

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

If you have any feedback or questions, please [email us](#).



Re-credentialing as a Shared Maternity Care Affiliate for 2023-2025 triennium

Application period closed

Re-credentialing as a Shared Maternity Care Affiliate at the Women's, Mercy Health, Northern Health and Western Health is now complete.

GPs and obstetricians who have not re-credentialed are asked to kindly complete pregnancy shared care for women they are currently caring for in a shared care arrangement. Additional women will no longer be registered for shared care with you.

We thank these practitioners for your provision of shared care over the years. You are very welcome to continue receiving this newsletter.

For those who wish to apply to become an affiliate for the first time, you can download an application form on [the Women's website](#).

Home use of doppler devices

Pregnant women and their partners should be cautioned about the risks involved in the use of home fetal heart rate monitors (fetal dopplers) during pregnancy.

Safer Care Victoria has provided [this advice](#) to clinicians. They did this after identifying an increased risk of perinatal mortality associated with the use of fetal heart rate monitors at home.



Handheld doppler devices are readily available to the public. Parents are increasingly using the devices to check their baby's heartbeat at home.

Without proper training, it can be difficult for parents to distinguish between the maternal pulse and the fetal heartbeat. Identification of the fetal heart rate does not provide any prognostic information about fetal well-being and may be falsely reassuring.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology has published a [position statement](#) and the Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity has made a recommendation. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is reviewing the safety of Handheld doppler devices.



Referrals for boundary residents

For patients who live on the boundary of the Women's and Monash Health catchments

As you are aware, Monash Health is now managing Sandringham Hospital's maternity, gynaecology and neonatal services (as of 6 February 2023).

All referrals for care at Sandringham Hospital must be made via Monash

Health's [HealthLink eReferral system](#).

We wish to confirm that women who live in the below postcodes should be referred to the Women's:

- 3182 (St Kilda West), 3183 (St Kilda East) and 3184 (Elwood).

Those referrals should be made to the Women's (via usual Fast Fax Referral - [\(03\) 8345 3036](#)).

If a referral you make to the Women's is declined and you wish to query this, please feel free to contact Dr Ines Rio, Head of the Women's GP Liaison Unit, at gp.liaison@thewomens.org.au

Improving syphilis detection

Routine re-testing at 26-28 weeks

In Victoria, the number of women aged under 50 diagnosed with syphilis quadrupled between 2015 and 2020.

More than 644 women and girls aged 15-49 years were diagnosed with syphilis during this period.



As a result, there have been 12 congenital infections in Victoria, including three fetal deaths, since 2017. Prior to this, the last congenital infection in Victoria was a single case in 2004.

Congenital syphilis results in miscarriage, premature labour, stillbirth, neonatal death and long-term after-effects. However, congenital syphilis infection is highly preventable: with a near 100% chance of preventing mother-to-child transmission if syphilis is detected and treated over the four weeks before birth.

Syphilis testing of women early in pregnancy is routine. The previous guidance for re-testing for syphilis later in pregnancy was risk-based and dependent on clinician assessment of sexual risk, and patient willingness to disclose sexual activity.

However, given the increasing rates of syphilis in reproductive-aged women in Victoria, the Women's is implementing a trial of routine re-testing of syphilis

serology at the usual 26-28 week tests (along with GTT, FBE and blood group antibodies).

Interested in updating your understanding of syphilis? See Continuing Professional Development section below.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



“Infections in pregnancy: What’s new in congenital CMV and syphilis”

This eLearning module provides an update for GPs and Shared Maternity Care Affiliates on congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) and syphilis. Both of these infections can have devastating consequences for a developing baby.

CMV is the most common congenital infection resulting in childhood disability in Australia. Yet less than 20% of GPs are confident in providing advice on CMV in pregnancy.

Untreated syphilis leads to adverse pregnancy outcomes in about 50% of affected pregnancies. As mentioned in a story above, syphilis notifications in Victorian women of childbearing age quadrupled between 2015 and 2020.

To access this free eLearning module, visit the [Praxhub website](#).

If you don’t already have a Praxhub account, you can create one for free.

CPD hours: RACGP and ACRRM have accredited this eLearning module for 1.5 Educational Activity CPD hours.

