

GP News



the women's
the royal women's hospital

Connecting healthcare for the benefit of patients

In this final edition of GP News for the year you'll find important details about Shared Care patient notes; signing up to Parkville Connect; referrals to our Early Pregnancy Assessment Service and COVID-19 updates. We also share an incredible patient story to conclude an extraordinary year.

Thank you for your support in 2020 and we look forward to working with you to provide exceptional patient care in 2021. Have a safe – and relaxing – festive season!

Shared Care Progress Letter

With the shift to the Parkville electronic medical record (EMR), the Victorian Medical Record (VMR) is no longer being used as a Pregnancy Hand Held Record for women undertaking shared maternity care.

Instead, women will be provided with a *Maternity Shared Care Progress Letter* by the hospital doctor or midwife. This is updated at each hospital attendance for the patient to share with you at your next consult.

To ensure our team has the most up-to-date information from your shared maternity care patient consultations, please email a copy of your consultation progress notes to Health Information Services HISDocument.Management@thewomens.org.au after each consultation.

Use the subject heading 'Routine Filing', or 'Urgent Filing' if the patient has a hospital appointment scheduled within three days. Please include the patient's full name and hospital ID in the email.

Alternatively, you can fax your notes to 8345 2623 (also remember to include the patient's full name and hospital ID).

Please note, Health Information Services will **not** send confirmation. The notes will be directly uploaded to the patient's Electronic Medical Record.

Sign up to Parkville Connect

We invite you to sign up to Parkville Connect – a secure website to connect GPs, specialists and other healthcare professionals with information in the Parkville electronic medical record (EMR).

This means that you will be able to access information about your patients, with their consent, when they receive treatment and care at the Women's in Parkville, Melbourne Health, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the Royal Children's Hospital.

You must register your practice and clinicians to access Parkville Connect. Registered users will get secure, read-only access to information such as:

- Upcoming hospital visits
- Inpatient and outpatient progress notes
- Discharge summaries and after visit summaries
- Allergies, medical history and medications.

Parkville Connect does not replace point to point correspondence. Discharge summaries and outpatient letters will be sent by Argus secure messaging or autofax.

To find out more and to sign up, go to parkvilleconnect.org.au

For questions or troubleshooting, email support@parkvilleconnect.org.au

Early Pregnancy Assessment Service referrals

The Women's Early Pregnancy Assessment Service (EPAS) provides non-acute care for women who have pain and/or bleeding in the first 13 weeks six days of pregnancy, and those with a known miscarriage.

The EPAS service does not offer a drop-in service. A GP referral is required.

Please complete and fax a maternity [Fast Fax Referral](#) form including previous ultrasound reports, any relevant medical history and relevant pathology results.

For additional information, visit our [Early Pregnancy Assessment Service webpage](#).



COVID-19 updates

Keep up-to-date

The [COVID-19 Information Hub](#) on our website continues to be the best source of information and advice for patients, and includes details of any changes that may affect their visit or stay at the Women's. We encourage you to direct patients to our [COVID-19 Information Hub](#).

You can find our updates for health professionals on our [For GPs webpage](#).

Childbirth Education

After face-to-face childbirth education classes were halted in March, the Women's is now offering classes via video livestream. To be eligible, participants need to be pregnant with their first baby and birthing at the Women's in Parkville or Sandringham. [View details here](#).

Childbirth education videos are also available to [view for free](#).

Visitor policy

While COVID-19 restrictions across Victoria have eased, each hospital is required to put in place visitor policies that work for their own physical space, volume of patients and risks.

At the Women's, we are taking steps to ease our visitor restrictions and keep our patients, their families and our staff safe.

Policy in brief

- Birth Centre – 2 support people during labour and birth.
- All inpatient wards, including maternity – 2 visitors per day, this can be a partner/support person and 1 child, or 2 adults. Visiting hours are 2pm to 8pm (unless you are a partner/primary support person).
- Outpatient clinic and imaging appointments – Patients can bring 1 partner/support person to their appointment if necessary. Due to limited space in waiting areas, partners/support people may be asked to wait elsewhere if 1.5m distancing cannot be maintained. Babies up to 12 months can accompany their mother to any clinic appointment.

To view the full and updated policy, visit the [COVID-19 Information Hub on our website](#).



Pregnant with twins, Mia contracted COVID-19

After contracting COVID-19 when she was 26 weeks pregnant with twins, Mia became gravely ill and was rushed to a major Melbourne hospital where she was sedated and put on a ventilator to breathe.

At her bedside was a team of obstetricians and neonatologists from the Women's to closely monitor the health of both Mia and her unborn twins.

Mia and her partner Tom are sharing their incredible story in support of the [Women's Christmas Appeal](#).

While the trauma of almost losing her life and her babies to COVID is still fresh, Mia says it's hard to find the words to thank those who cared for her – and kept alive her and Tom's dreams of becoming parents.

"I just can't articulate it. It really has been world-class care. I just can't express how lucky and grateful I am that we were referred to the Women's throughout this. The babies – who are just perfect in every way – wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the staff at the hospital," she said.

You can [read Mia's full story](#) on our website and view a [short video here](#). Please feel free to share with your networks.



Exploring the health response to family violence

A panel of family violence experts and survivor advocates have urged health professionals to be observant and look for the signs of family violence when interacting with patients.

To coincide with the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence global campaign (25 November - 10 December), the Women's hosted a webinar exploring the

'Shadow Pandemic' of violence against women during COVID-19.

Victorian Minister for Prevention of Family Violence, Minister for Women and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Gabrielle Williams MP opened the online event.

You can view the webinar, featuring former Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty AO; CEO Dr Matthews; Director of the Centre for Family Violence Prevention Professor Kelsey Hegarty; Director of Prevention of Violence Against Women Jean Cameron; and Survivor Advocate Fiona [on our website here](#).

Recent news from the Women's

- [*10 years a stroke survivor, one year a mum*](#)
- [*Health sector must step up to challenge of Shadow Pandemic*](#)
- [*Campaign puts spotlight on violence against women*](#)
- [*Families take centre-stage on World Prematurity Day*](#)
- [*Cool Topics to share the best in perinatal research*](#)
- [*Research improving the lives of this generation, and the next*](#)
- [*Always was, always will be: The Women's celebrates NAIDOC Week*](#)
- [*Frances Perry House turns 50!*](#)
- [*"I'll never take my babies for granted"*](#)
- [*Women's to light up for bereaved families*](#)
- [*Egg freezing decisions under the microscope*](#)
- [*Neonatal therapy makes all the difference for NICU family*](#)
- [*Born in a pandemic, twins' NICU journey nears end*](#)
- [*'More babies being given a fighting chance'*](#)

Contact

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Fast Fax Referral

fax: (03) 8345 3036

GP Quick Access Number

ph: (03) 8345 2058

The Women's Switchboard

ph: (03) 8345 2000

The Women's Abortion and Contraception service

ph: (03) 8345 3061 (professional line only – not for use by women needing the service)



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You have received this email because you are a Shared Maternity Care Affiliate and GP, or you have asked for online updates from the GP Liaison Unit

Forward

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