

GP Liaison Update December 2007

Incorporating Western Hospital, Sunshine Hospital and The Williamstown Hospital



Western Health

Volume 1, Issue 4

December 2007

Western Health Welcomes Madeleine Whinney: GP Liaison Unit

Madeleine joined Dr Stephen Lew in Western Health's GP Liaison Unit in mid November in the role previously held by Katherine Bentley.

Madeleine holds a combined degree in Nursing and Health Promotion and was employed in a number of roles at the Inner Eastern Melbourne Division of General Practice before moving to Western Health.

Prior to this Madeleine worked in a range of nursing roles including outpatients, and medical and surgical wards. Madeleine also worked as a receptionist at a large general practice when she was a student.

Madeleine is excited to be

implementing Western Health's GP Strategy: "I'm looking forward to working collaboratively with GPs, practice staff and stakeholder groups across the region and across all Western Health services to improve links between General Practice and Western Health"

Madeleine works Tuesday to Friday and can be contacted via:

Email: gp@wh.org.au
Ph: 8345 1735
Mob: 0423 295 285



Western Health GP Liaison Welcomes Dr Max Alexander: Executive Director-Operations

The GP Liaison Unit is pleased to inform local GPs that Dr Max Alexander has recently commenced as the Executive Director- Operations at Western Health.

Max joins Western Health from Barwon Health where he was the Executive Medical Director and Area Medical Director. Immediately prior to this, Max held the position of Deputy Chief Executive, ACT Health.

Max has also held a number of senior management positions at Bayside Health.

You may be thinking the name sounds familiar.... This may be because, before his move into the acute sector in 1998, Max was in fact a GP!

The GP Liaison team welcome Max and look forward to working closely with him in the future.



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Western Health Breast Unit - Update

The Breast Unit provides diagnosis and management of benign and malignant breast disease for inpatients and outpatients. Recently there have been some exciting developments in breast services at Western Health....

- Western Health now has 2 weekly breast clinics running at Sunshine Hospital seeing over 110 women per week

Thursday clinic: *mainly for all new malignant breast referrals and some new benign breast cases, known breast cancer cases for follow up, postoperative breast cases and high-risk family history women for follow up.*

Monday afternoon clinic: *for new referrals and for most of the new benign breast complaints as judged by referral letters*

- Two **breast care nurses**, Danielle Spence and Leanne Storer have joined the breast service team. Danielle and Leanne have established a number of important initiatives to increase the unit's scope for support and education
- An important development has been the appointment Grey Searle, **Psychologist** at Western Health, who sees our breast cancer patients after the initial help and assessment by our breast care nurses.
- **Breast cancer operating lists** are mainly at Sunshine Campus with some lists at Footscray Hospital and a decreasing minority of breast work being done at Williamstown Hospital. We now offer the new sentinel node technology to appropriately selected breast cancer patients.
- The breast service now has a **Logiq breast ultrasound machine**, which we use in both outpatients and the operating suite to aid surgery, help drain cysts, assess tumour margins and assess accuracy of ultrasound hook wire localisation intra-operatively. This has

been kindly and generously donated by the John T Reid Trust

- We now have fortnightly **Multidisciplinary breast cancer meetings** attended by breast surgeons, oncologists, radiotherapists, pathologists, radiologists, psychologist, breast care nurses, research nurses and junior staff. All new and recurrent breast cancer cases are discussed to ensure all aspects of their care are thought through carefully from every discipline angle
- We have new excellent **Plastics Unit breast expertise**, which allows us to offer immediate and delayed breast reconstruction during breast cancer treatment.
- We have access to a monthly **Cancer Genetics Clinic** at Footscray run by Dr Shirley Wong for patients with suspected germ line mutations for the inheritance of the breast cancer genes. It is often best for these patients to be referred to our breast clinic for initial breast assessment and we will then refer them on promptly to this genetics service.

As you can see from the above list of developments, the breast unit is an exciting and changing service where women are well looked after with a broadly skilled team of individuals to supply a complete benign and malignant breast cancer service.

