

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](#).



## Increased access to medical abortion

On 1 August 2023, several restrictions on prescribing MS-2 Step (the medical abortion pill) were lifted.

MS-2 Step (a combination of mifepristone and misoprostol) can be used to terminate an intrauterine pregnancy of up to 63 days' gestation.

The lifting of restrictions by the [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) means:

- GPs are no longer required to undertake mandatory training and registration to prescribe MS-2 Step.
- All pharmacists (rather than registered dispensers only) will be able to stock and dispense the medication.

### For support or more info, you can:

- View updated product information on the [Therapeutic Goods Administration website](#).
- Participate in a short online course which provides foundational knowledge and skills to provide comprehensive best practice early medical abortion care – [Women's Health Victoria website](#).
- Watch webinars on early medical abortion (recorded in April and June 2023, prior to the lifting of restrictions):
  - [Case Studies and Complexities – An information evening for GPs, nurses and pharmacists](#)
  - [Early medical abortion of pregnancy: for GPs, nurses and pharmacists](#).
- Read the National Blood Authority's Guideline for the Prophylactic use of Rh D immunoglobulin in pregnancy care, 2021. The guideline says: 'In the setting of medical termination of pregnancy before 10 weeks of gestation there is insufficient evidence to suggest the routine use of Rh D immunoglobulin.' You can read the full guideline on the [National Blood Authority website](#).
- If a woman who has had a medical abortion has complications or concerns, options for seeking help or advice include: calling **healthdirect** on **1800 022 222** or visiting the **Women's Emergency Care (WEC)** (both of which are available 24 hours, 7 days), or attending their nearest emergency department.

# Thalassaemia referrals

We continue to receive several referrals every week where:

- a woman is known to be a carrier of thalassaemia (or her investigations raise this as a possibility), and
- there has been inadequate follow-up testing for the woman and/or her partner.

GPs are reminded that urgent partner screening for haemoglobinopathy is essential if a woman has an abnormal haemoglobin electrophoresis, or thalassaemia/ haemoglobinopathy cannot be excluded.

As there can be long delays, please clearly indicate to the pathology service that the woman is pregnant and (where she has a partner) include her partner's details so their results can be considered together.

When making a referral to the Women's, please include both the woman's and (where applicable) her partner's results in your referral. If copies of results are not available, please indicate on the referral which laboratory conducted the tests.

## Thalassemia testing consists of:

- FBE
- Ferritin
- Hb electrophoresis
- Thalassaemia DNA result
- Partner name, DOB and their results for the above tests.

For more info, see [Guidelines for Shared Maternity Care Affiliates](#).



## 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](mailto:support@parkvilleconnect.org.au)

# CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## Menopause management: online webinar

**Date and time:** Tuesday 19 September 2023, 7-8pm

**Hosted by:** The Women's and the North Western Melbourne PHN

**Speaker:** Dr Giselle Darling, Women's Health Consultant at the Women's

This webinar will provide a comprehensive overview of current evidence around best practice

menopause management. Participants will learn about the symptoms of menopause and pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies. Menopause Hormone Therapy (MHT) will be discussed in detail including types, indications, contraindications, and when to cease MHT.

Dr Darling will also cover important considerations of MHT in the context of previous or current breast cancer. There will be opportunities to ask questions and address any knowledge gaps.

**To register:** visit the [North Western Melbourne PHN website](#).

## Newborn Behavioural Observations (NBO) workshops: online

Bookings are open for Newborn Behavioural Observations (NBO) workshops in October 2023.

The NBO consists of a set of 18 neurobehavioral observations, which describe the newborn's capacities and behavioural adaptation from birth to the third month of life. The system is designed to be easy to use and is a helpful tool for obstetric, midwifery, mental health, paediatric and general practice professionals who work with parents during the perinatal period.

This online workshop will be run by four NBO trainers and presented across three part days, with an emphasis on interactive exchange and hands-on practice.



**Workshop Day One:** Sunday 8 October 2023, 1:30-5:30pm

**Workshop Day Two:** Monday 9 October 2023, 12:30-5:30pm

**Workshop Day Three:** Tuesday 10 October 2023, 12:30-5:30pm

**Optional Post Event:** Monday TBC December 2022, 5:00-6:00pm

**Cost:** \$540 AUD (including GST).

For more information or to register, visit [EventBrite](#).



## Preterm and early term birth prevention education evening

Safer Care Victoria is hosting free educational evenings on preterm and early term birth prevention.

The evening includes a free dinner and presentations from key national and Victorian preterm birth prevention obstetricians and fetal medicine specialists. They will discuss optimal timing of birth and cervical length measurement and management. This

is a rare opportunity to gain valuable insights into the *Every Week Counts - National Preterm Birth Prevention Collaborative* and its strategies to prevent preterm and early term births.

There are two events to choose from:

**Date:** Monday 2 October 2023

**Time:** 6 pm - 9 pm (Please arrive by 5.30 pm to register)

**Location:** [Sofitel Melbourne](#) - Grand Ballroom, 25 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000

**Register:** [Safer Care Victoria website](#).

Or

**Date:** Tuesday 3 October 2023

**Time:** 6pm - 9 pm (Please arrive by 5.30 pm to register)

**Location:** [Novotel Geelong](#) - 10-14 Eastern Beach Road, Geelong Victoria 3220

**Register:** [Safer Care Victoria website](#).

For more information, please contact:  
[pretermbirthprevention@safercare.vic.gov.au](mailto:pretermbirthprevention@safercare.vic.gov.au)



## Early medical abortion webinar recordings

Please note these webinars were held prior to the [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) lifting restrictions, as per the first story in this newsletter.

This two-part information session on early medical abortion was hosted by GenWest, Women's Health in the North, the Women's, and North Western Melbourne PHN.



View these recordings for an overview of early medical abortion procedures, practice experiences, complex cases, and support and referral pathways for GPs and nurse practitioners who provide, or would like to provide, early medical abortion.

[Recording 1 \(June 2022\).](#)

[Recording 2 \(April 2023\).](#)

### Contact us

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Shared Maternity Care Coordinator

P: (03) 8345 2129

E: [shared.care@thewomens.org.au](mailto: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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*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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