



HEALTH ALERT

4 NOVEMBER 2013

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

JUDGMENTS

Queensland

28 October 2013 - [Inquest into the death of Marcia Joy Loveday 2010/2516](#)

Marcia Loveday was a frequent patient of the Bundaberg base hospital. She had an allergy to penicillin, noted in her medical records, and she wore a *MedicAlert* bracelet to alert people. On 19 July 2010, Mrs Loveday was transported to the accident & emergency department (Department) of the hospital where she was administered IV ampicillin. She allegedly suffered anaphylaxis and was administered appropriate treatment but died a few days later.

Central to the inquest was why Mrs Loveday's known allergy was not alerted to, or enquired about by, the Department. The Coroner found that the triage nurse was told about it by the ambulance officer but regrettably did not note it down. When the IV Ampicillin was administered, the bracelet was not noticed or recognised and her hospital records were unavailable.

The Coroner agreed with the experts that Mrs Loveday did suffer an anaphylaxis, which caused a cardiac arrest. This did not, however, accelerate her death as the effect of the anaphylaxis had passed. The Coroner also agreed that Mrs Loveday's treatment at hospital was appropriate, apart from the administering of IV ampicillin.

The Coroner made a number of recommendations, including endorsing the changes made by the hospital, such as the positive obligation placed on administration officers to act when they see an 'alert flag' (adverse drug reactions, allergies, etc) for a patient. He also recommended that the bracelet design be changed to be distinctive as a medical identification product and that medical personnel be educated to recognise the bracelets.

30 October 2013 - [State of Queensland \(Queensland Health\) v Chivers \[2013\] QCATA 256](#)

This was an appeal against a decision of a primary Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT), who found Queensland Health had discriminated against Ms Chivers, a qualified nurse, under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* (Qld).

Ms Chivers suffered a head injury which left her with a severe headache disorder. Subsequently, she accepted an appointment with Queensland health that was subject to a probationary period. The general terms and conditions included undertaking shift work. Her disorder meant she could not complete her rostered nightshifts.

Following a complaint and the provision of medical evidence, Ms Chivers' needs were accommodated. However, Queensland health extended her probation period numerous times, rather than confirm her employment, reasoning that working nightshifts was an inherent part of the job.

The issues on appeal included whether Queensland health had imposed a term that was 'not reasonable', and whether the ability to work across all shifts was a 'genuine occupational requirement'.

Ms Chivers provided examples where a nurse was given an exception. The Honourable JB Thomas found those examples not comparable, as they were of limited scope and temporary, while Ms Chivers had a permanent condition. He reasoned that "the requirement that nurses employed by Queensland health...be capable of being rostered for night shifts [is] an integral part of the system." The term was therefore reasonable and a genuine requirement.

Ms Fitzpatrick respectfully disagreed and would have dismissed the appeal. However, under the *QCAT Act 2009* (Qld), the decision is that of the presiding member. The appeal was therefore allowed.

New South Wales

30 October 2013 - [Reimers v Health Care Complaints Commission \(HCCC\) \[2013\] NSWCA 366](#)

Administrative law - judicial review - discretion to refuse relief - application by deregistered medical practitioner for declarations that decision and orders of the Medical Tribunal made in 2003 are invalid - earlier application by the same applicant for order quashing the decision dismissed - where new grounds advanced on the present application ought reasonably to have been advanced in support of the earlier application - whether the present application is an abuse of process.

31 October 2013 - [Ziliotto v Hakim \[2013\] NSWCA 359](#)

Appeal - adequacy of reasons - conflicting testimony of experts - explanation required for adopting preferred opinion - whether need to address 'sub-issues' - need to balance transparency and prolixity Damages - assessment of damages - medical negligence - no issues of principle Costs - offer of compromise - offer not in accordance with r 20.26 Uniform Civil Procedures Rule 2005 (UCPR) - whether valid Calderbank letter - whether discretion under UCPR, r 42.1 should be exercised.

28 October 2013 - [Cootte v Kelly \[2013\] NSWCA 357](#)

Appeal - challenge to findings of fact - failure to address inconsistencies in evidence - issues not resolved by findings as to credibility and reliability - need to address failure of four practitioners to observe key element of melanoma relied on by plaintiff - retrial required negligence - medical practitioner - whether melanoma misdiagnosed as a plantar wart - whether breach of duty - whether finding that melanoma had probably metastasized before failure to diagnose supportable on the evidence.

