



27 FEBRUARY 2015

Judgments.....	2
New South Wales	2
Queensland.....	2
Victoria.....	3
Legislation.....	3
Commonwealth	3
Australian Capital Territory.....	4
Victoria.....	4
Reports	4
Australia. Department of Health	4
Australia. Department of Social Services.....	4
Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards.....	4
Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council.....	5
Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration	5
Australian Institute of Health & Welfare	5
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care	6
Australian Capital Territory. Health Directorate	6
New South Wales. Ministry of Health.....	6
Northern Territory. Department of Health	7
Queensland. Department of Health	7
South Australia. Department for Health & Ageing.....	7
Victoria. Department of Health	8
Western Australia. Department of Health.....	8
United Kingdom. Department of Health.....	9
United States of America. Department of Health & Human Services	9
Australian Medical Association.....	9
British Medical Association	10
American Medical Association.....	10

JUDGMENTS

New South Wales (NSW)

24 February 2015 - *George v Biggs* - [2015] NSWDC 11

The New South Wales District Court held that a surgeon and hospital were negligent in failing to properly inform a non-English speaking patient of the risks of surgery in terms she understood.

Sandra George underwent surgery at St Vincent's Sydney to remove a benign tumour at the base of her skull. During the operation Mrs George's facial nerve was inadvertently severed, causing paralysis of the right side of her face. Mrs George alleged that the defendants were negligent in failing to warn her of a risk of injury to her facial nerve.

The Court found that Mrs George had consented to the surgery on the mistaken belief that she had a cancerous tumour in her brain which required surgical removal. The Court accepted that Mrs George would not have consented to the procedure had she known the tumour was benign and understood the associated risks of surgery.

Although Mrs George had requested the services of a trained interpreter, she was initially informed of her diagnosis and options through the assistance of a friend who had accompanied her to the appointment and who also had a limited understanding of English.

The Court acknowledged that language difficulties have real potential to cause fundamental misunderstandings in the course of doctor/patient communication.

It found there was no reliable evidence that Mrs George had understood what had been explained to her at a number of pre-operative consultations in relation to obtaining her informed consent to the surgery.

The Court awarded Mrs George \$330,999.85 in damages.

25 February 2015 - *R v Abdallah (No 3)* - [2015] NSWSC 121

Criminal Law - application by media for access to CCTV footage and audio recording of Triple-O call played in open court during trial by jury of accused indicted for murder – interests of open justice – administration of justice – evidence classified as 'sensitive' – interests of family of the deceased – fair reporting

23 February 2015 - *Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) v XC* - [2015] NSWCATOD 9

Health practitioner regulation - where HCCC assert practitioner is guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct by reason of breach of conditions imposed on her registration and misleading authorities including the Medical Council of NSW. Where it is asserted the practitioner suffers an impairment. Where the practitioner concedes all particulars in the Complaint and has surrendered her registration at the date of the hearing

25 February 2015 - *Health Care Complaints Commission v Dawes* - [2015] NSWCATOD 8

Health practitioner regulation - psychologist - boundary violations - vulnerable client - sexual contact with a client - email correspondence with inappropriate and graphic content - sending pornographic material to client - requesting pornographic material be manufactured by client and transmitted - involvement with illegal sexual acts - failure to keep accurate records - failure to keep records of an appropriate quality - failure to appropriately terminate therapeutic relationship - failure to make referral – failure to seek advice of a senior colleague - unsatisfactory professional conduct - professional misconduct - breach of Code of Ethics – impairment of complex/multiple paraphilia - not competent to practise psychology – disqualification for 10 years – permanent prohibition order re provision of health services.

Queensland (QLD)

3 February 2015 - *Webb v Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service & Anor* - [2015] QCAT 31 - (published 20-Feb-15).

The Queensland Civil and Administrative and Tribunal has dismissed a complaint of discrimination made against Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service and its chief executive by one of its employees.

Beverley Webb, who worked as a pharmacist at Caloundra Hospital, alleged that her employer directly and indirectly discriminated against her on the basis of a presumed mental illness, in contravention of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* (Qld). Mrs Webb alleged that the Health Service had discriminated against her by requiring her to attend an independent medical examination and suspending her employment.

