



HEALTH ALERT

22 JUNE 2015

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JUDGMENTS

Victoria

Inquest into the death of baby Chloe Lee Kellett

The Victorian Coroner investigated an infant's death from cerebral hypoxic and ischaemic injury (lack of blood and oxygen to her brain) which was caused by deprivation of oxygen during her birth.

The deceased was born at Ballarat Base Hospital at 8:19pm on 12 April 2009, and transferred to the Mercy Hospital for Women on 13 April 2009, arriving at 2:15pm. The Coroner's investigations centred on the obstetric management of the deceased's mother during labour and delivery, and the apparent delay in transferring the deceased to a tertiary facility.

The Coroner found that the clinical care provided by the nursing and midwifery staff at the hospital was reasonable throughout labour and delivery, but that the overall care provided to the deceased's mother was compromised by "dysfunctional communication and poor collaboration within the treating team".

In her comments, the Coroner commended Ballarat Health for escalating the deceased's care in appropriate circumstances, and noted that hospital policies have been updated to allow for direct communication between nursing staff and a consultant where staff have concerns.

The Coroner observed that the infant's death "illustrates a kind of tyranny of distance or potential disadvantage for babies born in regional Victoria," where the recognised treatment of hypothermia is not readily available. She observed that there was a case to be made for the Newborn Emergency Transport System to preference babies born in regional areas at the first sign of even mild brain injury.

The Court did not make any recommendations in response to the death.

United Kingdom

***Liverpool Women's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust v Ronayne* [2015] EWCA Civ 588**

The United Kingdom Court of Appeal has upheld an appeal against a decision awarding damages for nervous shock to a man who alleged he had suffered psychiatric injury as a result of viewing a rapid deterioration in his wife's medical condition.

The respondent's wife developed septicaemia and peritonitis as a result of the hospital's admitted negligence in performing a hysterectomy, but later made a full recovery. The trial judge accepted that the respondent suffered psychiatric injury caused by the shock of viewing his wife connected to machines prior to undergoing emergency surgery, and seeing her unconscious and swollen post-operatively.

The Court of Appeal held that these events were not sufficiently "horrifying" to give rise to a nervous shock claim. The Court acknowledged the respondent's "profound distress" at his wife's condition, but found that the circumstances of the case fell far short of what was required to establish a claim.

The Court held that prior to seeing his wife, the respondent had known that she was in hospital and required emergency surgery. It found that his wife's condition was what would ordinarily be expected of a patient in her circumstances, and that the respondent was prepared to witness what he saw.

The Court noted the significance of the trial decision should it be allowed to stand, stating:

"It will be immediately apparent that...this case has an importance to health authorities which goes far beyond the award here made."

Australia. Fair Work Commission

Robertson v Peninsula Health [2015] FWC 3973

Application for relief from unfair dismissal – extension of time – jurisdictional objection upheld – no exceptional circumstances – application dismissed.

Queensland

Vision Eye Institute Ltd & Anor v Kitchen & Anor (No 3) [2015] QSC 164

Procedure – costs – general rule – costs follow the event – costs of whole action – generally– where the plaintiffs were substantially successful in their claim against the defendants – where the defendants were largely unsuccessful on their counterclaims – whether the costs order in the plaintiffs' favour should be discounted to reflect the defendants' partial success.

Costs departing from the general rule – order for costs on indemnity basis – where the defendants failed to accept the plaintiffs' formal offer to settle made under the UCPR – where the plaintiffs offered to accept \$2 million and bear their own costs – where three years later one of the plaintiffs is awarded a judgment of more than \$10 million and a cost order is made in the plaintiffs' favour – where the terms of the offer included that the proceedings would be discontinued in their entirety – where the defendants submit that settlement of the proceedings on the terms of the offer would have permitted the plaintiffs to bring fresh proceedings without leave – whether judgment and orders more favourable to plaintiffs than terms of their offer.

