



GP News

Connecting healthcare for the benefit of patients



Associate Professor Alicia Spittle's research on parents of babies born earlier than 30 weeks showed promising signs for their long-term mental health when parents are provided with additional support and education in their baby's first year of life [Read more](#)

Early help cuts high rates of depression in mothers of preterm babies

Early help for mothers of premature babies dramatically cuts their very high risk of long-term depression, a world-first study published in the journal [Pediatrics](#) has revealed.

Led by the Women's, the study found that mothers of pre-term babies are five times more likely to suffer symptoms of depression eight years after the child's birth (one in four), compared to mothers of healthy full term babies.

However, the new comprehensive study followed families of very premature babies for eight years and found that those mothers who received additional training and support in the first year had the same risk of long-term depression as mothers to healthy term babies (one in 20). The study is the first to look at

the long-term mental health of parents of pre-term babies. [Read more on the Women's website](#)

Shared maternity care reaccreditation

Reaccreditation for Shared Maternity Care Affiliate GPs and Obstetricians

Triennium 1, January 2017 – 31 December 2019

Reaccreditation information was mailed to all GPs and obstetrician SMCA at the Women's in late October.

Shared maternity care affiliates who did not register by 9 December 2016 will need to fulfil accreditation criteria if they wish to participate in shared care with the Women's after 31 December 2016.

Re-accreditation requirements for 2017-2019 and the application form can be found on [the Women's website](#).

Referral to the Women's Pregnancy Advisory Service

The Pregnancy Advisory Service (PAS) provides support, counselling and information for women with an unplanned pregnancy, and coordinates appointments for a medical consultation for an abortion at the Women's.

The Women's provides a limited number of appointments for abortions. Priority access is given to women with a health care card; young women or women with complex needs; and, marginalised/disadvantaged women.

A Medicare card is required. Generally women not eligible for Medicare (e.g. with overseas health insurance) will be advised to contact private clinics.

REFERRAL

After obtaining a GP letter, women are asked to contact PAS direct. A GP letter should include:

- Results confirming the pregnancy
- Estimated gestation
- Ultrasound results if available
- Blood group

A mailed or faxed GP referral letter alone does not automatically result in an appointment being arranged as each woman needs to contact PAS directly first.

Women will not be excluded if they are unable to obtain the letter.

For women who are in crisis, have complex needs or need interpreter assistance or advocacy, health professionals may call PAS on the PAS Health professional line (03) 8345 3061.

PAS will phone women back where necessary. We would like to assure all women that patient safety, privacy and confidentiality will always be protected in the event that a phone call is made or if we send an SMS to a mobile phone.

Cost: A woman with a valid Medicare card is seen as a public hospital patient.

For more information see [the Women's website](#).

Seminar: Breast, gynaecological and prostate cancer management in primary health care

Saturday 18th March 2017, 9.00am to 1.00pm

Lecture theatre B, VCCC Building, 305 Grattan Street, Melbourne 3000

Registration will open on 9 January 2017.

The seminar is intended for GPs and other health professionals interested in improving their skills in managing gynaecological, breast and prostate cancer.

The seminar is a collaborative initiative of The Royal Women's Hospital, The Royal Melbourne Hospital and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

For more information and updates please visit [the Women's website](#).

Neonatal ehandbook and new maternity ehandbook

The Victorian Maternity and Newborn Clinical Network will be developing a new maternity ehandbook over the next two years to accompany the [neonatal ehandbook](#) as a resource for Victorian maternity care providers.

A survey is being conducted to help understand the clinical areas identified as priorities for the **maternity ehandbook**. Your assistance is also sought to evaluate any changes in practice following the introduction of new topics to the **neonatal ehandbook** and to ascertain if the redeveloped ehandbook continues to meet the needs of clinicians caring for newborns.

[Maternity e-handbook survey](#)

[Neonatal e-handbook survey](#)

Australia's mothers and babies 2014—in brief

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released a new report *Australia's mothers and babies 2014—in brief*.

The report presents key statistics and trends on pregnancy and childbirth of mothers. Read more and download the report on the [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website](#).

Contacts

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On the Women's website

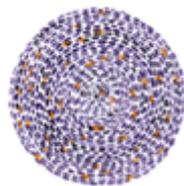
[Research Report 2015](#)

The Women's is proud to present the 2015 Research Report for the Royal Women's Hospital, in this, our 160th year

Most popular health information on our website



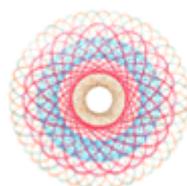
Contraception



Pregnancy & Birth



Periods



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FORWARD TO A FRIEND

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a Shared Maternity Care Affiliate and GP, or you have asked for online updates from the GP Liaison Unit. You can [edit your subscription preferences](#) or [unsubscribe instantly](#).