25 October 2013 - [Bryan Hargreaves and Director-general of health on behalf of South Western Sydney local health district \[2013\] NSWIRComm 1022](#)

Unfair dismissal application - Assault on patient while in full-time employment with another local health district- actions of Applicant reflexive and defensive-dismissal found to be harsh, unjust and unreasonable-Applicant reinstated; appeal proceedings upheld the finding of harshness but determined that reinstatement impracticable Respondent has lost confidence in the Applicant acting appropriately in the future- risk to patients-awarded full compensation having regard to inclusion of the Applicant on the service check registry - agreement between Applicant and the Respondent to accept outcome of those proceedings applicant dismissed full bench clear statement that Respondent justified in its loss of trust and confidence same Respondent in both matters Director general of health; same statement of duties; patients with mental health issues in both local health districts; Director general of health deemed to be the employer applicant voluntarily agreed to forego right to s 84 claim termination not found to be harsh, unjust or unreasonable-claim dismissed.

25 October 2013 - [Health Care Complaints Commission \(HCCC\) v Simonsen \[2013\] NSWNMT 21](#)

Complaints against a nurse of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct. Where practitioner admits some of the complaints (complaints one, two, three and five) asserted by the HCCC but denies other complaints (complaint four, six, seven and eight). Whether or not appropriate to have a "two stage hearing" to consider appropriate protective orders. held – where allegations of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct are established – where practitioner is unrepresented. held - appropriate for there to be a "two stage" hearing.

24 October 2013 - [Draper v The psychology board of Australia \[2013\] NSW PST 3](#)

Section 175 appeal; area of practice endorsement; clinical psychology; section 98; meaning of "substantial equivalence" and "qualification"; effect of standards and guidelines; section 98 discretion.

23 October 2013 - [HCCC v Buksh \[2013\] NSWNMT 22](#)

Victoria

22 October 2013 - [Medical board of Victoria v Myers \(review and regulation\) \[2013\] VCAT 1806](#)

Determination - *Medical Practice Act 1994* – unsatisfactory conduct of a serious nature - *Health Professions Registration Act 2005* – professional misconduct and unprofessional conduct – inappropriate

personal /emotional relationship with a patient over a 10 year period – failing to terminate relationship where patient with a serious and complex psychological disorder extremely infatuated with practitioner – transgressing boundaries in contact with and involvement with patient and her family – frequent and regular home visits out of hours and at night – where adverse findings have been made on three other occasions, two of which involved vulnerable patients and transgression of boundaries – where continuing lack of insight increases risk of repetition and raises an issue of public safety – where previous order of reprimand and counselling has not deterred practitioner and where counselling has been ineffective – protection of the public – determination of cancellation.

22 October 2013 - [Nursing and midwifery board of Australia v Dalton \(review and regulation\) \[2013\] VCAT 1807](#)

Health Professions Registration Act 2005 – mental health nurse – professional misconduct and unprofessional conduct – inappropriate personal relationship with psychiatric patient – failure to ensure her psychiatric condition properly treated – misleading the nurses board of Australia in conduct of its investigation – determinations.

United Kingdom

5 September 2013 - [F v F \[2013\] EWHC 2683 \(Fam\)](#)

Application by father for a declaration and a specific issue order concerning his daughters, who are now 15 years and eleven years respectively. Father seeking an order that they both receive the MMR vaccination. Application opposed by the mother.

30 October 2013 - [Aintree University Hospitals national health service \(NHS\) Foundation Trust v James \[2013\] UKSC 67](#)

First case under the *Mental Capacity Act 2005* to come before this Court. That Act provides for decisions to be made on behalf of people who are unable to make decisions for themselves. Everyone who makes a decision under the Act must do so in the best interests of the person concerned. The decision in this case could not be more important: the hospital where a gravely ill man was being treated asked for a declaration that it would be in his best interests to withhold certain life-sustaining treatments from him. When can it be in the best interests of a living patient to withhold from him treatment which will keep him alive? On the other hand, when can it be in his best interests to inflict severely invasive treatment upon him which will bring him next to no positive benefit?

