



the women's  
the royal women's hospital  
victoria australia

## GP News

Connecting healthcare for the benefit of patients

### New test predicts potentially deadly pre-eclampsia



*Hannah Torres developed pre-eclampsia when pregnant with her first baby, Mateo*

**The Royal Women's Hospital has become the first Australian hospital to introduce a new blood test to help predict who will and will not develop the potentially deadly pregnancy condition pre-eclampsia..**

The pre-eclampsia ratio test (PERT) predicts the short-term absence of pre-eclampsia in women from 24 to 37 weeks gestation in whom the syndrome is suspected clinically. It involves the measurement in maternal blood of two placental proteins (sFlt-1 and PlGF) and is best used as a predictive, hospital-based test in women with suspected preeclampsia during the latter half of pregnancy.

It is particularly helpful in this setting in ruling out preeclampsia, and thereby minimising unnecessary interventions (e.g. hospitalisation with long periods of blood pressure testing and blood and urine tests).

If shared maternity care affiliates or GPs suspect that a patient with a maternity booking at the Women's might be developing preeclampsia, please refer the woman to the Women's Pregnancy Day Service or emergency department for evaluation (which may include PERT).

The pre-eclampsia test is also available to at-risk women who are patients at other hospitals. Shared maternity care affiliates or GPs can contact our pathology partner, Laboratory Services at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne for more information. Unfortunately, the test is not covered by Medicare and will involve an out-of-pocket cost of around \$100.

**[Read more on the Women's website.](#)**

The published study that the test is based on can be found on the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) website.

## Access our GP continuing professional development online

### The GP Liaison Unit at the Women's has begun recording some CPD events for those who could not attend

Register to [the praxhub website](#) first and then locate the education tab/section where you will find the CPD accredited activities listed below.

- Management of Urinary incontinence and prolapse
- Maternal vaccination

## Shared maternity guidelines feedback survey

The Royal Women's Hospital, Mercy Health, Northern Health and Western Health are currently reviewing their shared maternity care guidelines.

To help us improve these guidelines and ensure they meet your needs, please provide your feedback by [completing this three minute online survey](#).

If you have any questions, please [email the GP Liaison Unit](#) at the Women's or call on 8345 3070.

## Save the dates

### Wednesday 25th July

#### Management of miscarriage and medical termination of pregnancy

Time: 7.00 pm – 9.00pm (registration 6.45 pm)

Venue: The Royal Women's Hospital

### Saturday 13th October

Annual Shared Maternity care workshop (full day)

Venue: Western Health

## Saturday 24th November

### Seminar on infant, neonate and pregnancy

Venue: The Royal Children's Hospital

For more details see the [GP continuing professional development page](#) on the Women's website.

## Study participants required

A University of Melbourne researcher is seeking health professionals to participate in interviews (telephone or face-to-face) with individuals who have a conscientious objection to abortion or voluntary assisted dying. The interview aims to understand:

- How conscientious objection is managed in practice (or how it will operate in practice in the case of voluntary assisted dying laws)
- Health professionals perceptions on abortion and/or voluntary assisted dying legislation

Interviews are expected to last 30 to 45 minutes and will be audio-recorded in order for the interviews to be transcribed and analysed thematically by the researcher.

All transcripts will be de-identified, so the participant and any individual they may mention in the interview will not be identifiable. This study has been approved by the University of Melbourne's Ethics Committee (Ethics ID number: 1851586.1).

If you are interested in participating or would like more information about this study, please [email Casey Haining](#) (honours candidate) or phone 0421 047 424.

## Contact

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Fast Fax Referral: fax: 8345 3036

GP Quick Access Number ph: 8345 2058

The Women's Switchboard ph: 8345 2000

The Women's Abortion and Contraception service professional line (03) 8345 3061 (not for use by women needing the service).

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