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# GP News



the women's  
the royal women's hospital

Connecting healthcare for the benefit of patients

In this edition of GP News you'll find information about our expanded catchment area for maternity referrals, COVID updates, EMR news, a specialist clinic for pregnant women with disability, and more.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for working with the Women's to continue the provision of high-quality care to women and their families throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. It remains a challenging and exhausting time and we appreciate your commitment to the care of your patients. Vaccination is vital to supporting us all through this period – both protecting lives and health system capacity.

As always, please [email us](#) with any feedback or questions.

## Increased catchment area for maternity referrals

The Women's is continuing to receive and triage maternity referrals during the current COVID-19 restrictions and **we encourage GPs and other health professionals to refer eligible patients to us as usual.**

In addition, we are now accepting referrals from **postcodes 3018, 3012, 3025, 3028** in the [North Western Melbourne PHN](#), which would usually fall in the catchment area for the Western Hospital. The Women's continues to see patients in person when clinically indicated.

For general information on referrals, please see our [Referrals page](#). If you have any questions regarding the Women's catchment area, please [email us](#).

## COVID updates

Last week RANZCOG hosted a webinar discussing COVID vaccination in pregnant and breastfeeding women and those planning pregnancy.

The panel, which included two of our experts – Obstetrician and Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist Dr Clare Whitehead and Infectious Diseases Physician Dr Michelle Giles – answered common questions and concerns from attendees.



[View RANZCOG webinar](#)

## Vaccination

The Pfizer or Moderna COVID vaccines are strongly recommended for women at any stage of pregnancy, and

are also safe for those breastfeeding or planning pregnancy.

Women who are 24 weeks or more into their pregnancy, and those with complicated or high-risk pregnancies, now have priority access to Pfizer vaccination appointments at state run centres. Bookings can be made [online](#) or by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398 (8am-8pm, 7 days).

Patients coming to their antenatal appointments at the Women's may be able to access Pfizer vaccination at the Royal Melbourne Hospital vaccination clinic on a drop-in basis. Spots are not guaranteed, although patients will be able to book a future appointment in person if they can't be accommodated when they present.

The Women's has also developed a [Vaccine information webpage](#).

### Visitor restrictions

With greater risk of community transmission, further restrictions are now in place for support people and visitors. View our [Visitor restrictions webpage](#).

## Specialist pregnancy clinic for people with disability

Our [Women with Individual Needs \(WIN\) Clinic](#) provides midwifery and social work care for pregnant women who have a learning difficulty, acquired brain injury, or intellectual, physical or sensory disability.

If you are referring a pregnant woman who has a disability, please ensure this is documented on the referral so it can be triaged appropriately and in a timely manner.

You can read about the importance of disability-aware care in our news article, [Recognising disabilities vital to improve maternal outcomes, say researchers](#).

## EMR news

We are celebrating the 12 month anniversary of the introduction of 'Epic' the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) used across the Women's, the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and The Royal Children's Hospital.

### Parkville Connect

Parkville Connect is a secure, web-based portal to the hospital EMR, providing GPs, specialists and other healthcare professionals with read-only access to patient information such as results, consultation notes and upcoming appointments.

More than 1600 doctors are currently registered with Parkville Connect.

If you have patients who attend the Women's, the Royal Melbourne Hospital, The Royal Children's Hospital or Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre we encourage you, and your practice, to sign up to Parkville Connect.

[Sign-up for Parkville Connect](#)

Contact [support@parkvilleconnect.org.au](mailto:support@parkvilleconnect.org.au) if you have any questions.



## Electronic transfer of results

The EMR has the ability to receive pathology results electronically from:

- 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!**

## New resource for GPs supporting women with postnatal depression

The Perinatal Depression e-Consortium, led by the Parent-Infant Research Institute, offer the evidence-based '[MumMoodBooster](#)' online treatment program for postnatal depression free to the Australian public.

The website now features a customised clinician portal for GPs, which allows direct referral of patients to MumMoodBooster. GPs can then track their patient's progress.

MumMoodBooster is based on best-practice cognitive-behavioural therapy and has been proven to be effective for treatment of clinically diagnosed cases of depression.

[Register to refer your patients](#)

## Quick news



### Virtual NICU tour

A video tour of NICU is now available for parents of babies who may require specialised care on arrival.

The video features NICU staff talking about what families might see and expect in the unit.

[Watch virtual tour](#)

### CPD events

Bookings are now open for the popular [Newborn Behavioural Observations \(NBO\)](#) online workshops in October.

Bookings are also open for December workshops targeting professionals working with high risk infants.

[Book NBO training](#)

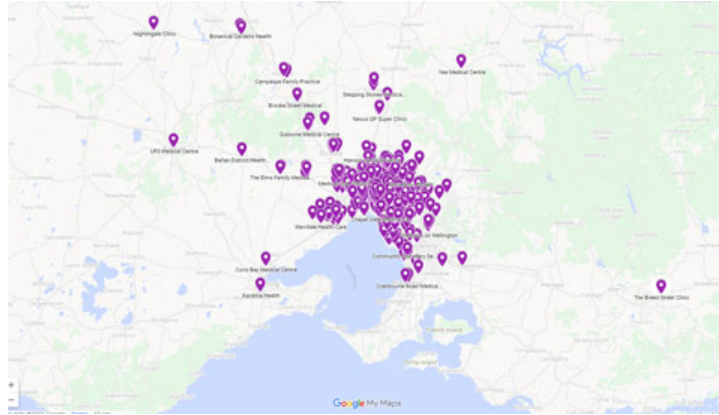
### Safe Abortion Day

A webinar discussing the cultural, social, spiritual and psychological aspects of providing safe abortion care will be held on International Safe Abortion Day (28 September). The panel will include Dr Paddy Moore,

Head of the Women's Abortion and Contraception Service.

[Register for webinar](#)

## SMCA map



Women can now search for approved and accredited Shared Maternity Care affiliates [on our website](#).

If you're a Shared Maternity Care affiliate now is a good time to check the map and confirm your details are up-to-date.

If they need updating, please [send us an email](#).

## Recent news from the Women's

- [\*The Women's launches new mental health program for Aboriginal mums-to-be\*](#)
- [\*Rise in syphilis among Victorian women and babies\*](#)
- [\*New data shows significant increase in premature babies surviving without disability\*](#)
- [\*Women's research comes out on top after tumultuous 2020\*](#)
- [\*Research to examine the real impact of popular 'fertility test'\*](#)
- [\*Recognising disabilities vital to improve maternal outcomes, say researchers\*](#)
- [\*Healing country and healing health this NAIDOC Week\*](#)

## Contact

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**Parkville Connect**

Register at [parkvilleconnect.org.au](http://parkvilleconnect.org.au)

support email: [support@parkvilleconnect.org.au](mailto: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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Care Affiliate and GP, or you have asked for online updates from  
the GP Liaison Unit

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