South Australia

Soo v Physiotherapy Board of Australia (No 2) [2015] SADC 90

Application for indemnity costs following dismissal of appeal from the Tribunal - Court dismissed the appellant's argument for the same reasons as the Tribunal - Argument of the appellant misconceived and without merit - Correspondence by the respondent to the appellant detailing why the argument misconceived and warning of application for indemnity costs if the appeal not discontinued - Offering each party pay own costs if the appeal discontinued - Respondent's offer rejected - Finding the instigation and continuation of the appeal unreasonable - Examination of the power to order costs - s42G *District Court Act 1991* - Power to order costs conditional on such an order being necessary in the interests of justice - Unreasonable pursuit of suit by appellant - Considerations regarding an order for indemnity costs - Overlap of considerations - Cases discussed - *Calderbank* principle - Respondent's argument on appeal in part rejected - Value of ruling to the respondent for future cases - Indemnity costs onus discharged by respondent - Appellant to pay 75 per cent costs assessed on indemnity basis.

Medical Board of Australia v Gale [2015] SAHPT 3

Medical complaint - Alleged that the respondent engaged in professional misconduct and conduct that amounted to unprofessional conduct - Respondent admitted to conduct alleged - Two grounds of misconduct alleged relating to engaging in a sexual relationship with a patient - One ground of misconduct alleged in relation to prescribing one or more drugs of dependence for varying periods to nine patients - One ground of alleged misconduct in relation to a breach of duty for disclosure of information relating to a patient - Held: The conduct set out in the complaint constitutes professional misconduct and unprofessional conduct - Respondent reprimanded in the strongest terms - The two year period that the respondent has been out of practice is taken into consideration - The respondent disqualified from applying for registration as a Medical Practitioner for a further period of three years and nine months - Ss 5, 124, 196 of Schedule 2 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (South Australia) Act 2010*.

Tasmania

Pharmacy Board of Australia v White [2015] TASHPT 6

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law - Professional misconduct - conviction of seven offences relating to the use, possession or supply of controlled drugs - appropriate sanction - reprimand - conditions on registration.

Tasmanian Board of the Medical Board of Australia v Gomes [2015] TASHPT 5

Findings of professional misconduct and unprofessional conduct – inability to practice for extended period – further suspension not warranted - reprimand.

LEGISLATION

Commonwealth

19 June 2015 - **Health Insurance (Pathology Services Table) Regulation 2015** - F2015L00851 - SLI 2015 No. 85 as made.

19 June 2015 - **Health Insurance (Diagnostic Imaging Services Table) Regulation 2015** - F2015L00850 - SLI 2015 No. 83 as made.

18 June 2015 - **Dental Benefits Amendment Rules 2015** - F2015L00845 - as made.

18 June 2015 - **National Health (Weighted average disclosed price – October 2015 reduction day) Determination 2015 (No. PB 53 of 2015)** - F2015L00843 - PB 53 of 2015 as made.

18 June 2015 - **Poisons Standard July 2015** - F2015L00844 - as made

18 June 2015 - **Therapeutic Goods (Charges) Amendment (2015 Measures No.1) Regulation 2015** - F2015L00839 - SLI 2015 No. 86 as made.

18 June 2015 - **Therapeutic Goods Legislation Amendment (Fees and Other Measures) Regulation 2015** - F2015L00837 - SLI 2015 No. 87 as made.

12 June 2015 - **Health Insurance (ALK Gene Testing) Determination 2015** - F2015L00799 - as made.

19 June 2015 - **Gene Technology Amendment Bill 2015** - C2015B00101 - Introduced.

17 June 2015 - **Private Health Insurance (Prudential Supervision) (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2015** - C2015B00100 - Introduced.

Northern Territory

17 June 2015 - **Domestic and Family Violence Amendment Bill 2015** - Introduced.

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

16 June 2015 - **372m to ensure timely access to chemotherapy drugs** - The Australian Government will invest a record \$372 million to ensure Australians continue to have timely access to life-saving chemotherapy drugs, no matter where they live in Australia.

11 June 2015 - **Australian children shooting towards a healthy lifestyle** - Netball Australia has joined the Australian Government's \$100 million *Sporting Schools* programme to help schools increase the number of children playing sport.

