the women's
the royal women's hospital

GP News

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 us.

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- Guidelines for Shared Maternity Care Affiliates update: survey
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Shared Maternity Care guidelines update: Have your say on what's needed

The Royal Women's Hospital, Mercy Hospital for Women, Northern Health and Western Health have begun reviewing the "Guidelines for Shared Maternity Care Affiliates 2021".

If you are a GP, obstetrician or midwife credentialed to provide Shared Maternity Care with any of these hospitals, we'd love your feedback. It will help us update this guideline to better support you. The survey asks about your experience with the guidelines, gaps and needs.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary, and you may exit the survey at any time.

Start survey

Expanded Protection

Infant Pneumococcal Vaccine Study



The Vaccine and Immunisation Research Group at Murdoch Children's Research Institute is currently recruiting infants **from 6 weeks of age** (prior to their first set of vaccines) to join an ethics-approved study looking at a new vaccine that aims to better protect babies from pneumococcal infection.

As part of the study, **all NIP vaccines** are given with the option of a **free course of Bexsero** for those families that would like it.

What is involved?

- Participation for up to 18 months
- Pneumococcal & routine childhood vaccines provided during the study
- Optional Meningococcal B vaccination at no cost
- No blood tests
- 6 visits at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, plus a follow-up call
- Care from experienced paediatricians and research nurses.

If your patients are interested, they can call 03 8613 5110, email virgo@mcri.edu.au or visit the MCRI website.



Decision Aid for Timing of Birth

Most women wait for labour to start on its own. However, some women may be advised to consider having a planned birth to reduce the chance of stillbirth.

The *Decision Aid for Timing of Birth* was recently developed to support women and maternity healthcare providers to discuss the best timing for birth, and to support informed, shared decision-making. It is for women who do not have medical or pregnancy conditions that may affect decisions on timing of birth.

Learn more

Egg Freezing Decision Aid launched



Women considering egg freezing now have access to a free, independent and evidence-based online resource developed by the Royal Women's Hospital and the University of Melbourne to help them navigate one of the most personal and complex fertility decisions they may face.

The *Egg Freezing Decision Aid* provides independent information about the benefits, limitations, costs and risks of egg freezing, alongside practical tools to help women reflect on what matters most to them.

The *Egg Freezing Decision Aid* includes evidence-based information, personal experiences from women who have considered egg freezing, questions to discuss with healthcare professionals, and activities designed to help users clarify their priorities and preferences.

Learn more



Prevention of Congenital CMV: Updated RANZCOG guidelines

RANZCOG has recently updated its guideline for the prevention of congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection.

They include stronger recommendations about testing in pregnancy and a new section on the role of valaciclovir after first trimester infection.

Recommendations include:

- Providing all women with hygiene-based CMV risk reduction strategies during pre-pregnancy and pregnancy. Specific recommendations include *Wash with Care, Kiss with Care, Don’t Share*
- Offer CMV IgG testing pre-pregnancy or early in pregnancy for women at increased risk of CMV exposure (this aligns with the national pregnancy guidelines)
- Early pregnancy CMV IgG testing may be offered to all pregnant women (after counselling and if there are clear pathways for interpretation, follow-up and referral)

- Recommendations on testing and care for clinically suspected CMV infection
- Recommendations on the referral for/use of off-label high dose valaciclovir for the prevention of fetal CMV infection in the first trimester.

Read the guideline



Annual Shared Maternity Care Workshop: Recordings

The annual Shared Maternity Care workshops where a great success.

Workshop 1 on 8 October 2026:

- Shared decision making and influences on birth choices by Dr Alethea Askern
- Incidental findings on pregnancy ultrasound: what to look for, when to be concerned and when not to by Dr Iniyaval Thevathasan

Workshop 2 on 22 October 2026:

- Making sense of folate, fish oil and fetal Rh testing by A/Prof Alexis Shub
- The GPs' role in the fourth trimester by Dr Ekaterina Jovic

Watch the recordings

If you view the recordings, you can self-log two hours for each workshop onto your CPD statement. These can then contribute to your CPD hours for recredentialling as a shared maternity care affiliate in the next triennium. However, please ensure you include the title and date.

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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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