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In this edition of GP News you'll find the opportunity to have your say on Shared Maternity Care, a reminder about electronic transfer of results, the latest on COVID vaccine advice in pregnancy, and more. Please get in touch with any feedback or questions via gp.liaison@thewomens.org.au

Increasing participation in Shared Care – survey

The Women's is working to increase uptake of Shared Maternity Care and we would love to hear your views to help improve the model for patients and providers.

We invite all Shared Maternity Care Affiliates to participate in our 5-10 minute [survey](#).

[Complete the survey now](#)



[Download the guidelines](#)

Shared Maternity Care Guidelines

A reminder that new Guidelines for Shared Maternity Care Affiliates were launched in April.

The guidelines were developed by the Shared Maternity Care Collaborative – GP Liaison Units at the Women's, Mercy Hospital for Women, Northern Health, Western Health and Werribee Mercy – in association with Shared Maternity Care Affiliates.

The guidelines align with current recommendations for clinical practice throughout pregnancy and feedback has been very positive. If you have any feedback on the guidelines, you can [email us here](#).

Electronic transfer of results

As we have previously communicated, a new Electronic Medical Record (EMR) was launched last year at the Women's, along with The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and The Royal Children's Hospital.

Our EMR has the ability to **receive pathology results electronically** from the following labs:

- Dorevitch
- Melbourne Pathology
- Australian Clinical Labs

This means results can land directly in a patient's electronic medical record, rather than arriving by fax and requiring manual data entry into the EMR.

To enable this electronic transfer of results, your **pathology request slip must include RWH in the cc box**. You must use RWH, not 'the Women's' or 'Royal Women's Hospital' in the cc box.

If you are ordering tests through Dorevitch, Melbourne Pathology or Australian Clinical Labs for a patient (or a potential patient) of the Women's, please add RWH in the cc box on your pathology request slip!

COVID vaccine in pregnancy

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) and the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) now recommend that pregnant women are routinely offered Pfizer mRNA vaccine (Cominarty) at any stage of pregnancy.

**Read the RANZCOG and ATAGI
recommendation**

Last week, the Women's hosted a Grand Round on COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy and breastfeeding. The expert panel, hosted by Dr Rebecca Szabo, included Professor Caroline Homer AO, Associate Professor Margie Danchin, Associate Professor Michelle Giles, Dr Clare Whitehead and Dr Nisha Khot.

The panel discussed:

- The new RANZCOG / ATAGI recommendation.
- Understanding the science behind the recommendation.
- Advice about how to communicate with pregnant and breastfeeding women about their vaccination.

Watch the Grand Round here

For women

Based on the new recommendation, the Australian Government has updated its [Shared decision making guide for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or planning pregnancy](#).

The Women's has also updated its [Advice for pregnant women](#) webpage.

Women can check if they are eligible for vaccination by using the Government's [Vaccine Eligibility Checker](#).



African Women's Clinic (AWC)

The African Women's Clinic is a nurse/midwife led clinic that supports women affected by Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Working in collaboration with the Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program (FARREP) at the Women's, the clinic runs every second Friday.

Associate Nurse Unit Manager Marie Jones explains: “In clinic we take a general health history and sexual / reproductive health history. We ask the woman the reason as to why she has presented at the clinic, talk about FGM with the woman and address her concerns.

“We give written information on the law in Victoria regarding FGM, we examine the woman with her consent to assess her FGM, and if she has type 3 FGM we are able to do the de infibulation procedure under local anaesthetic in the clinic. We also offer STI screening and cervical screening, and referral to other services.”

Marie says it is important to discuss FGM preferably prior to becoming pregnant.

“If women are not asked the question, particularly antenatally, it is putting the woman and baby at risk if she is infibulated and this is not recognised. We are able to do the de infibulation procedure during pregnancy up to 34 weeks gestation.”

Marie and her team are available for presentations. If your practice is interested to learn more, you can [contact Marie here](#).

Find out more about the African Women's
Clinic

Research study participation

PoppiE Study

Getting the right amount of iodine in pregnancy is important for baby’s brain and nervous system development. Suggestions from recent population studies suggest that *too much iodine* during pregnancy may also cause lower developmental scores in young children.

The Women’s and The Royal Children’s Hospital are working with colleagues at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) to conduct the national ‘Prenatal Iodine Supplementation and Early Childhood Development’ – PoppiE Trial.

This study will help to find out the optimal level of iodine supplementation for pregnant women who already have an adequate iodine intake from the food that they eat.

Women who are less than 13 weeks of gestation can participate in this study. Please contact poppie@sahmri.com if you think you can help enrol women for this important study.

Find out more about the PoppiE Study

Clinicians' views, knowledge and clinical practice regarding reproductive health care

Are you a GP/GP registrar, obstetrician gynaecologist/O&G registrar, or reproductive endocrinologist working in Australia?

Researchers and clinicians at the Universities of Sydney, Melbourne, Monash and Queensland are interested in hearing from GPs, gynaecologists and reproductive endocrinologists about their views and experiences with women's reproductive health care.

The study involves completing one 5-10 minute online survey. Findings will be used to better support clinicians and women regarding reproductive management options and fertility tests. Upon completion of the survey, you will be given the opportunity to enter a draw to win one of five \$100 vouchers.

Complete the survey

Recent news from the Women's

- [How Katie found hope after devastating loss](#)
- [Sorry, every day – marking National Sorry Day at the Women's](#)
- [Welcoming emphasis on women's health in Victorian Budget](#)
- [Milestone for Melbourne's life-saving pre-eclampsia prediction test](#)
- [Making access to fertility services more equitable](#)

- [Landmark study finds women opting in to IVF 'add-ons'](#)
- [Endometriosis research now underway after \\$3.9m funding boost](#)

Contact

GP Liaison Unit

Unit Head (Acting)

Dr Marianna Dare

email: gp.liaison@thewomens.org.au

Shared Maternity Care Coordinators

Tammi Adams and Simone Cordiano

ph: (03) 8345 2129

email: shared.care@thewomens.org.au

Primary Care Liaison Officer

Vasvi Kapadia

ph: (03) 8345 3070

email: gp.liaison@thewomens.org.au

Parkville Connect

Register at parkvilleconnect.org.au

support email: support@parkvilleconnect.org.au

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)

[Forward](#)

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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

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