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Please circulate this information to staff in your practice and display on the appropriate notice boards. Thank you.



Issue 8 | 22 December 2022

Southern GP Matters

Dear GP Practice Teams

This is our final newsletter for 2022, with this issue focusing on Outpatient services at SALHN, including electronic referrals. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe end to the year. We appreciate the brilliant work you all do for the Southern community and are looking forward to seeing what the new year holds. Thank you also to all the wonderful Practice Managers for distributing these newsletters to your GPs, nurses, and admin staff!

[Please don't hesitate to get in touch and let us know](#) how we can further support you.

Dr Mai and Emma

End of year closure dates

Please note the following closures over the Christmas and New Year period:

GP Integration Unit: closed from 23 December to 3 January inclusive

During this period, requests should be placed to:

- the treating team for clinical enquiries - please page the clinical team via FMC Switch, phone (08) 8204 5511
- the GP Liaison team in FMC Medical Records for clinical information requests, e.g. discharge summaries, clinic letters: Phone (08) 8204 6040, Fax (08) 8204 3964, Email: healthfmcmedicalrecordsgpliaison@sa.gov.au
- the relevant outpatient clinic for referral enquiries - please see the [SALHN Outpatient clinic list](#).

“Out Of Hospital” (OOH) Nurses: closed 25, 26 & 27 December inclusive

Outside of this period, GPs, GP nurses and GP staff are able to contact the SALHN “Out Of Hospital” Nurses (OOH) on 0467 798 312, 7 days a week, 8am-4pm for assistance in navigating the various Urgent and Acute care services available (hours may vary depending on staff availability). A list of alternative urgent care services can be found [here](#).

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Priority Care Centres

Please see more information [here](#), including [flowchart](#) for contact details and usual hours:

- Marion (Ph: 0466 698 616): closed from 24 December to 2 January inclusive (re-opening on 3 January).
- Mt Barker (Ph: 0428 719 656):
 - Closed from 24 December to 27 December inclusive
 - Open on Wednesday 28 December
 - Closed on Thursday 29 December
 - Open on Friday 30 December
 - Closed from 31 December to 2 January inclusive (re-opening on 3 January)

GP Respiratory Clinics

Adelaide PHN confirmed that the four [GP Respiratory Clinics](#) operating across the metropolitan region (Reynella, Adelaide Central (Parkside), North Eastern, and Athelstone) will be extending their operations until the end of February 2023.

GP Respiratory Clinic closure dates for December 2022:

- **Reynella Respiratory Clinic:** closed on Sunday 25, Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 December – bookings via this [link](#) or Ph: 0478 455 771
- **Adelaide Central Respiratory Clinic:** closed on Saturday 24 to Tuesday 27, and Saturday 31 December – bookings via this [link](#) or Ph: 0401 142 608
- **North East Respiratory Clinic:** closed on Sunday 25 December – bookings via this [link](#) or Ph: 08 7089 5799
- **Athelstone Respiratory Clinic:** closed from Wednesday 21 December – bookings via this [link](#) or Ph: 08 8166 2125

Current Initiatives

Discharge summaries quality improvement: GP survey update

The Discharge summary survey is now closed and the SALHN working group would like to thank and acknowledge the General Practitioner community for taking the time to complete the survey. Data analysis for the 145 GP responses received will begin soon. The findings from the survey will help us form recommendations that will be presented to senior staff at SALHN who oversee discharge summary content and distribution.

'Referral hotline' for GP Practice teams: Seeking interest from GP Practices to join extended pilot project

We are currently seeking additional GP practices to join the “Referral hotline” pilot project, previously mentioned in our Newsletters. During the initial phase of the pilot, a dedicated phone number has been made available at specified times for selected GP Practices to check whether a referral has been received, triaged, or appointed (please note: this is not a clinical advice service). Based on feedback provided by GP Practices, this will now be extended until early March 2023 and we are seeking additional GP Practices to join the project. Please [contact us](#) if you are interested or would like to learn more.

Expression of interest: GP to deliver session on “The role of GP in your care” for Pulmonary rehabilitation patients

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The Pulmonary Rehabilitation team is seeking interest from GP specialists to deliver an education session as part of their program. This is a monthly, one-hour, weekday afternoon session in Noarlunga GP Plus, starting in February 2023. It aims to give patients a better understanding of chronic respiratory care in General Practice. Existing presentation material is available, and the GP specialist would be compensated for their time. If you have an interest in respiratory health / chronic disease management and would like more information, please contact Laura Cooper, SALHN Respiratory GP Plus Out of Hospital Services and Senior Respiratory Physiotherapist (laura.cooper2@sa.gov.au).

