

In this edition of GP News, you'll find a wealth of information including COVID updates, referral advice, resources for GPs and training opportunities.

If you have any feedback or questions, please [email us](#).



## Re-credentialing as Shared Maternity Care Affiliates

**Applications for 2023-2025 triennium: due Friday 9 December 2022**

All current GP and obstetrician Shared Maternity Care Affiliates (SCMAs) for the Women's, Mercy Health, Northern Health and Western Health have been emailed applications for re-credentialing.

For those yet to apply, please register on "[TryBooking](#)" as soon as possible, with the submitted documents required to be uploaded by **Friday 9 December 2022**.

You will be notified of the outcome by **28 February 2023**. All current providers will have their credentialing extended until then.

Northern Health is leading the re-credentialing process. If you have any questions, please contact: [SMCrecredential@nh.org.au](mailto:SMCrecredential@nh.org.au)

We have compiled a [database](#) of pregnancy-related education (both face-to-face and online) and the respective pregnancy-related education hours.

Our recent Shared Maternity Care workshop, along with some other events, have been recorded and are available for you to watch on the [GP continuing professional development](#) webpage. On completion, these can be self-recorded via your RACGP learning portal.

## Sandringham Hospital transition

From 6 February 2023, the management of maternity, neonatal and gynaecology services at Sandringham Hospital will transition from the Women's to Monash Health.

There will be no change to these services and patients will not be affected. The team will remain in place and they will continue to provide the same high-quality care as they do now.



With Monash Health providing maternity, neonatal and gynaecology services at Sandringham Hospital, care will be provided by a health service that is connected to the local needs of the community, while providing a tertiary service closer to home. This means urgent transfers will be quicker and it will be easier for families and visitors to be with a woman or baby should they need complex care on a ward or in a NICU.

### Impact on referrals

From 6 February, referrals for Monash Health Women's services at Sandringham Hospital can be made via Monash Health's [Healthlink eReferral](#) system.

Referral guidelines for Maternity and Gynaecology services are available on the [Monash Health Women's Referrals](#) webpage.

**Please note:** Monash Health Specialist Clinics do not accept faxed referrals. If you are not already familiar with referring via Healthlink eReferral, please find available resources on the [Monash Health Women's Secure eReferrals](#) webpage.

### Shared maternity care

Women currently receiving shared maternity care at Sandringham Hospital will continue to do so from 6 February 2023.

If you are a current Shared Maternity Care Affiliate with the Women's and wish to continue to provide shared care at Sandringham Hospital, Monash Health will recognise your shared care credentials. However, you will need to complete their online form to be incorporated into their system.

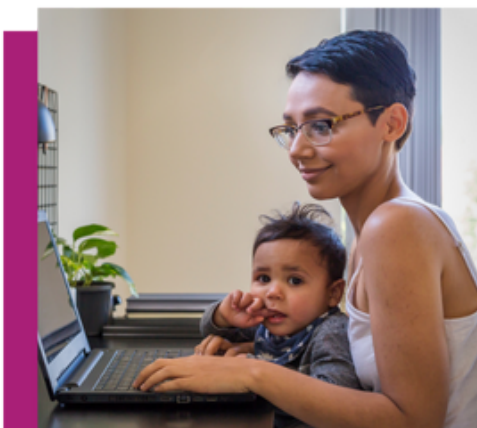
To transfer your credentialing to Monash Health, please complete the [Monash Health Shared Maternity Care Affiliate Accreditation online form](#).

When completing the form:

- For the mandatory attachment 'Curriculum Vitae', attach your Shared Care Credentialing Certificate from the Women's (if you need one, please email [shared.care@thewomens.org.au](mailto:shared.care@thewomens.org.au))
- If you have not yet re-credentialed for the 2022-2025 triennium, please ensure you provide evidence of at least 5 hours of continuing education in pregnancy-related care
- For the 'Referees' section, include the Women's GP Liaison email: [gp.liaison@thewomens.org.au](mailto:gp.liaison@thewomens.org.au).

More information can be found on the [Monash Health Women's Shared Maternity Care Affiliates](#) webpage or please email [MaternityGPLiaison@monashhealth.org](mailto:MaternityGPLiaison@monashhealth.org).

## Information on Monash's shared care schedule



## Referrals of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander patients

A reminder to GPs sending referrals to the Women's: If your patient is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander woman or baby, please indicate this in your referral.

This will result in your patient being connected with the Women's dedicated, culturally appropriate services, which ensure First Nations women and babies are appropriately supported and cared for at the Women's.

For more information about these services: [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women](#).

## Stillbirth Clinical Care

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare has released a [Stillbirth Clinical Care Standard](#). The Standard supports best practice in preventing stillbirth, investigations after stillbirth and bereavement care after any perinatal loss.

It is a valuable tool to support GPs and Shared Maternity Care Affiliates and includes a range of evidence-based information, including:

- assessment of stillbirth risk
- the use of ultrasound
- education, advice and action on fetal movements
- information and advice on maternal sleeping position
- bereavement care
- investigations for stillbirth
- subsequent pregnancy care.



## Public Fertility Service

The Women's is receiving a high number of referrals from GPs and specialists for Victoria's new Public Fertility Service, which was announced by the Victorian Government in October 2022.

This publicly-funded service is available to all Victorian residents – including same-sex and other couples and single people with a donor.