11 June 2015 - **Sports participation shake up to get Australians off the couch** - The Australian Government will unveil a new strategic way of supporting participation in organised sports as part of a \$134 million funding package.

Private Health insurance (PHI) Circulars

17 June 2015 - **PHI 36/15 Revoke Private Hospital Information**

Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the boards

AHPRA takes action to protect patients. AHPRA has charged a man who is not registered or qualified in Australia with pretending to be a dentist and allegedly providing dental treatment to people in Victoria. [Read more.](#)

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia releases its latest communique. [Read More](#).

The Dental Board of Australia releases its latest communique. [Read full article](#).

The Nursing and Midwifery Board has published its May communiqué. [Read full article](#).

The Osteopathy Board of Australia releases its latest communique. [Read full article](#).

The Pharmacy Board of Australia releases its latest communique. [Read full article](#).

The Physiotherapy Board of Australia releases its latest communiqué. [Read full article](#).

The Podiatry Board of Australia newsletter, June 2015 [PDF](#) (463 KB).

Dental Board of Australia member recognised in Queen's Birthday honours. [Read full article](#).

Australia. National Blood Authority

2015 Public consultation on proposed changes to the Criteria for the clinical use of intravenous immunoglobulin in Australia. More information [here](#).

Winners of the Inaugural National Awards for Excellence in the Management of Blood announced. To view the award categories and winners click [here](#).

Expression of Interest: BloodSTAR Project Manager. The NBA is now accepting Expressions of Interest for a BloodSTAR Project Manager. For further details including the job description [More...](#)

Australian. National E-health Transition Authority

[Queensland GP says eHealth can improve clinical care.](#)

[AMA Gold Medal awarded to Dr Steve Hambleton.](#)

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

[NHMRC Research Tracker - 12 June 2015.](#)

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

15 June 2015 - [Therapeutic Goods Committee \(TGC\)](#) Membership details of the TGC are now available.

12 June 2015 - [Updating organisation administrator](#) This form is used to nominate a new representative from your organisation to be the administrator.

12 June 2015 - [Annual charge exemption scheme.](#)

12 June 2015 - [Laparoscopic power morcellators](#) The outcomes of a TGA review into the Instructions for Use for laparoscopic morcellators were outlined in an article published in the May.

11 June 2015 - [Ampicillin injection and Amoxicillin injection - medicine shortages](#) Alternative available for shortage of ampicillin injection.

11 June 2015 - [Submissions and TGA response: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs \(diclofenac, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, mefenamic acid and naproxen\): proposed additional advisory statement for medicines.](#)

11 June 2015 - [Consultation: Invitation for public comment - ACMS meeting, July 2015](#) Invitation for public comment - proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard. Closing date: 9 July 2015.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare

12 June 2015 - [National opioid pharmacotherapy statistics 2014.](#)

11 June 2015 - [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework: detailed analyses data tables.](#)

9 June 2015- [The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: 2015 Online version.](#)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

15 June 2015 – On the Radar – Issue 227 ([PDF 506KB](#)) ([Word 540KB](#)).

Australia Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

19 June 2015 - Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has released a statement on the Safety of Biosimilar Medicines: [Read More](#).

18 June 2015 The summary of price disclosure price reductions for the 2015 October Cycle (Third SPD) has now been published on the "Price Disclosure (SPD)" page. [Read More](#).

16 June 2015 - PBS and NIP Cost recovery - annual indexation of fees. The recovery of fees associated with the evaluation and listing of medicines, vaccines and other products or services on the PBS and NIP commenced on 1 January. [Read More](#).

Australian Capital Territory. Health Directorate

18 June [ACT Government grants increase access to doctors in the community.](#)

New South Wales. Health Care Complaints Commission

18 June 2015 - [Dr Syed Adil Zafar – Unsatisfactory Professional Conduct – reprimand and conditions.](#)

18 June 2015 - [Dr Naswrin Moin – Unsatisfactory Professional Conduct proved - reprimand and conditions.](#)

15 June 2015 - [Updated media release - Mr Ross Colquhoun– Appeal dismissed.](#)

Queensland. Department of Health

19 June 2015 - [Queensland joins watch to prevent violence against women and children](#) - Minister for Women, Shannon Fentiman is challenging Queenslanders to "call out" behaviour which fuels violence against women.