SAHMRI: Omega-3 Project

More than 6,800 pregnant women have now opted in for the omega-3 test. SAHMRI's most recent data demonstrates approximately 15% have a low omega-3 status. Of all SAMSAS orders in the Southern Adelaide LHN catchment, around 30% are now including an omega-3 test. The research team continues to provide omega-3 test-and-treat workshops across the state to raise awareness. A new digital form will be available early 2023 to integrate into GP management software.

- To support the continuous improvement of this project, SAHMRI would appreciate your time in completing this short survey: [Omega-3 Referrals - General Practitioners](#).

If you would like more information or are interested in a practice update, get in touch omega3@sahmri.com. Please click [here](#) to download the SA Pathology SAMSAS form and [here](#) for more information about the project. This includes information for requesting providers.

Consultations open: Youth Mental health Services Model of Care, Palliative Care

Please see the [yourSAy](#) website for current public consultations and opportunities to provide your input:

- [Youth Mental Health Services for South Australia - Model of Care](#) (closes Friday, 13 January and includes information about forums to hear and provide further feedback about the Model of Care.)
- [SA Health Palliative Care Project](#).

Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Update

The *Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021* is due to commence on 31 January 2023. From this date, eligible South Australian's will have the option to access voluntary assisted dying as another choice at end of life.

Information about Voluntary Assisted Dying can be found on the SA Health website [here](#), including the latest [November — December 2022 communiqué](#) from Dr Chris Moy, Chair, Voluntary Assisted Dying Implementation Taskforce

VAD Training for Medical Practitioners

A reminder, Medical Practitioners who wish to participate in voluntary assisted dying as Coordinating or Consulting Medical Practitioners are required to undertake mandatory training.

The Mandatory Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Training for Medical Practitioners will ensure medical practitioners can appropriately assess whether a person meets the eligibility criteria to continue with the process and to identify potential abuse or coercion risk factors. The mandatory training has been developed by Flinders University and takes approximately 6 hours to complete. You can learn more or access the training via the [SA Health Participating in voluntary assisted dying as a medical practitioner](#) page.

VAD Implementation Conference

The SA VAD Implementation Conference was held on 16 November 2022. You can view this free conference online by visiting the [SA VAD Implementation Conference](#).

Outpatient update

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Updated outpatient resources

- Updated [SALHN Outpatient clinic list](#), including:
 - Orthopaedics Trauma fax number has been changed to Fax: 8204 4059
 - Geriatric Medicine fax number has been changed to Fax: 8404 2263 – Please note this change will appear shortly on the online document
- Updated SALHN Triage and Referral guidelines:
 - [Paediatric Speech Pathology triage guidelines](#)
 - [Feeding disorders \(paediatric\) referral and management guidelines](#)
- Statewide quarterly [Specialist Outpatient Waiting Time Report](#) (last report published -[June 2022](#))

Please refer to the [GPIU “Outpatient Specialist Clinics”](#) webpage for other useful Outpatient information, including referral guidelines and forms.

New - Women’s and Children’s Hospital “General Practice Hub” and COVIDKids Management flowchart for GPs

A [General Practice Hub](#) is now available for the Women’s and Children’s Hospital (WCH). This resource has been created to provide information for General Practitioners sharing patient care with the Women’s and Children’s Health Network. The online hub includes useful contact details, clinical advice and urgent care, and outpatient referral information. To provide feedback to the WCHN GP Liaison and Integration team or to be included in their mailing list, please email Health.WCHNGPLiaison@sa.gov.au.

The [WCH COVIDKids webpage](#) has information for GPs, including an updated management flowchart.

Ophthalmology update: GP/Optomtrist review following Ophthalmology clinical audit letters

SALHN is continuously reviewing Outpatient clinic waitlists to ensure that patients who have been on the waitlist for an extended period of time can be prioritised based on their current clinical needs, and to avoid scheduling appointments that are no longer required.

SALHN has now sent out clinical audit letters to all patients awaiting outpatient appointments in Ophthalmology for over 5 years. If you and your patient received a state-wide clinical audit letter, GPs are asked to please re-assess the patient’s condition and consider the most appropriate care options available and return an updated referral within 30 days if a specialist appointment is still needed.

SALHN would like to thank you once again for providing referral updates and would like to reassure you that updates received after the 30-day timeframe will not negatively impact the patient’s position on the waitlist. Your participation in this process is very much appreciated, especially considering the current pressures on General Practice. For ophthalmology review, an updated referral from the patient’s optometrist would also be accepted.