24 October 2013 - [Coyle v Lanarkshire Health Board \[2013\] ScotCS CSOH_167](#)

Claim by pursuer as welfare and financial guardian of her son who has severe quadriplegic cerebral palsy resulting from chronic partial asphyxia which occurred during the pursuer's labour. Pursuer contending that the brain injury sustained by her son during labour was caused by fault and negligence on the part of the obstetrician and midwives employed by the defendant hospital who were responsible for her intrapartum care.

New Zealand

30 October 2013 - [Director of proceedings v Nelson \[2013\] NZHRRT 38](#)

Allegations that a health care provider with more than 35 years of experience had breached numerous provisions of the Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights (the Code of Rights) in her treatment of a patient with a tumor.

LEGISLATION

Commonwealth

24 October 2013 - [Health insurance \(botulinum toxin for urinary incontinence due to neurogenic detrusor overactivity\) Determination 2013 \(No. 2\) F2013L01840](#).

25 October 2013 - [Private health insurance \(prostheses\) Amendment Rules 2013 \(No. 4\) F2013L01839](#).

30 October 2013 - [Repeal determination 2013](#) F2013L01862.

30 October 2013 - [Health insurance \(magnetic resonance imaging for patients 16 years and over\) Determination 2013](#) F2013L01864.

30 October 2013 - [Health insurance \(MRI for patients 16 years and over and capital sensitivity consequential amendments\) Determination 2013](#) F2013L01863.

30 October 2013 - [Private health insurance \(benefit requirements\) Amendment Rules 2013 \(No. 6\)](#) F2013L01866.

30 October 2013 - [Health insurance \(diagnostic imaging capital sensitivity\) Amendment and Repeal Determination 2013](#) F2013L01862.

New South Wales

[Coal mine health and safety amendment \(validation\) Bill 2013.](#)

REPORTS

Australia. Department of Health & Ageing

1 November 2013 - [GPs can now order subsidised magnetic resonance imaging \(MRI\) services.](#) GPs can request four new Medicare eligible (MRI) services for patients over 16 years of age.

1 November 2013 - [New one stop shop clinical training centre opened.](#) A \$17.7 million clinical education centre to train a new generation of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals has been opened by the Federal Minister for Health, the Hon Peter Dutton, in Sydney.

30 October 2013 - [Australians to access more affordable medicines sooner.](#) The Federal Minister for Health, the Hon Peter Dutton, has announced that the Government has honoured its election commitment to make more affordable medicines available sooner for Australians.

28 October 2013 - [New medicines available through the PBS.](#) The Federal Minister for health, the Hon Peter Dutton, has announced that the cost of 50 new and amended medicines and technologies to treat cancer, diabetes, multiple sclerosis and a range of other debilitating diseases will be subsidised by the Government.

Private health insurance (PHI) circulars

28 October 2013 - [PHI 71/13 ex gratia payments for people affected by New South Wales \(NSW\) bushfires.](#)

Australia. Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the boards

25 October 2013 - Media release community and health practitioner feedback is sought on the English language skills and criminal history registration standards which are now under review. [Read more.](#)

30 October 2013 - Nursing and midwifery board of Australia requests for tender. The nursing and midwifery board invites interested parties to please refer to updated attachments in the national board's recent requests for tender. [Read more.](#)

25 October 2013 - Media release - the statement from the chiropractic board of Australia about disclosure of evidence. [Read more.](#)

30 October 2013 - Supervision policies - the psychology board has approved two new supervision policies. [Read more.](#)

31 October 2013 - the Board The Osteopathy Board releases its latest communiqué. [Read more.](#)

1 November 2013 - the 2012/13 annual report of the Australian health practitioner regulation agency (AHPRA) and the national boards has been published. [Read more.](#)

1 November 2013 - The Australian psychological society and the psychology board of Australia have released a joint statement on the future of accreditation. [Read more.](#)

Australia. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

30 October 2013 - **Leading fertility researcher receives NHMRC Ethics Award**. A leader in the field of fertility has been awarded the national health and medical research council's 2012 ethics award. NHMRC has recognised Prince Henry's Institute professor Jock Findlay for his significant contribution to high ethical standards health and medical research at a national level. His work with the NHMRC led the development of the ethical guidance of the use of human embryos in medical research. "Professor Findlay has been a leader in the development." [Media release](#).