Mrs Webb was directed to attend an independent examination after she provided a medical certificate stating that she should be excused from a rotation program, as proposed changes in her place of work would lead to a relapse of her anxiety and depression.

The Health Service argued they required additional medical information in order to comply with their duty to provide a safe workplace. Mrs Webb was suspended following her refusal to attend the examination.

The Tribunal found that the Health Service had not breached the *Anti-Discrimination Act*, as the evidence demonstrated that Mrs Webb had been suspended from her employment due to concerns for her health and safety and for the safety of other employees, and not because of a presumed mental illness.

The Tribunal noted that the dispute may have been more properly suited to be heard by the Industrial Relations Commission, and noted that Mrs Webb may wish to consider further options outside of the Tribunal's jurisdiction.

20 February 2015 - [Pharmacy Board of Australia v Coghill - \[2015\] QCAT 27](#)

Health care professionals - pharmaceutical chemists - disciplinary proceedings - where the respondent was convicted of an offence under the *Worker's Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003* (Qld) ('WCRA') - whether the WCRA is an Act relating to the practice of the professional of a pharmacist.

20 February 2015 - [Dental Board of Australia v O'Brien - \[2014\] QCAT 690 - 4 November 2015](#)

Health care professionals – dentists – disciplinary proceedings – where the respondent admitted to behaving in a way that constitutes unsatisfactory professional conduct – where the respondent made an undertaking to permanently retire from practice – whether it is appropriate to order the respondent is to refrain from reapplying for registration in Australia – where the applicant seeks an indication from the Tribunal as to the disciplinary action that would have been taken had the respondent been registered at the hearing of the disciplinary proceedings – whether such an indication is appropriate.

20 February 2015 - [Chiropractic Board of Australia v Brubkaer - \[2015\] QCAT 30 - 19 January 2015](#)

Health care professionals – medical practitioners – disciplinary proceedings – professional misconduct and unprofessional conduct – where the respondent admitted to providing false or misleading information to an investigator and failing to maintain appropriate health records – where the parties jointly proposed a sanction – whether the proposed sanction was appropriate.

Victoria

20 February 2015 - [Inquest into the death of Phillip George Black](#)

Inquest - death from combined methadone, diazepam and clonazepam toxicity - death caused or contributed to by suboptimal clinical management - recommendations made to the Royal Australasian College of General Practitioners, the Drugs and Poisons Regulation and the Australian Health practitioner Regulation Authority.

LEGISLATION

Commonwealth

27 February 2015 - [Seafarers rehabilitation and compensation and other legislation Amendment Bill 2015](#).

27 February 2015 - [Amendment determination under section 84AH of the National Health Act 1953 \(2015\) \(No. 1\) \(PB 16 of 2015\)](#).

27 February 2015 - [National Health \(listed drugs on F1 or F2\) Amendment Determination 2015 \(No. 2\) \(PB 15 of 2015\)](#).

27 February 2015 - [Health Insurance \(MRI Crohn's disease\) Amendment Determination 2015](#).

25 February 2015 - [National Health \(Pharmaceutical Benefits – Early Supply\) Amendment Instrument 2015 \(No. 2\) – specification under subsection 84AAA\(2\) \(PB 17 of 2015\)](#).

25 February 2015 - [National Health Determination under paragraph 98C\(1\)\(b\) Amendment 2015 \(No. 2\) \(PB 12 of 2015\)](#).

25 February 2015 - [National Health \(Price and Special Patient Contribution\) Amendment Determination 2015 \(No. 1\) \(PB 11 of 2015\)](#).

25 February 2015 - [National Health \(Prescriber bag supplies\) Amendment Determination 2015 \(No. 2\) \(PB 14 of 2015\)](#).

24 February 2015 - [Food Standards \(Application A1092 – Irradiation of Specific Fruits & Vegetables\) Variation](#).

24 February 2015 - [Food Standards \(Application A1096 – Xylanase from Bacillus licheniformis as a Processing Aid \(Enzyme\)\) Variation](#).

