

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](#).



COVID updates

If you are caring for a patient 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 your patient, assess them, and arrange a care plan/referrals to other services.

Alternatively, you can ask your patient to call our hospitals 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.



Fast Fax referrals to the Women's

We are aware of some recent instances where GP referrals to the Women's appear not to have been received (via our Fast Fax referrals service 03 8345 3036).

We are working on a long-term solution to develop an e-referral system for all Parkville hospitals, including the Women's. In the meantime, if you are someone who continues to experience issues, you can email future referrals

If using email to refer, please:

- check that you have entered the correct email address
- obtain consent from your patient for their information to be sent by non-encrypted email
- ensure the attachment matches the patient
- in the subject line please include: **Referral Patient Name.**

All referrals to the Women's (faxed and emailed) are acknowledged in writing to the referring GP within a week.

If a referral you have sent is not acknowledged, please follow-up with our team at the Access Centre on GP Quick Access Number: [\(03\) 8345 2058](tel:0383452058) (then press option 2).

Identifying interpreter need

A reminder to all GPs sending referrals to the Women's to indicate whether your patient needs an interpreter (and if so, which language).

We continue to have some occasions where women present to their first outpatient appointment requiring an interpreter, without this having been indicated on her GP referral. We cannot use partners and relatives as interpreters, especially as we undertake screening for issues such as family violence and depression.



Communication for women undertaking Shared Maternity Care

Routine 26-28 week blood tests

Women undertaking shared maternity care at the Women's have their routine 28-week blood tests of GTT, FBE and Blood Group Antibodies organised by the hospital.

If they are Rh +ve this is generally undertaken at any community pathology service the woman chooses (with a generic request provided by the hospital). If they are Rh -ve it is generally undertaken at the hospital (on the same day she is provided with prophylactic Anti-D).

To ensure the correct tests are undertaken and to improve communication between Shared Maternity Care providers and the hospital, please encourage women to use the pathology forms provided to them, rather than re-issue another form.



GP consultation notes and results

To send patient information (e.g. consultation notes, or results that don't require review) for upload to EMR:

Fax: [03 8345 2623](tel:0383452623)

Email: HISDocument.Management@thewomens.org.au

For all enquiries related to Health Information Services, phone: 03 8345 2616

CC results

For early pregnancy tests done as part of a maternity referral, GPs are asked to please cc the Women's on the pathology request form using the following codes:

- Australian Clinical Labs: RWH
- Melbourne Pathology: RWH
- Dorevitch: #RWH

Assistance and review

For pathways on advice and referral, see the [Shared Maternity Care Guidelines - Chapter 17](#).

Anti-D guideline update and clarification

Following recent communications to Share Maternity Care providers regarding the use of Rh D immunoglobulin in early pregnancy, we would like to provide further clarification.

Rh D immunoglobulin in gestation < 10 weeks (Rh negative women with no preformed Antibodies)

The National Blood Authority [Guidelines on prophylactic use of Rh D immunoglobulin in pregnancy \(2021\)](#) state that in the setting of medical termination of pregnancy before 10 weeks of gestation, there is insufficient evidence to suggest the routine use of Rh D immunoglobulin. Rh D immunoglobulin is still recommended for surgical terminations, miscarriage and ectopic pregnancy, molar pregnancy and chorionic villus sampling *at any gestation* and for medical terminations after 10 weeks of gestation.

Shared Maternity Care providers should continue to refer patients requiring Anti-D to your local emergency departments. Anti-D may also be accessed via the Women's Early Pregnancy Assessment Services (EPAS) if a timely appointment is available.



Baggarrook midwifery care

The Women's Baggarrook caseload midwifery model is helping to close the gap in mortality and birth complications for First Nations mothers.



please visit [the Women's website](#).

Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide

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

The guide includes information about COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy and breastfeeding. All available information is fully referenced, peer reviewed and regularly updated.

You can download medicine fact sheets to provide to your patients.

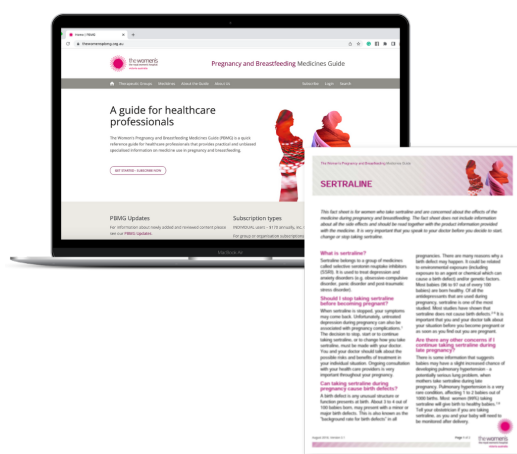
For more information about subscription to this excellent resource, please visit the: [PBMG website](#) here.

Cost: Individual users: \$170 annually. For group or organisation subscriptions, please submit an enquiry at [Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide](#).