If you complete a short survey before the course, immediately after the course, and 8 weeks after you have completed the course, you will be eligible for Reviewing Performance CPD hours.

There is also an option for GPs to do a mini-audit and gain Measuring Outcomes CPD hours.

NEW WORKSHOP DATES

ImplanonNXT training session



Implanon NXT training

Victorian GPs, nurse practitioners, nurses and midwives are invited to attend a free Implanon NXT practical workshop.

Participants will gain the knowledge and skill necessary to safely insert and remove ImplanonNXT through supervised simulated practice.

Implanon NXT is a contraceptive implant placed directly under the skin of a woman's upper arm. It protects against pregnancy for up to three years.

The Women's provides these free workshops as part of the Victorian Sexual and Reproductive Health Clinical Champion Network, funded by the Victorian Department of Health and led by the Women's. The network aims to improve Victorian women's access to long acting contraception care and to safe and effective abortion services.

You can register now for one of these free workshops, with sessions available from July-November 2023.

For more information or to register: [Eventbrite](#)

Early medical abortion webinar

Case studies and expert panel discussion

GPs, nurse practitioners, nurses and midwives are invited to attend a free webinar on early medical abortion service provision.

This webinar, on Wed 12 July 2023, is the second in a series. If you did not attend the first webinar, a recording of it may be provided to you when you register for the second webinar.

The free second webinar aims to:

- Increase health professionals' confidence in
 - providing early medical abortion, and
 - managing possible complications and post-procedure presentations.
- Increase understanding of:
 - service provision in regional and rural Victorian settings



- how services provided to migrant and refugee women seeking an abortion can be improved, and
- reproductive coercion and its relationship to abortion.
- Provide an opportunity to have your questions answered anonymously by a panel of experts.

The webinar is an initiative of: The Women's, Gippsland Primary Health Network, Sexual Health Victoria, EACH, Peninsula Health, Women's Health Victoria, Multicultural Centre for Women's Health, Gippsland Women's Health, Women's Health in the South East and Women's Health East.

To register, visit [Eventbrite](#)

Any queries: [\(03\) 9851 3700](tel:(03)98513700) or email acastle@whe.org.au



Fact sheets - to support you and your patients

More than 230 fact sheets on women's health topics are available on the Women's website. Some fact sheets are also available in a variety of languages.

We hope you find these fact sheets useful, and encourage you to share them with your patients.

Some of the new fact sheets we have recently published include:

- Vaping and e-cigarettes during pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Postpartum haemorrhage: Things to consider during pregnancy
- Postpartum haemorrhage: Explaining your treatment
- Practising perineal massage during your pregnancy
- Antenatal expressing: expressing breastmilk during pregnancy

Here is a link: A-Z fact sheets on [the Women's website](#).

Parkville Connect

Parkville Connect is the provider portal that enables GPs, specialists and other community health practitioners to access the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) of their patients receiving care at:

- The Royal Women's Hospital
- The Royal Melbourne Hospital
- The Royal Children's Hospital and
- Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.



The EMR system by itself does not currently enable automated cc of results (pathology and imaging) to SMCAs, GPs and other external providers. Parkville Connect is one way you can access these results.

Via Parkville Connect you can view:

- Upcoming and past hospital visits

- inpatient and outpatient progress notes
- discharge and after-visit summaries
- laboratory and imaging results
- allergies, medical history and medications.

To register your practice and associated clinicians for Parkville Connect, please ensure that all your practice information is up to date in the National Health Services Directory (NHSD). It is recommended that all clinicians are included when registering your practice.

To register, visit the [Parkville Connect website](#).

Any queries: email support@parkvilleconnect.org.au

Contact us

Dr Ines Rio, Head GP Liaison Unit
P: (03) 8345 2064
E: gp.liaison@thewomens.org.au

Fast Fax Referral
F: (03) 8345 3036

GP Quick Access Number
P: (03) 8345 2058

Shared Maternity Care Coordinator
P: (03) 8345 2129
E: shared.care@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 – not for use by women needing the service)



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You are receiving this email because you have subscribed to receive updates from the Women's GP Liaison Unit. [Unsubscribe](#)

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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