24 February 2015 - [Food Standards \(Proposal P1022 – Primary Production and Processing Requirements for Raw Milk Products\) Variation](#).

Australian Capital Territory

20 February 2015 - [Dangerous Substances \(Loose-fill Asbestos Eradication\) Legislation Amendment Bill 2015](#) - Presented 19 February 2015.

Victoria

27 February 2015 - [Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment \(Hairdressing Registration\) Bill 2015](#) - Read a second time - 25 February 2015.

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health

Media releases

27 February 2015 - [Media Update - Hepatitis A linked to Frozen Berries](#) - This page provides a Media Update - Hepatitis A in Frozen Berries as at 27 February 2015 - 11am.

26 February 2015 - [Hepatitis A linked to frozen berries](#) - Media statement from the Chief Medical Officer regarding Hepatitis A linked to frozen berries.

26 February 2015 - [Statement on country of origin labelling](#) - Statement from Assistant Minister for Health Fiona Nash on country of origin labelling.

24 February 2015 - [Media Update - Hepatitis A linked to Frozen Berries](#) - This page provides a Media Update - Hepatitis A in Frozen Berries as at 25 February 2015 - 11am.

24 February 2015 - [Update on Situation around Imported Berries And Hepatitis A](#) - Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, and Assistant Minister for Health, Fiona Nash, have moved to update Australians on the situation involving imported frozen berries and Hepatitis A.

Australia. Department of Social Services

25 February 2015 - [Released: A blueprint for welfare reform](#) - Minister for Social Services, the Hon. Scott Morrison today released the Final Report of the Reference Group on Welfare Reform, A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes.

Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards

26 February 2015 - [Psychiatrist reprimanded for unsatisfactory professional performance](#) - The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal has reprimanded Dr Zoran Radovic for unsatisfactory professional performance as a psychiatrist. In November 2013, the Medical Board of Australia convened a Performance and Professional Standards Panel hearing about Dr Radovic's care of a patient at the

Sunshine Coast Private Hospital in 2011. The panel alleged that Dr Radovic had failed to diagnose the patient with a psychotic-spectrum disorder, and as a result did not commence anti-psychotic medication

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

25 February 2015 - **CEO statement on water fluoridation** - In response to recent media, the CEO Professor Warwick Anderson reaffirms that NHMRC's position on water fluoridation is: 'Fluoridation of drinking water remains the most effective and socially equitable means of achieving community-wide exposure to the caries prevention effects of fluoride. It is recommended that water be fluoridated in the target range of 0.6 to 1.1 mg/L, depending on climate, to balance reduction of dental caries and occurrence of dental fluorosis.'

24 February 2015 - **Have your say – RGMS performance and early triage** - RGMS usability RGMS statistics showed that last year, applicants spent 40% less time on average in RGMS compared to 2013. This follows NHMRC's streamlining efforts which led to the removal of a lot of fields from Project Grant application forms. We hope that the reduction in administrative side of applications has helped but of course, this is just one part of applying to NHMRC and most time is spent developing and honing the Research Proposal.

NHMRC Research Tracker - 20 February 2015

NHMRC Health Tracker - February 2015

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

27 February 2015 - **Searching the TGA website** - An overview of how to search the TGA website - focusing on the ARTG and other specialised databases, and where to search for specific information.

27 February 2015 - **Genesis II Knee System - non-porous tibial baseplate (used in knee replacements)** - Hazard alert - potential for implant failure due to poor fixation.

26 February 2015 - **ACSMD meeting statement, Meeting 8, 20 November 2014** - Advisory Committee on the Safety of Medical Devices meeting statement.

26 February 2015 - **Consultation forecast** - The consultation forecast provides an indication of the major consultations scheduled by the TGA for release during the next 6 months.

26 February 2015 - **Maxman Cialis tablets (Plastic bottle inside cardboard carton)** - Safety advisory.

25 February 2015 - **Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines (AusPARs)** - Added Bendamustine hydrochloride (Ribomustin), Febuxostat (FBX) (Adenuric) and Tocilizumab (rch) (Actemra).

