



ENEWS

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CODEINE RESCHEDULING

FEBRUARY 1 2018

Planning for the up scheduling of codeine to prescription only on February 1 next year continues and the AMA Federally and at State level continues to support the process fully.

The public is to receive more information through the media beginning November and the details and anticipated impact of the change are already available at the [TGA WEBSITE](#) for both the public and health professionals.

At a State level, the Pharmaceuticals Services Branch (DHHS) is soon to launch a web page that will provide links to resources to assist with the change, and Tasmanian Health Pathways (PHN Tasmania) will also soon launch a pain pathway that will provide resources and links to assist with management of the up scheduling. [PREVIEW HERE](#)

There are to be combined regional workshops for GPs and pharmacists in late November to discuss the impact of the change, and ways of managing potentially disgruntled customers and the Tasmanian Health Service is looking at better resourcing their underfunded chronic pain management service to deal with an anticipated increase in referrals.

Already some low dose over the counter codeine formulations are no longer being manufactured, and this is likely to continue as February 1 approaches. This will have an unintended positive outcome in that it will make the anticipated stockpiling of over the counter codeine products difficult.

It is anticipated patients previously not identified as addicted to codeine will be visiting GPs for codeine prescriptions and the PSB is hoping to increase the number of general practices and pharmacies willing to get involved in the opiate substitution program. Currently, there is no funding available for doctors to be involved in this program other than by using the current frozen Medicare rebates, so there is a push at a Federal level to adjust the MBS and PBS to endeavor to make this a viable service to provide within general practice.

Donald Rose - AMA representative Codeine Rescheduling Implementation Group (Tasmania)



CORONER

A SIMPLE GUIDE FOR MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ON WHEN TO REPORT A DEATH TO THE CORONER

All Tasmanian Coroners wish to draw the attention of medical practitioners to the existing resource, click on link to download -

[WHEN TO REPORT A DEATH TO THE CORONER](#)

This resource, also available on their website, provides step-by-step assistance in determining whether a death is reportable to the Coroner. It provides a detailed checklist of factors which lead to a death being reportable, as well as information on time frames and how to report a death. This document should be consulted prior to contacting **coroner's associates** or **Tasmania Police**.

Please have this resource handy and refer to it when required to make a decision on whether a death is reportable. For any further information or queries, please refer to the contact details located in the document.



SUICIDE

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRIAL TO FOCUS ON MEN AND OLDER TASMANIANS

Men aged 40-64 and men and women over the age of 65 in five communities will be the focus of the Tasmanian component of an Australian Government-funded suicide prevention trial.

The five communities are Break O'Day, Launceston, Central Coast, Burnie, and Devonport. The Australian Government has provided \$3 million for the Tasmanian part of the trial, which is an exciting opportunity to test a structured and collaborative approach to helping local communities reduce self-harm and suicide.

Primary Health Tasmania is coordinating implementation of the trial in this state, working closely with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Tasmanian Health Service, the Black Dog Institute, organisations focused on suicide prevention and mental health, and local communities. The next steps are to work with the local communities and the advisory trial group to look at what suicide prevention activity is already on the ground, where it fits within the LifeSpan framework, and what needs to be developed to fill the gaps. More information including a fact sheet is on the Primary Health Tasmania [WEBSITE](#).

A supporting statement from State Health Minister Michael Ferguson is available [HERE](#).

EVENTS

REMINDER - PARLIAMENTARY DINNER

Hon. Elise Archer, Speaker of the House of Assembly in the Parliament of Tasmania and The President of the AMA in Tasmania Dr Stuart Day have pleasure in inviting you to attend **AMA Tasmania's** Annual Parliamentary Dinner for 2017.

To be held in the Parliamentary Reception Hall, Parliament House, Hobart on Wednesday 18th October 2017 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm

\$70.00 per guest - two-course dinner and beverages

RSVP TODAY - AMA House on 6223 2047 or ama@amatas.com.au



RHH RESEARCH FOUNDATION MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

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**TICKETS \$195
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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- [ADOPT WA MODEL OF MANDATORY REPORTING - AMA](#)
- [AMSA: Lack of clear reporting structures continue to fail students](#)

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 2017

- 10 October - Tuesday - Southern Division Meeting – 6 pm Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania. Light finger food and some drinks will be provided
- 12 October - Thursday - Royal Launceston Show (Launceston Only)
- DTBC 14 & 15 October – **Council of GP's Federal**
- 18 October - Wednesday - Parliamentary Dinner - 6.30 pm
- 20 October - Friday - Flinders Island Show (Flinders Island Only)
- 26 October - Thursday Northern Division Meeting - 7 pm for a meal and 7.30pm start - 3rd Floor Meeting Room at the Launceston General Hospital
- 26 October - Thursday - Royal Hobart Show (Hobart Only)
- DTBC 28 & 29 October – Council of DiT Federal

AMATAS e-newsletter is compiled and distributed on a fortnightly basis to all AMA Tasmania members. We welcome contributions from members and others to make this newsletter lively, informative and successful. Contributions can be emailed to comms@amatas.com.au. All submissions require the authors name and contact details.

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