



Fortnightly eNews AMATasmania

OCTOBER 16

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Follow-up on Tests and Results

Recent implications in concerns raised during the AMA Tasmania Southern Division monthly meetings by **GP After Hours** providers that the patient's usual GP bears the responsibility for the follow-up and communication of investigation results to the patient is erroneous.

Fundamentally, whoever orders the investigation bears the prime responsibility for the follow-up to the results of that investigation and the transmission of the results and significance of same to the patient.

While clearly, it makes sense to request that the patient should also seek the results, it will not be a sufficient defence should they fail to do so or to attend a follow-up appointment.

Obviously, any doctor subsequently treating the patient and who is aware of investigations having been performed, should also discuss those results and explain the significance and any subsequent management that might be required.

All of this, of course, raises the issue of notification/follow up' systems both within and external to a medical practice/hospital. While the advent of electronic notifications from pathology/radiology providers direct to practices, is certainly an

improvement on the old paper-based system, it also brings with it certain risks of significant results being filed on a patient's records without being given due attention. A documented 'follow-up system' is required with a strong focus on risk management.

RACGP Standards recommend that a 'follow up system' ensures that:

- All received test results and clinical correspondence (e.g. reports from other health care providers) relating to a patient's clinical care are reviewed
- Clinically significant tests and results are followed up with the patient
- Patients are made aware of the seriousness of not attending a follow-up
- Patients are made aware of who is responsible for communicating with whom about results and when this is to occur. The same principles, of course, apply to specialist practice as well.

Should members have any queries related to these issues, they are advised to contact their MDO for advice.

Dr Rob Walters

Clinico-legal Advisor

Medical Indemnity Protection Society (MIPS)

Southern Division Meeting

The next meeting of the Southern Division of AMA Tasmania sponsored by Novartis Pharmaceuticals is scheduled for, 6.00pm next Tuesday 11th October 2016.

PLEASE NOTE - CHANGE OF VENUE - Menzies Institute, MS1, Level Two, Room 205 entry via Liverpool Street Hobart.

AMA Tasmania Southern Division is delighted to welcome two special guests to the October meeting –

- **Dr Sukhwinder S. Sohal Lecturer in Histopathology**, Head Respiratory Immunopathology Lab, Director Tasmanian Respiratory Tissue Bank, School of Health Sciences, University of Tasmania, Research Associate & Co-ordinator of Pathology, School of Medicine University of Tasmania, Deputy Convener of COPD, TSANZ, Visiting Fellow, Charles Darwin University. For 12 years Dr Sukhwinder Sohal, better known as Romy, has investigated a process called Epithelial-

Mesenchymal Transition in the airways of people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The process sees the airway lining or epithelium reprogrammed by smoking to do lethal damage, including scarring and narrowing of the airways, as well as promoting malignant change.

• **Dr David Alcorn CEO of the Tasmanian Health Service**, before joining THS Dr Alcorn held the position of Executive Director of the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and before that led Queensland's largest university teaching hospital — the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. As a board member of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, he has participated in the commissioning of college publications including The Costs to Patients of Accessing Care, and he also led the Postgraduate Medical Council of Queensland, overseeing junior doctor placement post accreditation program.

We are very much looking forward to hearing from both Dr Alcorn and Dr Sohal as well as from our sponsor Novartis Pharmaceuticals.

All Members and non-members are welcome. If you know of someone who would like to attend, invite them to participate. Light refreshments are provided.

Assessing Fitness to Drive 2016 – Updated Information Kit

The Assessing Fitness to Drive for Commercial and Private Vehicle Drivers Guidelines, a joint publication of the National Transport Commission and Austroads, describes the medical standards for private and commercial drivers of heavy vehicles, light vehicles and motor bikes.

The primary purpose of this publication is to provide health professionals with the best possible advice to assist them to discuss driving with their patients and undertake assessments of a person's medical fitness to drive in a consistent and appropriate manner based on current medical evidence.

The revised version of the Guidelines is available for purchase or can be downloaded from the Austroads website. Also available from the Austroads website is an information kit on the revised edition of the guidelines which includes FAQ's and a summary report of the recent changes to the guidelines.


You can access the above-mentioned publications by clicking on each of the links below.

1. [2016 Assessing Fitness to Drive Guidelines](#)
2. [2016 Assessing Fitness to Drive Information Kit](#)

3. [Summary of recent changes to the Guidelines](#)

If you have any questions in relation to medical fitness to drive assessments requirements in Tasmania, please contact the Driver Licensing Team, Registration and Licensing Services at driver.licensing@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

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For further information, or if you would like to make a donation please contact Nita or Jacki on 62541092 events@auutas.com.au

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HEADLINES

- [NATIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF GP REGISTRARS IN 2017](#)
- [AMA WELCOMES FUNDING REPRIEVE FOR GENERAL PRACTICE](#)
- [AMA WELCOMES MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO BONDED MEDICAL PLACEMENTS](#)
- [AMA DEMANDS A FAIR GO FOR GPs WITH PATHOLOGY COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS](#)

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