25 February 2015 - **Zovirax Ophthalmic ointment** - Update - alternative product now available.

24 February 2015 - **PUFFIT™ and PUFFIT-X™ smoking devices** - Safety advisory.

23 February 2015 - **Documents released under Section 11C of the Freedom of Information Act 1982** - Added FOI 186-1314 and FOI 066-1415 documents.

23 February 2015 - **Advisory committees on medicines & chemicals scheduling (ACMS & ACCS)** - An appointment process for the ACCS and ACMS chair and appointed members is currently underway.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare

26 February 2015 - **Hearing loss and ear conditions common among Indigenous children—but some improvements seen** - Hearing loss and ear conditions are very common among Indigenous children and young people, but outreach services have yielded some positive outcomes, according to a report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The report, Hearing health outreach services to Indigenous children and young people in the Northern Territory: 2012-13 and 2013-14 looks at ear and hearing outreach services delivered between July 2012 and June 2014 under the Australian Government's National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory and the Healthy Ears-Better Hearing, Better Listening Programs. The services are targeted towards children with high need so the report's findings are not representative of the total NT Indigenous population under 21.

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

23 February 2015 - On the Radar – Issue 211 ([PDF 108KB](#)) [Word \(130KB\)](#).

Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Health Directorate

24 February 2015 - [Training accreditation at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children](#) - The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) has extended the training accreditation for the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children for a further six months until October. The decision was made in recognition of ACT Health making staffing improvements at the hospital, including the recruitment of a new Clinical Director who will start in April. Last year, RANZCOG assessors identified a number of issues that impacted on ACT Health receiving continuing accreditation to train registrars in obstetrics and gynaecology. As a result some recommendations for improvement in training were made. Since then ACT Health has been working hard to address these matters, in consultation with the RANZCOG.

New South Wales. Ministry of Health

Media Releases

24 February 2015 - [Baird Government to boost paediatric medical research capabilities](#) - A re-elected Baird Government will invest \$25 million to expand and improve paediatric research facilities in NSW to unlock cures and treatments of the future. Health Minister Jillian Skinner today announced the funding, saying a centrepiece of the investment will be the establishment of Australia's first large-scale clinical trials centre exclusively for paediatric research. 'This is a ground-breaking investment and one which has life-saving potential for children and babies right across Australia,' Mrs Skinner said. 'The \$6 million clinical trials centre will be built at the Kids Research Institute (KRI) as part of the Sydney Children's Hospital Network.'

24 February 2015 - [Minister welcomes 1800 graduate nurses and midwives to NSW Health system](#) - Health Minister Jillian Skinner today welcomed more than 1,800 graduate nurses and midwives who are launching their careers at 139 hospitals and health services across NSW. Mrs Skinner visited Liverpool Hospital to meet the cohort of 41 nurses and midwives who will start their careers at that facility. She was joined by Member for Menai and Liberal candidate for Holsworthy Melanie Gibbons and Liberal candidate for Cabramatta Maria Diep.

23 February 2015 - [States first permanent rapid HIV testing site opens in Darlinghurst](#) - Health Minister Jillian Skinner was today joined by Coogee MP Bruce Notley-Smith and Liberal candidate for Sydney Patrice Pandeleos to officially open the state's first permanent rapid HIV testing site in Darlinghurst. The NSW Government has committed \$460,000 over two years to establish the a[TEST] shopfront at 167 Oxford Street. It will be operated by ACON in partnership with South East Sydney Local Health District, the HIV Reference Laboratory of St Vincent's Hospital and the NSW Ministry of Health. Testing will begin today. 'This new testing shopfront is the first permanent community-based HIV testing service of its kind in NSW,' Mrs Skinner said.