SA Health to implement state-wide e-Referrals to improve access to care

SA Health is leveraging the recent rollout of [Secure Message Delivery](#) to implement e-Referrals and [Clinical Prioritisation Criteria](#) (CPC – see below) across South Australia. The state-wide solution is aimed at improving access to quality healthcare for all South Australians by standardising how referrals are managed across the state. Adopting an integrated and coordinated approach will reduce patient wait times and clinical risks and connect patients to the healthcare pathway that will best meet their care needs.

e-Referrals will be introduced in multiple phases, with the first phase utilising the existing HealthLink Secure Messaging platform for sending and triaging external referrals into SA Health. Phase 1 is scheduled to start in early 2023, with the first Local Health Networks (LHN) including Southern Adelaide LHN, Central Adelaide

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LHN, Northern Adelaide LHN, Women's and Children's Health Network and Riverland Mallee Coorong LHN. The second phase will include the remaining healthcare sites and is expected to start in July 2023.

If you do not have Secure Messaging in your practice, please contact the SA Health Secure message Delivery team at health.securemessagedeliverysupport@sa.gov.au.

Clinical Prioritisation Criteria (CPC) Project

The South Australia (SA) Health Outpatient (OP) Redesign Workstream is continuing the development of [Clinical Prioritisation Criteria \(CPC\)](#) as part of a program of work to support statewide redesign of our specialist Outpatient services. CPC are clinical decision-making support tools that assist in ensuring patients referred to public specialist outpatient services in SA are seen in order of clinical urgency and accepted based on standardised statewide referral criteria.

- Phase One of CPC development is now complete for the following clinical adult specialist services, and are expected to be published online early next year (Cardiology, Ear Nose and Throat (ENT), Gastroenterology, Neurology, Orthopaedic, Vascular).
- Work continues to be underway for Phase Two of the project, developing CPC for the following clinical specialist services for both adults and paediatrics (Burns, Endocrinology, Genetics, Hepatology, Neurosurgery, Plastics, Reconstructive and Craniofacial).
- The following adult and paediatric specialties will commence in 2023: Urology, Ophthalmology, General Surgery.

For more information go to the [OP Redesign Project | Clinical Prioritisation Criteria](#) website or email health.cpc@sa.gov.au.



SALHN Outpatient redesign

SALHN Outpatient activity has grown significantly over the past two years. Currently over 47 000 patients access SALHN specialist services, an increase of over 12 000 patients (34%) from 2021. Activity is forecasted to further increase by over 18% from 2019 to 2036.

SALHN has committed to a Redesign of its Outpatient Services with a focus on transparency, accountability, equity, innovation, and access, in line with the SA Health – statewide commitment to the Outpatient Redesign Strategy which was launched in 2020. As a result of this work, progress has already been made across all LHN's, including SALHN, to reduce maximum waiting times for outpatient appointments, despite the challenges faced responding to COVID-19 demands.

The SALHN Outpatient Redesign Project has three stages. The first stage is prioritising access for patients with long wait times for an appointment. SALHN is progressing towards ensuring no patient is waiting more than five years to access a specialist outpatient appointment. The focus is on reducing the wait times by initiating ongoing data clean up processes, as well as facilitating those patients needing to be seen, via the annual clinical review process.

To date, the above targeted improvement work has seen a reduction of more than 58% in patients waiting for a specialist outpatient appointment, for over five years. Wait time reports can be found on [Specialist Outpatient Waiting Time Report | SA Health](#) (also linked on the GPIU "Outpatient" page)

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To ensure we achieve our longer-term goals, the Outpatient Redesign Project team are working across the three stages of the project, outlined below, concurrently. In recognition of the work that still needs to be done, the SALHN OP Redesign Project now includes a dedicated team.

Outpatient Redesign Project

Stage 1: Long Wait List

- Improving Outpatient efficiency and access
- Supporting referrals and standardising triage processes, to improve patient readiness at the outpatient appointment
- Increasing visibility of data to better inform decision making and streamline services.

Stage 2: Capacity Planning

- Exploring opportunities to develop Rapid Access Clinics
- Improving the delivery of care incorporating technology including virtual strategies and SMS-D for community and consumer communication.

Stage 3: Innovation

- Developing innovative models of care to support timely access for our patients to receive the right care at the right time
- Exploring opportunities to trial Virtual and telehealth models of care.

Innovative models of care are currently being explored and may be trialled in future, with the support of our clinical champion leads, to assist with improving the services we deliver to our consumers. These will also assist with facilitating waitlist reductions.

Neurosurgery is currently considering alternative models of care for non-urgent patients awaiting neurosurgery outpatient appointments. Currently, the median wait time for non-urgent patients requiring a neurosurgery appointment is two years, and we know that extended wait times can impact upon quality of life for these consumers.