30 October 2013 - **Novel approach to pain recognised with NHMRC Marshall and Warren Award**. A researcher whose work challenges our understanding of pain has been awarded the national health and medical research council's 2012 Marshall and Warren Award. NHMRC has recognised University of South Australia Professor Lorimer Moseley for research that could help uncover more effective solutions for treating acute pain and prevent it from developing into chronic pain. "The Marshall and Warren Award acknowledges innovative research that may otherwise have difficulty attracting." [Media release](#).

30 October 2013 - **Human molecular geneticist recognised with NHMRC outstanding contribution award**. A national leader in the field of human molecular genetics has been awarded the national health and medical research council's 2012 outstanding contribution award. NHMRC established the outstanding contribution award to acknowledge long term contribution, individual commitment and support to NHMRC, and health and medical research. This year NHMRC has recognised University of Sydney Professor Ron Trent for his extensive involvement in NHMRC peer review since the mid-1980s. Professor Trent. [Media release](#).

30 October 2013 2013 - **Neural spider web researchers receive NHMRC Science to Art Award**. A University of Sydney research team investigating how low level laser used clinically induces analgesia in patients with chronic pain has been awarded the National Health and Medical Research Council's 2012 Science to Art Award. The winning image was created by dye labelling cell membranes and depicts a 'neural spider web' of cultured dorsal root ganglion neurons (DRGs), Schwann and satellite cells from rats. The research team worked together at the Brain and Mind Research. [Media release](#).

30 October 2013 2013 - **Top researchers recognised with NHMRC Excellence Awards**. Top ranked researchers investigating cardiovascular and autoimmune diseases, sexually transmitted infection and hospital-acquired pathogens have been recognised for their outstanding contribution by Australia's peak body for health and medical research. The National Health and Medical Research Council has presented 20 Excellence Awards to the highest ranking applicants in their funding schemes. "The Excellence Awards recognise and reward achievement in the highly competitive health." [Media release](#).

Australia. Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

1 November 2013 - **Nipro TRUEtrack and TRUEbalance blood glucose meters**. Nipro Australia, in consultation with the TGA, is recalling some models of its TRUEtrack and TRUEbalance blood glucose meters and replacing them with updated devices.

30 October 2013 - **Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines (AusPARs)**. Added Eplerenone (Inspra), Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (Viread), Clobazam (Frisium).

30 October 2013 - **PIP silicone gel breast implants**. The European Commission's Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) has published an updated opinion on the safety of PIP silicone gel filled breast implants.

30 October 2013 - **ACPM meeting statement, Meeting 294, 3-4 October 2013**. Advisory Committee on Prescription Medicines meeting statement.

29 October 2013 - **TGA presentations given at the complementary medicines road shows, July - August 2013**. Presentations on the progress of reforms, approach to the review of evidence to support indications for listed complementary medicines and update to the listed medicines application portal.

25 October 2013 - **Orphan drugs**. Added Icatibant (Firazyr).

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare

28 October 2013 - [AIHW annual report 2012–13](#).

29 October 2013 - [Residential aged care and aged care packages in the community 2011–12 - web report media release](#)

30 October 2013 - [Diabetes and disability: impairments, activity limitations, participation restrictions and comorbidities media release](#).

1 November 2013 - [The inclusion of Indigenous status on pathology request forms](#) (1 Nov 2013)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

22 October 2013 - [Improving focus on quality healthcare outcomes \(healthscope and bupa\)](#). Healthscope and bupa today announced a landmark agreement that sets a new quality benchmark between a private healthcare provider and health insurer.

28 October 2013 - [On the radar](#).

Australia. Private Health Insurance Administration Council

25 October 2013 - [2014 pricing round](#). This circular provides information in relation to the 2014 premium round.

31 October 2013 - [2014 pricing consultation](#). This circular provides information in relation to 2014 pricing consultation.

Australian Capital Territory. Health Directorate

24 October 2013 - [Burnet institute report](#). See this evaluation of drug policy and services, and their impact on prisoners and staff at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

28 October 2013 - [ACT palliative care services plan](#). The ACT palliative care services plan 2013-2017 strategically directs the development of palliative care in the ACT.