17 June 2015 - [Gold Coast Health launches stem-cell transplant service](#) - The first patient on the Gold Coast to undergo surgery using stem-cell technology will be admitted to the Gold Coast University Hospital next week. Health Minister Cameron Dick yesterday inspected the facilities at the hospital.

17 June 2015 - [Cancer Care Services open at Prince Charles Hospital](#) - Minister for Health Cameron Dick today opened a new state-of-the-art health care facility at The Prince Charles Hospital on Brisbane's northside which will mean improved care for patients living with cancer.

17 June 2015 - [Mt Isa community leaders meet to tackle violence](#) - Government and community leaders will meet today to discuss ways the Mt Isa community can help tackle domestic and family violence.

16 June 2015 - [Government and health sector in new push to tackle violence](#) - Government and leaders from the medical profession met on the Gold Coast today to discuss how the health sector can help tackle domestic and family violence.

16 June 2015 - [CPL's Brisbane service rolls out the welcome mat](#) - Disability Services Minister Coralee O'Rourke today visited CPL (formerly the Cerebral Palsy League) New Farm to see first-hand how the service is making a positive difference to the lives of people with disability.

16 June 2015 - [Queensland Government, University of Queensland and US therapeutic experts in new bid to find disease-fighting drugs](#) - The Queensland Government has provided in-principle support for a new Queensland-US initiative aiming to discover and develop drugs that target diseases including cancer, diabetes and arthritis.

15 June 2015 - [Door opens for new cancer trials in Queensland](#) - Philadelphia: Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has made a major announcement at BIO Convention 2015 that will put Queensland's QIMR Berghofer at the forefront of the most innovative cancer therapies in development across the world.

15 June 2015 - **Seniors expo puts elder abuse in the spotlight** - Brisbane's City Hall will be bathed in purple today (15 June) to shine a light on elder abuse as part of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

14 June 2015 - **Queensland to help tackle one of the world's most dangerous diseases (Audio Available)** - Washington, USA: Queensland scientists working on an anti-Hendra virus treatment are in discussions with top American researchers about developing an antibody against the growing global threat of emerging diseases. One such disease is Middle-East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

18 June 2015 - **Labor wanted no additional elective surgeries** - Through our \$76 million commitment for additional elective surgeries the Hodgman Liberal Government has delivered treatment to all children who were left who had waited over the recommended time.

18 June 2015 - **HACSU media opportunity** - The Mayne Street Day Centre is not closing. It says a lot about HACSU's passion for scaremongering that they would call a media event about 'threats of closure' when it has been confirmed in today's Examiner that the centre is not closing.

17 June 2015 - **Labor wrong on health – Wednesday edition** - When Labor raise a health matter in Parliament they really should first check that they have their facts right. Contrary to their incorrect assertions today, the Tasmanian health system retains access to the excellent skills and experience of neurosurgeon Mr Andrew Hunn. I am advised that Mr Hunn will continue to be engaged on a case-by-case basis when his particular skills and experience are required.

17 June 2015 - **Family Violence Consultative Group** - The Tasmanian Liberal Government is determined to address family violence. This is a whole of community issue but government has a central role to play, and I am accepting responsibility for coordinating the response of my Government. This will include a Family Violence Action Plan to be released in August.

16 June 2015 - **Labor wrong again on health** - In the past year we have increased our workforce by 35 nurses across the THOs, and no doctors have been given redundancies.

15 June 2015 - **Raising Awareness of Elder Abuse** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to upholding the rights of older Tasmanians to live without exploitation, abuse or fear.

12 June 2015 - **\$3 million in hospital alternatives funding** - The Hodgman Liberal Government is continuing to invest in frontline health services which put patients back at the forefront of decision making.