A recent study has shown that a personalised and culturally responsive model of midwifery care greatly increases participation rates of First Nations mothers and leads to better clinical outcomes and satisfaction with care.

All patients with a maternity referral indicating they are Aboriginal and/or a Torres Strait Islander will be offered the Baggarrook model of care at their first appointment.

For more information about the study,



Service spotlight



Fertility Preservation services

Our Fertility Preservation Service provides assessment and advice for girls, young women, boys and young men whose fertility is at risk from:

- a medical condition such as cancer (or other serious disease) or its treatment
- a genetic issue compromising fertility or having a family
- gender identity management.

If a GP referral is for oncology purposes, please mark it **urgent** to ensure the patient will be triaged and seen quickly.

Parkville Connect

Parkville Connect is the provider portal that enables GPs, specialists and other community health practitioners to access the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) of their patients receiving care at the Women's, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Royal Children's Hospital and Peter Mac.

Currently, the EMR does not enable automated cc of results (pathology and imaging) to SMCAs, GPs and other external providers, so the most reliable way to access these results is via Parkville Connect.

Via Parkville Connect you can view:

- upcoming and past hospital visits
- inpatient and outpatient progress notes
- discharge and after-visit summaries
- laboratory and imaging results
- allergies, medical history and medications.

To register your practice and associated clinicians for Parkville Connect, please ensure that all your practice information is up to date in the [National Health Services Directory \(NHSD\)](#). It is recommended that all clinicians are included when registering your practice.

To register, visit the [Parkville Connect portal](#). If you have any questions, email support@parkvilleconnect.org.au



Shared Maternity Care re-credentialing

As we approach the end of the Shared Maternity Care Credentialing Triennium 2020-22, it is time for Affiliates to review their Continuous Professional Development to ensure they have completed the five hours of pregnancy-specific CPD required to re-credential in the 2023-25 triennium.

The Shared Maternity Care Collaborative will be hosting an online workshop for all Shared Maternity Care Affiliates, on 19 and

26 October 2022. Put it in your diary and keep an eye out for upcoming communications regarding this event. A list of approved CPD options can now be downloaded from this section of the Women's website: [GP continuing professional development](#)

Training opportunities

Intrauterine device (IUD) simulation training



The Women's has partnered with Bayer Women's Health to deliver free simulation-based training on inserting IUDs. This is a great hands-on familiarisation program to undertake prior to clinical training, or as a refresher.

To register your interest and be notified of the next training session (likely to be held on 9 November 2022), please submit an Expression of Interest form to our GP Liaison Unit.

The Expression of Interest form can be downloaded from this section of the Women's website: [GP continuing professional development](#).



Newborn Behavioural Observations online workshop

Sunday 11 September 2022 - Tuesday 13 September 2022 (part days)

The Newborn Behavioural Observational (NBO) system is a structured set of observations designed to help clinicians and parents work together to:

- observe an infant's behavioural capacities and
- identify the kind of support an infant needs for successful growth and development.

This online workshop has an emphasis on interactive exchange and hands-on practice. Ticket Price: **\$540 AUD** (including GST).

For more information, visit the [NBO Australia webpage](#). Or you register via this [Eventbrite page](#).

Multidisciplinary workshop on sexual pain



Sexual pain is one of the most commonly experienced sexual difficulties.

This interactive 1-day online workshop, hosted by Monash University Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, will gather a multidisciplinary team of experts to discuss the assessment and management of dyspareunia.

It will include presentations and case-based discussions inclusive of gender diversity, sexual orientation, culture and clinical features.

Price for health professionals Early bird (ends on 21 July 2022): **\$300**. For more information and to register visit this [Monash University webpage](#).



Abortion, contraception and sexual health: supporting client access

This free online short course has been developed by 1800 My Options.

This course will provide you with an understanding of:

- contraception, abortion and sexual health rights and options in Victoria

- barriers that can affect access to sexual and reproductive health services.

To undertake the course, visit the [Women's Health Victoria website](#).

Help, she's pregnant; what do I do now?



This free recorded webinar provides a clear understanding of what to discuss when a woman comes to you in early pregnancy, which tests to offer, order and why.

The webinar can also help clinicians to identify women who may be high-risk and require early referral and initiation of preventative management.

Hosted in May by Western Health and the [North Western Melbourne PHN](#), you can watch the webinar on [YouTube](#).

Recent news from the Women's

- [The Women's launches bold new roadmap](#)
- [Menopause: a stage of life, not a diagnosis](#)
- [Politicians must commit to upholding abortion rights](#)
- [Innovating for a just and reconciled Australia](#)
- [Continuity of care a huge boost for First Nations mothers](#)
- [Celebrating our incredible midwives](#)
- [Meet Goldie, the therapy dog bringing joy in dark places](#)

Contact us

GP Liaison Unit

P: (03) 8345 2064

E: 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

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)



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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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