20 February 2015 - [NSW takes the lead in genomic medicine](#) - Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research Jillian Skinner has announced four teams of researchers will share \$2.72 million to explore better treatments for cancer, mitochondrial disease, inherited heart disease in babies and schizophrenia. The four recipients of the *2014/15 NSW Genomics Collaborative Grants* funding were selected from 66 applicants and announced at The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Policy Directives & Guidelines

26 February 2015 - [Immunisation Services - Authority for Registered Nurses and Midwives](#).

25 February 2015 - [Training, Education and Study Leave \(TESL\) for Staff Specialists](#).

24 February 2015 - [Staff Specialists Rights of Private Practice Disbursement of Funds No 2 Accounts](#).

24 February 2015 - [Water - Requirements for the Provision of Cold and Heated Water](#).

Information Bulletins

20 February 2015 - **Notification of Obsolete Policy Directive.**

Northern Territory (NT). Department of Health

24 February 2015 - **Mental health to be firmly on the agenda** - Minister for Mental Health Services John Elferink has outlined the Country Liberals Government's plan to place mental health firmly on the agenda.

23 February 2015 - **Kunjin virus warning for the Top End** - Residents of the Top End are being reminded to protect themselves from mosquito bites following signs of Kunjin virus activity in the region.

23 February 2015 - **Water boil alerts for Galiwinku, Gapuwiyak, Bulman and Weemol cancelled** - Precautionary water boil alerts for all previously affected communities following Cyclone Lam have been cancelled.

22 February 2015 - **Precautionary Drinking Water advice cancelled for Ramingining, Milingimbi and Waruwi** - This is the second advice notice issued by the Department of Health for the communities of Ramingining, Milingimbi and Waruwi in relation to drinking water.

20 February 2015 - **Water Boil Alert Waruwi, Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak, Ramingining, Milingimbi, Bulman and Weemol** - A precautionary advice for drinking water (water boil alert) is current for the communities of Waruwi, Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak, Ramingining and Milingimbi due to Tropical Cyclone Lam.

20 February 2015 - **Trauma Centre prepares medical teams for infectious disease outbreak** - More than 65 medical personnel from around Australia and overseas this week have been put through their paces in preparation for an infectious disease outbreak such as Ebola.

Queensland. Department of Health

27 February 2015 - **New bariatric stretcher for Wide Bay Health** - Patients weighing up to 300 kilograms can now be transported in the Bundaberg area thanks to a new agreement between the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service (WBHHS) and the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS). The agreement, which is the first of its kind in Queensland, will see a bariatric stretcher installed in the Wide Bay Health Patient Transport Service, enabling patients to be transported to hospital and between medical facilities.

25 February 2015 - **Storms and floods can lead to sewage contamination** - Sewage contamination is a health risk and should be cleaned up as soon as possible. Storm and flood water can contain raw sewage from overflow or damage to sewerage infrastructure. It can also cause sewage to back up into your yard or house. Queensland Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young said sewage contains harmful bacteria, viruses, and parasites and any contamination around the home should be cleaned up as soon as possible.

25 February 2015 - **Prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases during cyclone clean-up** - Queensland Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young has warned people in cyclone affected areas to take appropriate measures to protect themselves against mosquito-borne diseases. 'Receding flood waters and pooling water can provide the perfect conditions for mosquito breeding, increasing the potential for outbreaks of mosquito-borne diseases such as Ross River Virus,' Dr Young said. 'Already this year we are seeing a large number of Ross River Virus cases being reported—1014 cases compared to an average of only 193 for the same period over the past five years.'

24 February 2015 - **Medication advice following Tropical Cyclone Marcia** - Pharmacists in areas affected by Tropical Cyclone Marcia now have emergency arrangements in place for supplying patients with essential medicines. Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young said the arrangements would ensure patients had ready access until at least 20 March 2015 to medications approved under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). 'Under the three day emergency rule, a patient can receive a three day supply of medication without a prescription,' Dr Young said. 'If patients have lost medication due to the effects of TC Marcia, pharmacists can provide them with a subsequent supply.'