12 June 2015 - **E-cigarettes discussion paper launched** - Public Health Services is calling for public submissions on its discussion paper on the use of electronic cigarette devices in Tasmania. At the moment no restrictions apply to the availability and use of nicotine-free electronic cigarettes in Tasmania. Public Health Services wants to hear views from individuals, businesses and organisations on whether this should remain the case.

12 June 2015 - **Planning approval for temporary facility ensures a safer way forward for patients** - A key part of the Liberal Government's rescue of the Royal Hobart Hospital redevelopment was the delivery of a safe and workable plan to decant patients during demolition and construction. A central part of this plan is a contemporary, purpose-built 54-bed capacity inpatient facility on the Liverpool Street forecourt to allow the new K-Block to be built. Earlier this week Hobart City Council approved the development application for this facility. No representations were received to the proposal - a clear indication that the community wants the Royal redevelopment to proceed.

12 June 2015 - **Dramatic fall in ambulance ramping at Royal Hobart Hospital** - Figures revealed in Budget Estimates today show that the Hodgman Liberal Government's measures to reduce ambulance ramping are working.

Victoria. Department of Health

Media Releases

19 June 2015 - **Grants to help multicultural seniors stay active** - Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Martin Foley, today announced the recipients of 46 grants to help culturally diverse seniors get involved and participate in the community. Ethnic and multicultural community groups and organisations,

as well as local councils, will share in \$225,500 from the fourth round of the Participation for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Seniors Grants Program. The program has funded more than 200 community projects across Victoria that help vulnerable seniors from CALD backgrounds at risk of social isolation connect to new or existing social networks and activities.

17 June 2015 - [Boost to family violence services and support in Mildura](#) - Vulnerable women and children living in Mildura will receive extra support and services from the Andrews Labor Government. Minister for Families and Children, Jenny Mikakos, visited Mildura today to meet with community leaders and the providers of family and children's services. While visiting the Mallee Sexual Assault Centre and Domestic Violence Service, Ms Mikakos announced the centre would receive an additional \$200,000 over two years to boost its counselling services and housing assistance for women and children who have experienced family violence.

17 June 2015 - [Take off for Ballarat's new emergency helipad](#) - Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Jill Hennessy, today officially opened the Ballarat Base Hospital's new rooftop helipad for critical air ambulance emergency transfers. The helipad, which will be operational from 7.00am on Monday 22 June, will help meet increasing demand for air ambulance transfers in Ballarat and across Western Victoria. The helipad was built on top of the new three storey car park at Ballarat Base Hospital, and provides patients facing critical medical emergencies with a fast and direct route to the hospital's emergency department.

16 June 2015 - [Hospitals alerted to antibiotic resistant bacteria](#) - Victorian health services have today been briefed about an emerging global antibiotic resistant bacteria requiring heightened infection control measures. Acting Chief Health Officer Dr Finn Romanes said Victorian hospitals should strictly enforce Australian guidelines on managing the antibiotic resistant bacteria known as *Carbapenem resistant Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE). Laboratory results indicate CRE is increasing in Victoria, predominantly driven by increased numbers of a particular type of CRE known as *Klebsiella pneumoniae carbapenemase-producing bacteria* (KPC). "All Victorian health services have been provided with information from the Department of Health & Human Services emphasising the need to ensure all current national standards are in place and being strictly followed," Dr Romanes said.

Circulars

17 June 2015 - [Publication Number 04/2015](#) - Subject: Public hospital services for prisoners.

16 June 2015 - [Publication Number 02/2015](#) - Subject: Interim Advice on CRE.

Victoria. Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine

16 June 2015 - The Clinical Communiqué releases its latest newsletter. The Communiqué is an educational resource for medical practitioners and health professionals with a focus on patient safety in acute health care settings. Written by clinicians for clinicians about lessons learned from deaths investigated by the Coroners Court. [Read more.](#)

Western Australia. Department of Health

Media Releases

17 June 2015 - [Minister for Health: Many boards, one direction for health reform](#) - New legislation that outlines a contemporary governance framework and clarifies roles, responsibilities and accountabilities at all levels of the health system is set to be introduced following recommendations of the WA Health Transition and Reconfiguration Steering Committee.