To be eligible for this service:

- the patient must be a Victorian resident and holder of a Medicare card

- the egg to be fertilised (either patient's own or from a donor) must be no older than 42 years at time of treatment. This means that women using their own eggs must be 42 or less at time of egg collection.

If a patient does not meet the criteria for the publicly funded service, they may be eligible for our long-established low-cost fertility service.

If you are considering referring a patient to our public fertility service, your referral must include the results of several tests and investigations. To find out more, visit our [Public Fertility Service](#) webpage.

## Fertility preservation before cancer treatment

Did you know that half of young cancer patients don't have a discussion about their future fertility with their doctor, according to estimates?

Many cancer treatments, including chemotherapy, radiation and surgery, can have a significant impact on fertility, and a person's ability to have biological children in the future.

Oncofertility experts from the Women's, Dr Violet Kieu and Associate Professor Kate Stern, are on a mission to ensure every Australian of child-producing age who is diagnosed with cancer is referred to oncofertility health services promptly.

They have combined their expertise to write an article "Starting cancer treatment? You should discuss fertility first", which was recently published in [The Conversation](#).



## Referrals to the Women's

### *Potential problem with some referrals not being received*

There have been some instances where referrals faxed to the Women's appear not to have been received by us.

This is due to ageing facsimile machines in the community and technical issues related to the NBN in

some practices. This is expected to continue.

All referrals to the Women's are acknowledged in writing to the referring GP within a week. If a referral you have faxed is not acknowledged, please follow-up with our team at the Access Centre on GP Quick Access Number: Ph: 8345 2058 (then select option 2).

Meanwhile the Parkville precinct hospitals are actively working on a solution to develop e-referral.

If you would like to discuss this further or have continued issues, please feel free to contact Dr Ines Rio on [gp.liaison@thewomens.org.au](mailto:gp.liaison@thewomens.org.au) or P: 8345 2064.

We thank you for your understanding.

## COVID-19 updates

If you are caring for a patient of the Women's who tests positive for COVID during pregnancy, please call our Parkville or Sandringham hospitals and ask to speak with the **COVID Liaison Midwife**.

This midwife will call the patient, assess them, and arrange a care plan/referral to other services.

Alternatively, you can ask your patient to call our hospital directly to ask to speak with the COVID Liaison Midwife.



### For resources on the use of antivirals in pregnancy:

- Visit the [HealthPathways Melbourne](#) - COVID-19 in Pregnancy webpage. This includes information about Maternity Care Pathways, assessment and treatments including the use of remdesivir or sotrovima.
- Call the Victorian COVID-19 therapies PBS prescriber helpline on [\(03\) 8290 3801](#). It is available 7 days a week (8am - 5pm) and staffed by Alfred Health pharmacists experienced in the prescription of COVID-19 early therapies.

The Women's [COVID-19 Information Hub](#) has up-to-date information about hospital appointments and admissions, as well as advice for pregnant and breastfeeding women.



## CPD: Shared Maternity Care Affiliate workshops: Webinar recordings



### Shared Care Workshop 1:

**COVID-19 and Infections in Pregnancy and Third Trimester issues, 19 October 2022**

**Dr Vicki Woodward and Dr Rachel Ryan:** A recording of this session (two hours) has been uploaded to the [website](#) and [YouTube](#) channel and is now ready for viewing. On completion, you can

self-record your attendance via your RACGP learning portal, and you will obtain three pregnancy-related CPD points.

## Shared Care Workshop 2:

### ***Bleeding in Pregnancy, 14 September 2022***

**Dr Peter Jurcevic.** A recording of this session (1.5 hours) has been uploaded to the [website](#) and [YouTube](#) channel and is now ready for viewing. On completion, you can self-record your attendance via your RACGP learning portal, and you will obtain three pregnancy-related CPD points.



### ***The Women's Grand Round, 26 August 2022***

#### ***Cervical Cancer Screening & Elimination - including self-collection and updated screening guidelines***

Prof Marion Saville AM, Angela Steele, Dr David Wrede. The recording of this session (50 minutes) is available on [Vimeo](#). There are no pregnancy related CPD points.



**THANK YOU AND  
WISHING YOU A  
HAPPY AND SAFE  
FESTIVE SEASON**

Thank you to GPs, Shared Maternity Care Affiliates and other community health providers who have provided wonderful care to women, babies and their families over the past year.

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy festive season and wonderful 2023.

Contact us

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P: (03) 8345 2064  
E: [gp.liaison@thewomens.org.au](mailto:gp.liaison@thewomens.org.au)

Fast Fax Referral  
F: (03) 8345 3036

GP Quick Access Number  
P: (03) 8345 2058

Shared Maternity Care Coordinator  
P: (03) 8345 2129  
E: [shared.care@thewomens.org.au](mailto:shared.care@thewomens.org.au)

The Women's Switchboard  
P: (03) 8345 2000

The Women's Abortion & Contraception Service  
P: [\(03\) 8345 2832](tel:(03)83452832) (professional line only – not for use by women needing the service)



[Forward email](#)

You are receiving this email because you have subscribed to receive updates from the Women's GP Liaison Unit. [Unsubscribe](#)

*The Royal Women's Hospital acknowledges and pays respect to the peoples of the Kulin Nations, the Traditional Custodians of the Country on which our sites at Parkville and Sandringham stand.*

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