On 1 May Sunshine Hospital instituted a change in screening for gestational diabetes.

The glucose challenge test is an unreliable test for women at risk of gestational diabetes which includes those who are obese (any level) and those from high risk ethnic groups. Therefore Sunshine Hospital would like all women who are screened for gestational diabetes at 26-28 weeks to have a **full oral glucose tolerance test**.

This test can be ordered through any pathology provider and a copy of the result should be given to the patient to bring to her hospital appointments.

If the test is positive please notify the NUM of Women’s Clinic on 8345 1512.

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**Upcoming education at Western Health**

**Wednesday 29 August** — Demystifying breast radiology reports and the role of general practice in management and breast cancer follow up— invitation enclosed

**Wednesday 14 November**—General Surgery Workshop—invitations will be circulated closer to date

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**General Practice Update by email - sign up now!**

To have the General Practice Liaison Newsletter conveniently sent directly to your inbox please complete the details below and fax to 8345 1180, or email gp@wh.org.au.

Please note your privacy is assured. Your details will not be shared and will only be used by the General Practice Liaison Program.

Name: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________

Practice: ___________________________ Phone number: ___________________________

[ ] Yes, please sign me up to receive the newsletter via email as an individual

[ ] Yes, please sign me up to receive the newsletter for my practice (the practice will no longer receive hard copies)
Introducing the Western eHealth Gateway

Background
As you would be aware Western Health has been sending out fax notifications to GPs regarding patients for many years. This system has been in use for a number of years and can no longer cope with the volume of information that needs to be sent out, nor has it had the capacity to send out additional information in electronic formats. Therefore we have developed a new electronic messaging platform called the Western Health eHealth Gateway.

Western eHealth Gateway – what is it?
The eHealth Gateway is a new messaging platform to enable messages to be sent between Western Health and GPs. The new system will be:

- more reliable
- able to be delivered in different formats
- capable of sending more detailed and useful information
- allow GPs to choose what information they would like to receive.

The Gateway extracts information from various databases and clinical systems within Western Health into one platform where the information can then be packaged and sent to GPs. Phase 1 of the project is sending out:

- admission/discharge/same day notifications
- receipt of referral to specialist clinics
- deceased notifications

When did it start?
The new system went live 10 July 2012.

How will it affect me?
At first, the notifications that will be sent out are the same ones that you have been receiving so you won’t notice much difference, apart from a new logo on the letter and the information set out more clearly.

Do I need to keep receiving faxes?
Initially all GPs will be set up to receive messages via fax. Messages can be sent to GPs via secure (PKI) email if they have this functionality enabled.

Can I choose which notifications I receive?
The default position in our new system is to send you all notifications of the above events for your patients. However, the new system has the option for GPs to ‘opt out’ of receiving certain types of messages. To customise your individual preferences relating to communication advice please complete the attached authority form.

Please note that each GP in the practice needs to complete a separate authority form if they wish to alter their preferences and if GPs practice at multiple clinics, a separate authority form needs to be completed for each practice location.

Future plans
The Gateway system will be compliant with the National eHealth Transition Authority Secure Messaging Delivery standards. The aim of the Gateway is to send messages to GPs directly into practice systems (like pathology and radiology results).

Over time the eHealth Gateway will expand to send more clinically based information to GPs e.g. discharge summaries when electronic versions are introduced to Western Health. In addition, we are currently scoping the options for inbound messages which will allow GPs to sent in electronic referrals in the future.

For more information on the eHealth Gateway please contact Bianca Bell on 8345 1735 or gp@wh.org.au
Breast Cancer Survivorship Program

The Royal Women’s Hospital, Western Health, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, BreaCan and Inner North West Melbourne Medicare Local are excited to announce they are collaborating in a Breast Cancer Survivorship Program for women who have completed definitive treatment for breast cancer at these hospitals.

Aim of the project

The goal is to develop, implement and evaluate a model of Survivorship Care that actively involves women and their GPs, and recognises the specific issues and opportunities that exist at the end of active treatment to support patients to live well.

We anticipate this model of care will result in better coordinated and individualised health care planning and management and better educated and empowered patients. This will result in each woman’s immediate and future needs being better identified and addressed.

The project will involve:

- Women having a consultation with a Breast Care Nurse at the end of breast cancer treatment
- Development of a tailored survivorship care plan for each woman based on her needs (including medical, social, psychological, reproductive, psychosexual)
- A well-supported collaborative arrangement with each woman’s GP. This will include active communication and planning with GPs and practice nurses to allow tailored, effective and efficient care to be offered to each woman. It will include clear articulation of agreed objectives and delineation of roles and responsibilities and an easy to follow schedule of follow up care with expedited access to specialist advice and re-referral if required
- A survivorship package for women that is individualised to each woman’s needs and circumstances, including her ongoing health care management, medicine and treatment complications, potential future needs and challenges. This package will include community support and resources, and information for interventions shown to improve survival and/or quality of life
- Enhancing systems to share information between a woman, her GP, other community services and the hospital

We hope to develop and establish a holistic Survivorship Care Program where women’s ongoing wellbeing is supported by GPs and community services. GP and practice nurse participation will be integral to the success of this program.

If you are interested in learning more please contact the GP Integration unit on 8345 1735 or gp@wh.org.au

Coming soon! New blood transfusion guidelines for GPs

Western Health is in the process of finalising new blood transfusion guidelines for GPs. These guidelines will clearly outline the process of referring patients for urgent and non urgent blood transfusions from the community and Residential Aged Care Facilities to streamline the process for both patients and GPs.