Many non-urgent neurosurgery patients do not go on to require surgical intervention following their outpatient appointment and options are being considered (including assessment by a physiotherapist integrated into the neurosurgery clinic) to better support this cohort.

Do you want to get involved?

The Outpatient Redesign Team recognises the key role that General Practice plays in the Outpatient space and would love to receive your input on these priorities. Please contact the team with your feedback, further thoughts or to express your interest in participating in the ongoing reform process at the following email: Health.SALHNOutpatientRedesign@sa.gov.au.


Education activities / events

SAPMEA events

2023 Palliative Care ECHO

This 6-part Palliative Care ECHO program starts next February 2023.

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Palliative Care ECHO
Fortnightly on Wednesdays
6.30 - 7.45pm via Zoom

February 22: Complex symptoms in advanced malignant illness
March 8: Mental Health at EOL
March 22: Emergencies in Palliative Care
April 5: Symptom Management & establishing goals of care in end stage organ failure
May 3: Agitation, Delirium and Terminal Sedation
May 17: Complex Bereavement

Meet the expert panel:

- Dr Susan Haynes, Palliative Care Consultant
- Dr Sonia Schutz, General Practitioner
- Lisa MacDonald, Palliative Care nurse
- Paul Tait, Palliative Care pharmacist
- Plus, a host of guest panelists including Dr Peter Allcroft (Southern Adelaide Palliative Care Services), Dr Anas Safri, Dr Emma Manifold, Dr Olivia Rygorowicz (SAPS), Dr Teena Silakong & Dr Karin Myhill (SAPS).

2023 CPD category: Reviewing Performance - GPs and medical practitioners who attend at least 4 ECHO sessions will receive 5 CPD hours under the Reviewing Performance category. Register [here](#).

2023 Symposium: Dying well with Dementia

This symposium will bring together local leaders, specialists, advocates, and champions in the field to share and discuss best-practice strategies and initiatives for improving quality person-centred dementia care across multiple settings.

- Saturday, 11 February 2023, 8:30am–5:00pm
- Adelaide Pavilion, South Terrace
- No cost to attend
- Register [here](#)

AMPHeat events

Suturing Tissue Gluing and Wound Care in General Practice

Saturday 4th March 2023, 12.30pm–5.00pm, 313 Payneham Road, Royston Park (Light lunch provided)

A hands-on workshop designed to introduce GPs to the basics of suturing, tissue gluing and wound care. Highly relevant to health practitioners with limited exposure to minor surgical procedures and those wishing to consolidate experience. The workshop has the flexibility to introduce participants to more advanced suturing techniques dependent on their individual learning needs and skill acquisition at the workshop.

[More info or register](#).

ALS and BLS sessions

Multiple sessions, Venue@313, Royston Park – Link [here](#)

SALHN Grand Rounds

Please contact the GPIU for access to the video links.

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Please watch the live stream using your Chrome browser.

6 October: **'A tribute to Professor Lindon Wing'**, Presented by: a variety of speakers

13 and 20 October: **'Basic Physician Trainee Clinical Audits'**

- 'Cognitive Screens in GEM across SALHN'
- 'It runs in the family'
- 'A Rare Case of Crystal Nephrolithiasis'

27 October: **'Clinical Application of Machine Learning in South Australia'**, Presented by: Dr Stephen Bacchi

3 November: **'Voluntary Assisted Dying discussion'**, Presented by: Emily Pumpa, Interim Nursing Director, SA Voluntary Assisted Dying Care Navigator Service

10 November: **'Atrial Fibrillation Management and Catheter Ablation Experience at Flinders'**, Presented by: Dr Cameron Singleton, Consultant Cardiologist, Electrophysiology Stream, SALHN

17 November: **'Scratching the surface of Dermatology consults quiz'**, Presented by: The Dermatology Service, SALHN

24 November: **'The lung nodule – past, present and future, and a Flinders solution to an old problem'**, Presented by: Dr Anand Rose Network Head, Respiratory & Sleep Services, SALHN, Dr Simon Proctor, Respiratory & Sleep Fellow, and Emilia Francois-Clarke, Respiratory Nurse Consultant, Respiratory & Sleep Services, SALHN

Contact us

Please contact us at Health.GPIntegrationUnit@sa.gov.au to be added/removed to our mailing list or with any other enquiries. We welcome your feedback.

Was this information useful? Vote using the buttons below.



*We acknowledge the Kaurna people are the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Plains and pay respects to Elders past, present and future.
We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land.
We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kaurna people living today.*

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SALHN GP Integration Unit

10 Milham Street

Oaklands Park 5046

Phone: 0401 152 366

Email: Health.GPIntegrationUnit@sa.gov.au

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNGP



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