18 October 2013 - [ACT health annual report](#).

New South Wales. Ministry of Health

Media Releases

25 October 2013 - [Health concern for Pilgrims returning from the Hajj](#)

31 October 2013 - [Nurses and midwives boost for rural and regional NSW](#).

28 October 2013 - [New Ambulance Station for the South East Regional Hospital](#).

21 October 2013 - [Wagga Wagga Mental Health Unit](#).

25 October 2013 - [Helping small communities overcome suicide](#).

Policy directives and guidelines

28 October 2013 - [Work health and safety - other workers engagement](#) GL2013_011.

31 October 2013 - [Service check register for NSW health](#) PD2013_036.

Northern Territory. Department of Health

1 November 2013 - [Robyn Lambley - \\$3.7M Tennant Creek hospital upgrade complete](#). The Northern Territory Government continues its commitment to providing quality health care for Territorians with the official opening of Tennant Creek hospital's upgraded emergency department.

1 November 2013 - [Robyn Lambley - awards to recognise indigenous health workers](#). The search is on again for the Territory's outstanding Indigenous health practitioners with nominations now open for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner awards.

Queensland. Department of Health

1 November 2013 - **Doubling docs in rural Queensland**. A \$1.8 million boost and a redirection of scholarship funding will double the number of rural generalist training places in Queensland by 2016.

31 October 2013 - **World-first Hendra treatment one step closer**. Queensland researchers are about to take a major step closer towards proving the safety of the only known effective treatment for preventing human disease with Hendra virus once a person has been exposed.

30 October 2013 - **It's official - Gold Coast University Hospital now open**. Australia's first university-named hospital was officially opened today by Premier Campbell Newman, in what has been described as a 'major milestone' for health services in Queensland.

28 October 2013 - **Tanning operators encouraged to give up sun beds sooner**. Commercial tanning operators will be offered a financial incentive to hand over their UV sun beds sooner than the deadline announced by the Newman Government.

South Australia. Department for Health & Ageing

31 October 2013 - More neurology services for the Women's and Children's Hospital Hon Jack Snelling MP Children with complex health conditions such as epilepsy will benefit from additional neurology services to be introduced at the Women's and Children's Hospital. [Read more](#).

26 October 2013 - Women's and children's hospital to move to new Royal Adelaide Hon Jay Weatherill MP Hon Jack Snelling MP The Women's and Children's Hospital will move to the new Royal Adelaide Hospital - giving women, children and babies access to the most advanced acute hospital care. [Read more](#).

Tasmania. Department of Health & Human Services

28 October 2013 - **Smoke-free dining laws are enforced**.

Victoria. Department of Health

31 October 2013 - **Carbines caught out**. This afternoon Anthony Carbines has released a photograph that he claims shows "ramping" at the Austin Hospital.

31 October 2013 - **More patients than ever treated in Victorian hospitals**. The latest health services performance report shows record numbers of patients are being treated in Victoria's hospitals.

31 October 2013 - **Tobacco reforms protect Victorian children**. Legislation to ban smoking in children's playgrounds and at sporting events has passed Parliament with the support of all parties, Minister for Health David Davis said today.

31 October 2013 - **Bendigo Hospital project value for money: report**. The Bendigo Hospital project has been found to meet all the financial requirements necessary for a Public Private Partnership (PPP) by Partnerships Victoria.

30 October 2013 - **Labor and Greens shameful support for carbon tax continues**. The Labor and Greens alliance lives on in Victoria, with both parties uniting in the Parliament to support the carbon tax, Minister for Health David Davis said today.

28 October 2013 - **Health groups to have a greater say in new technology**. Hospitals and health professionals will have a greater say in the development of new Information and Communication Technology for the health sector, Minister for Health David Davis said today.

26 October 2013 - **Latest radiotherapy machine installed at Peter Mac**. A new, state-of-the-art \$4.5 million linear accelerator was today installed in a meticulous operation at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

28 October 2013 - **Coalition Government delivers 25 more mental health nurse scholarships**. The Victorian Coalition Government has committed a further \$75,000 to enable 25 mental health nurses to undertake post-graduate studies in Semester 2, 2013.

Western Australia. Department of Health

Media Releases

26 October 2013 - [Senior paediatric nurse is 2013 Nurse of the Year.](#)

30 October 2013 - [Researchers share in \\$1.4m for health projects.](#)

1 November 2013 - [Measles alert issued after Bali holiday cases.](#)

1 November 2013 - [Locally-acquired Dengue fever case confirmed in the Pilbara.](#)

Operational directives

24 October 2013 - [D 0464/13 Metadata Documentation Policy](#) To manage the vast amount of data contained within WA Health Enterprise Systems, WA Health must maintain adequate documentation about these systems. Metadata is a documentation methodology that provides users with information about the purpose, processes, and methods involved in the data collection. This document provides the policy, processes and governance necessary for building and managing a standardised and centralised corporate repository of metadata.