17 June 2015 - [Immunise your children now before they start school in 2016](#) - The Department of Health is reminding parents of children who are starting school next year to ensure their immunisations are up-to-date, with enrolments for kindergarten and pre-primary closing on Friday 24 July 2015.

16 June 2015 - [More pregnant women receiving whooping cough vaccine](#) - WA Health has reported a large increase in the number of pregnant women receiving the whooping cough vaccination following the tragic death of Riley Hughes.

15 June 2015 - [Survey seeking input on newborn screening framework](#) - Anybody with an interest in newborn bloodspot screening (NBS) is strongly encouraged to complete an online survey about this important screening measure.

15 June 2015 - [Research on sleep apnoea wins award](#) - People with obstructive sleep apnoea can rest a little easier thanks to the prize-winning work of a WA Health researcher who has taken out one of two Department of Health awards for medical research.

15 June 2015 - [New eye surgery simulator used to train Charlies' doctors](#) - Trainee eye registrars at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH) are benefitting from a new cataracts training tool – the first of its kind in Western Australia.

12 June 2015 - [Practical completion achieved at St John of God Midland Public Hospital](#) - The new St John of God Midland Public Hospital reached a significant milestone with Brookfield Multiplex completing construction and handing the key to the State Government.

Operational Directives (OD)

11 June 2015 - [OD 0608/15](#) - Ambulance Distribution Model - Revised model for the distribution of ambulances in metropolitan WA.

Canada. Department of Health

18 June 2015 - [Harper Government Implements Further Restrictions on Flavoured Cigars That Appeal to Youth](#) - Amendments will close the loophole that allowed the marketing of certain flavoured cigars.

15 June 2015 - [Minister Ambrose Recognizes Sarcoma Awareness Week](#) - On behalf of the Government of Canada, the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Federal Minister of Health, will deliver remarks in recognition of Sarcoma Awareness Week.

15 June 2015 - [Government of Canada continues investing to improve the health of Canadians](#) - Today, the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, announced \$14 million in federal funding for the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement to help strengthen the delivery of health services in Canada.

14 June 2015 - [Minister Ambrose will deliver a keynote address at the National Health Leadership Conference](#) - The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, will deliver a keynote address at the National Health Leadership Conference.

14 June 2015 - [Message from the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health - 2015 World Blood Donor Day](#) - As Minister of Health, it gives me great pleasure to join with countries across the globe in recognizing World Blood Donor Day on 14 June.

12 June 2015 - [Government of Canada announces proposed new nutrition labels and tools to promote healthier food choices](#) - Today, the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health, took a major step forward in giving Canadians the information they need to make healthy food choices for themselves and their families by unveiling several initiatives including proposed changes to nutritional labelling regulations.

New Zealand. Ministry of Health

12 June 2015 - [Kia Piki te Ora Suicide Prevention Programme Evaluation Final Report](#).

United Kingdom. Department of Health

18 June 2015 - [NHS Injury Costs Recovery scheme: April 2015 to March 2016](#) - Transparency data.

18 June 2015 - [NHS Injury Costs Recovery scheme: April 2014 to March 2015](#) - Transparency data.

18 June 2015 - [NHS estates strategies: a framework for commissioners](#) - Guidance.

17 June 2015 - [Attributing the costs of health and social care research](#) - Guidance.

16 June 2015 - [Understanding the needs of people with learning disabilities](#) - Speech.

16 June 2015 - [Local authority circulars](#) - Collection.

16 June 2015 - [Interest on deferred payment agreements: July to December 2015](#) - Guidance.

12 June 2015 - [DH and HEE framework agreement 2015](#) - Policy paper.

12 June 2015 - [GP and dental clinical educator pay scales](#) - Guidance.

United States of America. Department of Health & Human Services

12 June 2015 - [HHS pursues fast, easy test to detect Ebola virus infections](#). To assist doctors in diagnosing Ebola virus disease quickly, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response ([ASPR](#)) will pursue development of an Ebola virus diagnostic test for use in a doctor's office, hospital, clinic, or field setting that will provide results within 20 minutes.