GPs will be sent a copy of the guidelines once released and they will be available on the Western Health General Practice Integration website.
Western Health Cancer Services

Cancer Services at Western Health are provided across a broad range of inpatient, ambulatory and outpatient settings. Western Health provides secondary and tertiary cancer services for patients of the Western Region. Western Health is the second largest provider of cancer-related activity in the Western Central Melbourne region and the highest in the region for colorectal cancer.

The clinical services in this program include:

- Medical Oncology and Haematology inpatients (Footscray)
- Day Oncology Service - Day Chemotherapy (Footscray)
- Oncology Hospital in the Home (home based)
- Oncology Clinical Research
- Radiation Oncology Services in partnership with Peter MacCallum (Sunshine Hospital)
- Palliative Care Consultation (All campuses)
- Palliative Care Outreach in partnership with Mercy Palliative Care Services (home based)
- Inpatient Palliative Care Service (Sunshine Hospital)
- Each tumour stream has a regular Multi Disciplinary Meeting (MDM)
- Outpatient Clinics (Footscray, Sunshine & Sunbury), see below table

Table 1: Cancer Services: Out-Patient Clinics by Campus, Day of week, time, and MDM day and time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cancer Services - Clinic Type</th>
<th>Clinician Names</th>
<th>Western Health Campus</th>
<th>Clinic Day</th>
<th>Clinic Time</th>
<th>Multidisciplinary Team Meeting (Day of Week)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uro-Oncology</td>
<td>Dr Shirley Wong, Dr David Campbell</td>
<td>Sunshine</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Monday am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>Dr Dishan Gunawardana, Dr Catherine Oakman, Dr Suzy Kosmider, Dr Kathy Pope (Radiation Oncologist)</td>
<td>Footscray</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Wednesday am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Oncology &amp; Upper GI</td>
<td>Dr Ju-Chong Ding, Dr Shing Fan, Dr Sunimra Ananda, Dr Lara Lipton, Dr David Campbell</td>
<td>Footscray</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Wednesday am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Oncology</td>
<td>Dr Allan Zimet</td>
<td>Sunbury</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Wednesday am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haematology</td>
<td>Dr Bill Renwick, Dr Duncan Carradice, Dr Nicholas Murphy, Dr Duncan Carradice</td>
<td>Footscray</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tuesday am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>Dr Catherine Oakman, Dr Frances Barnett</td>
<td>Sunshine</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Thursday pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>Dr Shirley Wong, Dr Catherine Oakman, Dr David Campbell, Dr Sumitra Ananda</td>
<td>Sunshine</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Thursday pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorectal</td>
<td>Dr Peter Gibbs, Dr Suzy Kosmider, Dr Jeanne Tie, Dr Ben Tran, Dr Phillip Tran (Radiation Oncologist)</td>
<td>Footscray</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Thursday am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palliative Care - Symptom Management, Assessment &amp; Referral</td>
<td>Dr Adrian Dabachek, Dr Mara Coperchini</td>
<td>Footscray</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Wednesday am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Western Health Cancer Services cont...

Referring to Cancer Services Clinics
Referrals for cancer services clinics at all sites need to be faxed to 8345 6856. All of Cancer Services out-patient clinics are MBS clinics and require a referral letter that includes:

- Patient details
- GP Provider Number
- Clinic or Consultant name that you are referring to
- Period of referral

Cancer Services Projects
Western Health is currently progressing a number of projects that aim to improve patient care; these include but are not limited to:

- Development and piloting of model of shared care for the follow-up of cancer survivors following the completion of active treatment
- Integrating practice across hospital and community settings by the establishment of a multidisciplinary Palliative Care Symptom Control Model
- Lymphoedema feasibility study – The project will include a feasibility study and the development of a service model, implementation plan and a training and development plan
- Defining patient pathways across tumour streams. For Gynaecology, Urology & CNS
- Increasing translational research capability, collaboration and trials participation in the Western Region through expanding capacity of existing programs and promoting developing tumour streams. Focusing on the colo-rectal and haematology tumour streams, to build this capacity

Western Health recognises the importance of building and expanding cancer services for residents in the Western region and is committed to improving patient experiences and outcomes. Western Health Cancer Services sees the partnership with General Practice as pivotal to ensuring excellence in service delivery.

Any queries relating to Cancer Services at Western Health please do not hesitate to contact Adele Mollo Manager, Cancer Services on 8345 6036 or Adele.Mollo@wh.org.au

Western Health SMART clinic – Symptom Management Assessment and Referral Team
Western Health has recently commenced a 12 month pilot of a new clinic to improve the palliative patient pathway through hospital and community systems. The Symptom Management Assessment and Referral Team Clinic ‘SMART Clinic’ is known for patients with a malignant diagnosis.

The clinic is a project funded by Western Central Melbourne Integrated Cancer Services (WCMICS) and is a joint initiative between Western Health and Mercy Palliative Care, the community palliative care service for the western metropolitan region.

The clinic has a multidisciplinary model where a pharmacist and a community palliative care nurse are part of the team with palliative care medical consultants. As a result patients receive medication support, education and contact with the community palliative care service, and admission as needed. Emergency medication is provided if required, which aims to reduce the presentation of these often frail patients at Emergency Departments or utilizing after hours locum services.

The aim of the clinic is to provide support for patients in the following areas:

- Pain management
- Symptom management
- Medication support and education
- Psychosocial requiring referral to community palliative care
- Support with end of life discussion and issues

The pilot commenced on 31 May 2012 and currently referrals are only being accepted from Western Health consultants. GPs will receive communication from the clinic outlining the management plan for patients and recommendations for medication and community support services.