South Australia (SA). Department for Health & Ageing

27 February 2015 - **Head office review results in staff cuts.**

27 February 2015 - **Hepatitis A case linked to frozen berries in SA.**

Victoria. Department of Health

26 February 2015 - **Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) patients test results negative for ebola virus disease** - Test results on two children admitted earlier today to the Royal Children's Hospital are negative for ebola virus disease. Victoria's Deputy Chief Health Officer, Professor Michael Ackland, said the girls aged 4 and 8 are being treated for a respiratory illness and are now doing well. Prof Ackland said the siblings returned to Melbourne overnight with their parents and another sibling following an extended visit to Guinea. These family members remain well. 'Routine screening of returning travelers from ebola-affected countries in west Africa identified that the girls had elevated temperatures. As a precaution in accordance with universal infection control procedures, they were transported to the Royal Children's Hospital to be assessed for a range of infections - including ebola virus disease,' Prof Ackland said.

26 February 2015 - **Welfare changes must not hurt vulnerable Victorians** - The Andrews Labor Government has put the Abbott Government on notice that welfare changes proposed by the McClure Report must not disadvantage vulnerable Victorians. The Labor Government will examine the Review's recommendations and assess its likely effects on welfare recipients and their families in Victoria.

25 February 2015 - **Liberals said no to life saving emergency treatment** - The previous Liberal Government ignored a lifesaving emergency response trial, a secret report has revealed. A trial combining CFA and Ambulance Victoria units as first responders for time-critical heart attack patients revealed faster treatment and better survival rates.

25 February 2015 - **Betrayal of trust recommendations strengthen protection in schools** - The Andrews Labor Government has delivered on a key election commitment by strengthening protections against child abuse in schools, in line with the remaining Betrayal of Trust recommendations. New amendments to the Education and Training Reform Act, introduced into Parliament this week, will require all Victorian schools as a condition of registration – including non-government schools – to implement policies that better manage the risk of child abuse and respond to abuse allegations.

23 February 2015 - **Same-sex adoption a step closer with review of laws** - Same-sex adoption in Victoria is a step closer, with Minister for Equality, Martin Foley today announcing the terms of reference and the timeframe for a review of laws to establish what changes are needed. The Andrews Labor Government will honour its election commitment and remove discrimination against same-sex couples and their children in relation both to known-parent adoption and adoption generally. The Government has commissioned a review, to be conducted by Eamonn Moran PSM QC, to consider the legal changes required to permit adoption of children by same-sex couples under Victorian law. The review is to report to the Minister by 8 May 2015. The review will examine how best to legislate for adoption equality, not whether or not the change should happen. Any legal changes will be based on the over-arching principle of the best interests of the child.

23 February 2015 - **Family violence royal commission formally established** - The Premier Daniel Andrews was joined today by the Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Fiona Richardson, to present the letters patent to formally establish Australia's first Royal Commission into Family Violence to the Governor of Victoria.

Western Australia (WA). Department of Health

Media Releases

26 February 2015 - **Meningococcal infection in a student** - The Department of Health today reported that a university student had been hospitalised with meningococcal disease this week. The student is making a good recovery.

26 February 2015 - **Study reveals heart disease as biggest killer in Aboriginal communities** - The most comprehensive study of heart healthcare in Aboriginal communities has labelled heart disease as the single biggest killer of Aboriginal people.

25 February 2015 - **Don't let your Year 8 student miss free vaccinations** - Parents of Year 8 students are being reminded by WA Health to sign and return their vaccination consent form to ensure that their child does not miss out on the free program.

24 February 2015 - [WA researchers make stroke breakthrough](#) - A team of WA based researchers has made a series of discoveries which may help to minimise the damage caused by a stroke.

24 February 2015 - [WA Health funding supports clinical trials initiative](#) - WA Health has provided vital seed funding to help establish the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA), a peak national body aimed at supporting clinical trials.

20 February 2015 - [Summit to improve Aboriginal sexual health](#) - Government and non-government agencies from across the State will come together today with the aim of further driving down the rates of sexually transmitted disease in Aboriginal Western Australians.

Operational Directives (OD)

26 February 2015 - [OD 0591/15](#) - Mental health consumer medication information - An operational directive outlining the requirement for clinicians to provide mental health patients with timely verbal and written information for every new medication commenced by the patient. The OD also covers the written consumer medication information (CMI) sheets that are recommended by the Chief Psychiatrist and Office of Mental Health.