Referrals:

Please **fax** referrals to **Sunshine Hospital Women's Clinic on 8345 1691**. Our policy is to see all suspected new breast cancer patients at our next clinic.

Contacting the Breast Unit:

Danielle Spence and Leanne Storer (Breast Care Nurses) can be contacted every weekday at:

Western Health on **8345 6666** or directly to their office on **8345 6896**.

It is preferable to ring them rather than try to page the Breast Unit Registrar who may be in theatre and unable to take your call immediately.

Shared Maternity Care Reaccreditation Forms Due

Sunshine Hospital, Mercy Hospital for Women, The Royal Women's Hospital and Northern Hospital

All shared maternity care affiliate GPs should have received application forms for reaccreditation for 2008 - 2010.

These are now overdue.

Please return your form and supporting documents as soon as possible (you only need to return your application to one hospital).

If you have misplaced your form please email:

MMcDonald@mercy.com.au
(if hospitals accredited at include Mercy) or

shared.care@rwh.org.au
(if hospitals accredited at do not include Mercy)

Reaccreditation criteria are:

- 10 pregnancy related RACGP CPD points acquired in 2005-2007 triennium (these are not necessarily women's health points and are not a separate RACGP category)

Please provide details and evidence of attendance. They will be adjudicated by GPLOs

- Proof of medical registration and indemnity
- Agreement to undertakings

New Service: 23 hour Surgical Unit

Western Health is pleased to advise that a new 23-hour surgical unit has opened at Sunshine Hospital.

The new 8-bed unit ("S23") is located adjacent to the Sunshine Day Procedure Unit. The 23-hour unit is not an alternative or substitute for day surgery, but an extension to services provided for patients unsuitable for day surgery.

The 23-hour service provides a model of care for elective surgery patients who require no more than 23 hours hospital recovery time, which commences when the patient is admitted to recovery and ends when the patient is discharged from the 23-hour unit

The 23-hour unit can accommodate some emergency procedures that would usually be treated as an inpatient, provided care pathways are developed to comply with short-stay principles.

The S23 Unit will operate between 0730hrs Monday and 2200hrs Friday, 24 hours a day and is closed on weekends.

For more information please contact:

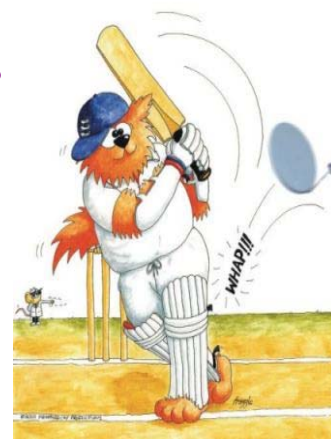
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Cricket Day is Coming...The George Thoms Cup 2008

As the cricket season kicks off, the GP Liaison Unit is pleased to announce the Annual 'George Thoms Cup' will be held in early 2008 at a venue to be confirmed.

Western Health Medical Staff and local GPs will battle it out to claim glory on what promises to be a fun and entertaining day out for cricketers and spectators alike.

Places are limited, so watch out for the flyer (coming soon!) and register to secure your place.



Use the VSRF for an easier referral process

The Victorian Statewide Referral Form (VSRF) is a straightforward, easy to use, electronic template for GP referrals.

The purpose is to provide a standardised mechanism for referral from General Practice to state funded health providers, including hospitals, community health centres and services like ACAS. Because the VSRF is accepted by all the major hospitals, you can use this simple template as a replacement for a multitude of service specific referral forms.

This version of the VSRF was revised in early 2006 to create a far more GP friendly then the previous version - it is significantly shorter; with improved language and no duplication.

Templates are gradually being included with software updates.

To find out the status for your software, go to <http://www.gpdv.com.au/gpdv250.htm>. A paper version is also available at this site.

Christmas Greetings

The GP Liaison Unit would like to thank readers for their support in 2007 and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.



Any feedback or queries?

The GP Liaison Unit welcomes feedback regarding Western Health services, including communication, access or difficulties using the Health Service. Please contact:

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