Australian Medical Association

18 June 2015 - [Mental health experts given tight reform deadline](#) - A group of mental health experts has been given just four months to develop a detailed plan for the Federal Government to implement far-reaching changes to the nation's disjointed.

17 June 2015 - [Keep GP costs down to win fight against rich world's biggest killer, OECD says](#) - Decades of success in cutting deaths from heart attacks and strokes are at risk unless governments ensure patients have affordable access to primary health care.

16 June 2015 - [Curb the drinks to cut the violence](#) - Australian of the Year Rosie Batty has backed calls for a crackdown on sales of alcohol, including an end to 24-hour trading and a buyback of liquor licenses.

16 June 2015 - [AMA urges men to get up, stand up, and get moving to improve their health](#) - AMA Vice President, Dr Stephen Parnis, today urged Australian men to get serious about looking after their own health. Dr Parnis said that Men's Health Week is an ideal time for men of all ages to make simple but important lifestyle decisions to extend their lives and improve their quality of life. "Two-thirds of men over the age of 18 are either overweight or obese, and this is contributing to very poor physical and mental health outcomes," Dr Parnis said.

15 June 2015 - [Signs not good for flu season](#) - Parts of Australia are on track for their worst flu seasons in years, with infection rates in the north and south of the country already far ahead of last year.

15 June 2015 - [Flawed broadcast prompts thousands dump vital drug](#) - Almost 3000 people are at heightened risk of a fatal heart attack or stroke as the result of the broadcast of a controversial television program questioning the safety of prescribed cholesterol-lowering medications.

15 June 2015 - [AMA develops GP toolkit to help victims of family violence](#) - AMA President Associate Professor Brian Owler has urged caution in any attempt to make the reporting of family violence mandatory amid an anticipated surge in victims coming.

15 June 2015 - [Patients to be hit by pill price hike](#) - Changes to pharmacist dispensing fees negotiated by the Federal Government will force the cost of the nation's most commonly prescribed medicines up, leaving hundreds of thousands.

British Medical Association (BMA)

18 June 2015 - [Academics demand NHS pension scheme parity](#) - Action is needed to prevent an exodus of medical academics following changes to their pension scheme.

18 June 2015 - [Exposure to second-hand smoke reduced](#) - Progress has been made to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke. An in-depth analysis of smoking habit.

16 June 2015 - [FGM training sessions for doctors planned](#) - Training events to help doctors care for women and girls affected by FGM (female genital mutilation).

12 June 2015 - [NHS could save £5bn a year, says peer](#) - Annual NHS savings of up to £5bn could be achieved by 2019/20, an independent Government-commissioned report has stated.

12 June 2015 - **"Patchy provision" of mental healthcare revealed** - A wide variation in the care of people in crisis exists, a Care Quality Commission report has revealed today.

11 June 2015 - **BMA demands progress on alcohol misuse** - The BMA wants coordinated action on alcohol after leading health organisations criticised the European Commission for failing to develop a new EU alcohol strategy.

Canadian Medical Association

15 June 2015 - **President's Message: Help us guide the way on assisted dying.**

American Medical Association

18 June 2015 - **3 ways physicians are prepping for telemedicine's success** - More than one-half of the country now has laws in place enforcing coverage for telemedicine services, pointing to a growing trend in care delivery—but physicians still must navigate gray areas. Learn some of the things physicians are doing now to pave the way for telemedicine to succeed.

18 June 2015 - **How to equip new doctors for the digital health frontier** - As health technology booms, medical schools must prepare students for the associated complex cultural change and increasing physician demands. But new technology doesn't necessitate a departure from patient-centred care—technological innovations can advance this kind of care.

18 June 2015 - **Special accommodations in med school: Are they fair?** - Is a learning disability grounds for granting extra time to prepare for clerkships? If so, is it fair to the student, his classmates and his future patients? Submit your answer to this question by 30 September for a chance of publication and a \$5,000 award.

ABOUT US

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