United Kingdom. Department of Health

25 February 2015 - [National Health Service \(NHS\) Energy Efficiency Fund report.](#)

24 February 2015 - [Honours nominations wanted for health and care.](#)

24 February 2015 - [Government names and shames largest ever number of National Minimum Wage offenders.](#)

23 February 2015 - [DH FOI releases: 2014.](#)

21 February 2015 - [Prime Minister's challenge on dementia 2020.](#)

21 February 2015 - [PM launches next phase of Britain's fight against dementia.](#)

20 February 2015 - [Another healthcare worker with potential exposure to Ebola brought to UK for precautionary monitoring.](#)

United States of America. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

24 February 2015 - [Since 2010, 9.4 million people with Medicare have saved over \\$15 billion on prescription drugs](#)

20 February 2015 - [HHS invests in enhancing domestic preparedness efforts for Ebola.](#)

19 February 2015 - [HHS awards \\$386 million to support families through the home visiting program.](#)

19 February 2015 - [2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee submits report.](#)

Australian Medical Association (AuMA)

24 February 2015 - [Trainee doctors face uncertain future](#) - There is significant uncertainty among specialist medical trainees about their job prospects as new Fellows face increasingly fierce competition for a limited number of employment opportunities.

23 February 2015 - [Specialist trainees 'highly satisfied' with work and training experience](#) - The AuMA has released the *2014 AuMA Specialist Trainee Survey* – a national snapshot of medical training that provides valuable feedback to medical colleges on how Australia's future doctors value their medical training experience. AuMA President, A/Prof Brian Owler, said today that the survey has recorded a high level of satisfaction among Australia's 16,800 specialist trainees with both their work and training experiences.

19 February 2015 - [Release children from detention, reinstate health watchdog: AuMA](#) - AuMA President Associate Professor Brian Owler has called for children to be released from immigration detention centres and the appointment of an independent panel of medical experts.

18 February 2015 - [Government holds medical research fund hostage to co-payment](#) - The Federal Government has been accused of holding the centrepiece of its health budget, the Medical Research Future Fund, hostage to the introduction of a \$5 Medicare co-payment.

British Medical Association (BMA)

25 February 2015 - [Local councils set to control £6bn NHS budget](#) - 'Sweeping changes' will see local authorities take control of funding for NHS services in Manchester.

25 February 2015 - [NHS 111 need for doctors' help admitted](#) - NHS 111 call centres need expert clinical support, NHS England has conceded.

24 February 2015 - [Medical school plans to shed 15 academic posts](#) - A voluntary severance scheme has been launched at Dundee University's school of medicine.

20 February 2015 - [Weekly reports risk obscuring emergency care problems](#) - Changes to the reporting of emergency medicine waiting times in Scotland risk obscuring system-wide failures.

20 February 2015 - [GP practice funding on 'cliff edge'](#) - Some GP practices are facing a 'financial cliff edge' because of inadequate information about funding.

20 February 2015 - [Northern Ireland moves closer to minimum alcohol pricing](#) - A public consultation on a minimum price per unit of alcohol has moved a step closer in Northern Ireland.

American Medical Association (AMA)

26 February 2015 - [How physicians are taking the lead in health technology](#) - With the opening of health technology incubator MATTER, more physicians have the opportunity to take their innovations out of the idea phase and into reality. Chicago-based MATTER opened last week and includes a flexible space for physicians to test new models for health care delivery.

25 February 2015 - [Get insights from a blood pressure champion](#) - Are you looking for new ways to control your patients' hypertension? Get expert advice from your fellow physicians who have championed blood pressure control as part of the Million Hearts ® 2014 Hypertension Control Challenge.

24 February 2015 - [Physician sustainable growth rate \(SGR\) advocate among seven Dr. Nathan Davis Award winners](#) - A congressman and physician who has worked to permanently repeal and replace the flawed Medicare SGR formula by introducing a bill to repeal it was one of seven recipients of the AMA's top government service honor in health care.

ABOUT US

Mark Williams



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Mark's focus is on public liability and professional indemnity insurance and associated litigation. He has particular experience with medical negligence claims and the complex insurance and indemnity arrangements prevalent in the resources, mining, building and construction industries.

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