provision of shared care. Please continue to care for any women already enrolled in shared care with you, however women will no longer be registered with you to provide shared maternity care.

For any queries, please contact the hospital that sent you the original invitation to re-credential:

- The Royal Women's Hospital: gp.liaison@thewomens.org.au
- Northern Health: nh-primarycareliaison@nh.org.au
- Mercy Hospital for Women: primarycare@mercy.com.au
- Western Health: gp@wh.org.au

Education requirements for re-credentialing in the next triennium

To re-credential for the next triennium with the Shared Maternity Care Collaborative (SMCC) GP Shared Maternity Care Affiliates must complete a minimum of eight (8) hours of CPD activities specifically related to pregnancy care during the 1/1/2026 – 31/12/2028 triennium.



Six (6) of the eight (8) hours must be “core activities” of the SMCC.

Core activities include:

- Attendance at or watching recordings of the annual SMCC workshops (4 hours per year). If watching recordings, this must be logged on your CPD home.
- Any pregnancy-related CPD event hosted by one of the SMCC hospitals.
- Any pregnancy-related CPD event hosted by a Victorian public hospital with a Shared Maternity Care Program (e.g. Monash Health, Eastern Health, Peninsula Health).
- Hospital antenatal clinic attendance at a collaborative hospital (not including those completed as part of initial credentialing).
- Hospital orientation/tours (including virtual tours) specifically for SMCAs (not including those completed as part of initial credentialing).

The additional two (2) of the eight (8) hours education can be other pregnancy-related activities including antenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care including breastfeeding and perinatal mental health. It does not include pre-pregnancy care and fertility care.



Updated RWH referral templates: Maternity and Women's Health (Best Practice, Medical Director,

ZedMed and Genie)

The Royal Women's Hospital is currently working with RMH, RCH and Peter MacCallum to develop HealthLink referrals from GP software. It is anticipated this will be available in late 2026.

Meanwhile, referral templates have been updated. They include both Maternity and Women's Health templates for Best Practice, Medical Director, ZedMed and Genie.

These updated templates:

- Have addressed bugs such as difficulty with investigation attachments
- Updated referral mechanisms (including email option)
- Updated tests.

You are strongly encouraged to:

- Replace existing RWH referrals with these templates (see "Referral Template Downloading Instructions" under each referral)
- Use these templates when you refer.

For updated Maternity and Women's Health templates and download instructions (as well as updated word versions of Maternity, Women's Health and Reproductive services Unit) see:

RWH Sending Referrals

Sickle cell added in newborn bloodspot screen ('Guthrie' or 'Heel prick' test)

Victoria has added sickle cell anaemia to its newborn bloodspot screening (NBS) program. Blood samples are collected from a heel prick between 36-72 hours after birth, using a bloodspot screening card (a Guthrie card). For more information on the process and conditions tested see:

- [Newborn bloodspot screening | VCGS](#) and
- [What is screened in the program | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#)



Update for GPs: Public Fertility Care outcomes and available services

Victoria's Public Fertility Care program has recorded its highest quarterly activity since the service



commenced, with January and March 2026 the busiest months on record for treatment cycles. Since inception, more than 350 babies have been born through the public program.

Clinical pregnancy rates continue to meet or exceed national benchmarks, with January data above the ANZARD reference rate.

The service includes **genetic testing pathways (PGT-M and PGT-SR)** for patients at risk of

transmitting serious heritable conditions. To date, more than half of patients proceeding to embryo transfer following PGT have achieved a pregnancy.

Public Fertility Care provides IVF, ICSI, IUI, fertility preservation and donor programs across metropolitan and regional Victoria.

GP referrals are required for eligible patients.

For more information, including eligibility criteria, visit:

Public Fertility Care



Newborn Behavioural Observations (NBO) training

The Newborn Behavioural Observations (NBO) system is a relationship building tool that fosters a positive parent-infant interactive relationship. The NBO consists of a set of 18 neuro-behavioural observations, which describe the newborn's capacities and behavioural adaptation from birth to the third month of life. It is a helpful tool for professionals who work with parents during the perinatal period.



We are offering both online and in-person workshops in 2026.

- NBO online workshop: Sunday 24, Monday 25, and Tuesday 26 May 2026
- NBO online workshop: Sunday 16, Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 August 2026
- NBO for High Risk Infants in-person workshop (Melbourne): Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 October 2026

Cost: \$649 - \$924 depending on mode of workshop and early-bird rates

For more information visit: [NBO training course information | The Royal Women's Hospital](#)

[Register now](#)

Contact us

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Shared Maternity Care Coordinator

P: (03) 8345 2129

E: sharedcare@thewomens.org.au

The Women's Switchboard

P: (03) 8345 2000

The Women's Abortion & Contraception Service

P: [\(03\) 8345 2832](tel:(03)83452832) (professional line only)



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The Royal Women's Hospital acknowledges and pays respect to the peoples of the Kulin Nations, the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which our hospital stands.

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