



GP News

Connecting healthcare for the benefit of patients



The Women's researchers Jane Girling (left) and Sarah Holdsworth-Carson (right) are investigating the genetic links which may pre-dispose women to increased susceptibility of developing endometriosis.

[Read more](#)

Focus on endometriosis in March

Research Fellow Dr Sarah Holdsworth-Carson is working on new developments in endometriosis, in the Gynaecology Research Centre at the Women's.

"We know that there are both genetic and environmental influences that drive endometriosis, with 50% genetically related (DNA and genes) and 50% environmental factors, including lifestyle, what we eat, exposure to chemicals and the atmosphere," Dr Holdsworth-Carson said.

"Endometriosis is a complex disease, with no single gene responsible. There is no endometriosis gene.

"The Women's has established a research program to investigate the genetic links which pre-dispose women to increased susceptibility to developing endometriosis." [Read more on the Women's website](#)

Continuing Professional Development

Tuesday 18 April 2017

Genetic testing in maternity care

Please join us as leading experts present the latest, evidence-based information about:

- Pre-pregnancy genetic screening
- Non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT)
- Clinical exome

7.00pm to 9.00pm

Seminar Room 7D, The Royal Women's Hospital, 20 Flemington Rd, Parkville
[online registration](#) now open

Tuesday 23 May 2017

Victorian Maternity and Newborn Clinical Network conference

Hosted by The Victorian Maternity and Newborn Clinical Network

9.00am to 4.30pm

The Melbourne Cricket Ground

[online registration](#) now open

Sunday 4 June, Monday 5 June 2017

Newborn Behavioural Observations (NBO) Training

The Royal Women's Hospital, 20 Flemington Rd, Parkville

[program details and booking](#)

Saturday 10 June 2017

Laser Concepts in Healthcare

The Royal Women's Hospital, 20 Flemington Rd, Parkville

[program details and booking](#)

Tuesday 20 June 2017

Outpatient Gynaecological Procedures

7.00pm to 9.00pm

Seminar Room 7D, The Royal Women's Hospital, 20 Flemington Rd, Parkville

Saturday 2 September 2017

Annual Shared Maternity Care Workshop

8.30am to 1.30pm

NCHER lecture theatre, Northern Health, 185 Cooper Street, Epping

Tuesday 17 October 2017

Implanon training

7.00pm to 9.00pm

Seminar Room 7D, The Royal Women's Hospital, 20 Flemington Rd, Parkville

November 2017

The Women's/RCH Half Day Seminar on pregnancy and the neonate

9.00am to 1.00pm

Venue TBD

Pregnancy-related CPD points available.

Check availability of event registration and find more information about **GP CPD events 2017** on [the Women's website](#).

Update for urogynaecology referrals to the Royal Women's Hospital



Dr Salwan Al-Salihi is now the Head of the Pelvic Floor Service at the Women's, taking the role over from Dr Marcus Carey who continues to work at the service.

This multidisciplinary service includes Urogynaecologists, Gynaecologists, Continence Nurses, Physiotherapists and Dieticians.

The Service has aligned its referral requirements to the recommendations of [HealthPathways Melbourne](#).

The Women's prioritises access for women who live in our primary catchment area and for women referred with complex or high risk health needs requiring tertiary level care. The Women's encourages all women to access care at the closest hospital able to provide the level of care required.

Referrals to the Women's will also be considered in the light of the most appropriate healthcare setting in which these women will be or can be treated (i.e. in the primary/ secondary/ tertiary health care settings).

GPs are encouraged to provide conservative management as per HealthCare Pathways in the community setting, prior to referral. According to the individual case, these may include:

- Lifestyle advice: smoking cessation, diet, drinking habits, heavy lifting, and weight reduction
- Treatment of other conditions such as: UTI, constipation, chronic cough
- Pelvic floor muscle exercises for 4 months
- Referral to community based physiotherapy / continence nurse
- Fitting of pessary
- Bladder diary for at least 3 days

- Vaginal oestrogen preparations
- Medical treatments including: botulinum neurotoxin, anti-muscarinic medications, beta 3 adrenoceptor agonist mirabegron, sacral nerve stimulation

Read more about [women's health and gynaecology referrals](#).

Neonatal e-handbook updates

The Neonatal eHandbook provides a structured approach to the clinical management of conditions regularly encountered by health professionals caring for newborns. The handbook now has over 100 guidelines. The following guidelines have recently been updated:

- [Respiratory distress syndrome \(RDS\) in neonates](#)
- [Parvovirus infection in neonates](#)
- [Dysmorphology assessment of a newborn](#)
- [Palliative \(end of life\) care in neonates](#)
- [Developmental care for neonates](#)
- [Hearing screening for neonates](#)
- [Head box oxygen set up for neonates](#)

For more information about the Neonatal eHandbook, email neonatal.ehandbook@dhhs.vic.gov.au or call 1300 235 942.

An online guide for healthcare professionals

The [Women's Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide](#) is a quick reference guide for healthcare professionals that provides practical and unbiased specialised information on medicine use in pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Individual, group or organisational subscriptions are available



National Cervical Cancer Screening Program: revised start date 1 December 2017

The Federal Government has announced a new start date for the revised National Cervical Cancer Screening Program because of a delay in the implementation of Australia's first National Cancer Screening Register.

Pathology providers have agreed to a Medicare rebate of \$28 for a conventional Pap Smear Test to reflect the costs of maintaining this test in the interim. Liquid-based cytology tests will also be added as a Medicare item, as recommended by the RACGP, and will now attract a substantial Medicare rebate of \$36.

These changes are intended to help the pathology sector provide cervical screening for this transitional period.

Visit the [Department of Health website](#) for further information.

The Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program

The Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program (VIHSP) is for health professionals involved in the care of newborns. The program aims to screen all infants born in Victoria before discharge from hospital, and identify those with a moderate or greater bilateral hearing impairment.

The *My Health, Learning and Development Record* is used as the vehicle for targeted surveillance of infants who pass their hearing screen and are at risk of progressive or acquired loss.

In the *Birth Details section: Hearing Screen Results* - risk factors for hearing loss are classified as requiring referral to audiology immediately.

The VIHSP Hearing Screener records any risk factors present and/or confirmed at the time of the screen. Some of these factors might become evident following the hearing screen and in these instances it is the responsibility of the Special Care Nursery, Maternal and Child Health Nurse, GP, or parent to note this.

Referral to audiology on the basis of risk factors (immediate or at 8-12months) is the responsibility of the nurse or medical practitioner who identifies the risk factor.

The referral form and a list of audiology centres can be found at: [Victorian Infant Hearing Screening Program: Audiology referral](#).

For further information about VIHSP please see www.vihsp.org.au

Contacts

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On the Women's website

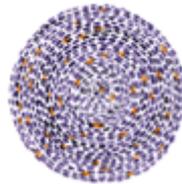
[Cool Topics in Neonatology 2017](#)

Thursday 16 and Friday 17 November 2017

Most popular health information on our website



Contraception



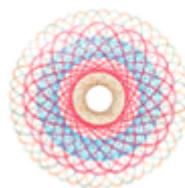
Pregnancy & Birth



Periods



Sex & Sexuality



Breast Health



Breastfeeding

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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](#).