24 October 2013 - [OD 0467/13 Business Rules Applying to the Ambulatory Surgery Initiative](#) The Operational Directive updates the approved business rules applying to the Ambulatory Surgery Initiative (ASI) in public hospitals. Health Services and medical practitioners participating in the ASI must comply with the processes and procedures set out in the business rules

24 October 2013 - [OD 0466/13 Business Rules Applying to the Privately Referred Non-Inpatient Service](#) The Operational Directive sets out the approved business rules applying to the Privately Referred Non-Inpatients (PRNI) services in public hospitals. Health Services and medical Consultants participating in the PRNI service must comply with the processes and procedures described in these business rules

31 October 2013 - [OD 0470/13 Email Management Policy](#) The E-Mail Management Policy has been updated to highlight use of the e-mail facility imposes responsibilities and obligations on WA Health staff.

31 October 2013 - [OD 0469/13 Electronic Messaging Policy](#) The Electronic Messaging Policy has been updated to remind staff all electronic messaging including, E-Mail, Short Messaging Services (SMS), Telephony (including voicemail), Facsimile, Social Media (including text, images, video and audio) which relates to substantive business activity is a formal WA Health record and must be managed accordingly. This is to ensure compliance with the relevant records legislation including the State Records Act 2000 and other relevant WA Health records policy.

31 October 2013 - [OD 0468/13 Acceptable Use Policy - Information and Communications Technology](#) The Acceptable Use Policy - Computing & Communications Facilities has been updated to reflect acceptable behaviour for the use of WA Health's computing resources by staff.

New Zealand. Ministry of Health

25 October 2013 - [Court fines company over Smokefree Act breaches.](#)

United Kingdom. Department of Health

1 November 2013 - [Integration pioneers leading the way for health and care reform.](#)

30 October 2013 - [Changes to healthcare services in North West London.](#)

30 October 2013 - [Homecare survey generates ideas to help improve services.](#)

29 October 2013 - [Jeremy Hunt reaction to Lewisham A&E appeal.](#)

29 October 2013 - [New cross-government support strategy for care leavers.](#)

28 October [NHS needs complaints handling revolution.](#)

28 October 2013 - [October 2013 storm - UK government response.](#)

26 October 2013 - [Thousands of tonnes of saturated fat to be taken out of the nation's diet.](#)

United States of America. Department of Health & Human Services

26 October - [Majority of ambulatory physicians had capability to exchange prescription and laboratory data in 2011.](#)

28 October 2013 - [Half of single young adults eligible for the Health Insurance Marketplace could get coverage for \\$50 or less.](#)

Australian Medical Association

28 October 2013 - [Dr Hambleton, ABC 666 Canberra, 28 October 2013](#) AMA President Dr Steve Hambleton is concerned about a proposed policy by a private health insurer to introduce insurance packages to cover medical tourism.

1 November 2013 - [Direct GP referral for MRI will benefit patients.](#) The AMA welcomes today's introduction of Medicare rebated GP referred MRI items for patients who are 16 years of age and over. [Read more.](#)

British Medical Association (BMA)

31 October 2013 - [Improve admissions to address emergency care, says NAO](#) A culture where doctors are free to use their clinical judgement without political interference is needed to address emergency medicine pressures.

31 October 2013 - [Call for clarity on NHS care entitlement](#) Greater clarity is needed over non-UK residents' eligibility for free NHS care, the BMA has insisted.

30 October 2013 - [BMA calls for health inequality assessments](#) The BMA in Scotland is calling for health-inequality impact assessments to be introduced across all areas of government policy to drive down inequalities.

30 October 2013 - [Court confirms government overstepped powers](#) The appeal court has upheld a judgement that the health secretary overstepped his powers in deciding to downgrade some services at a London hospital.

29 October 2013 - [Opt-out organ donation law gains support](#) and awareness for Wales's opt-out organ donation law is growing, according to a new research.

29 October 2013 - [Appraisal should cover NHS complaints, says review](#) An independent review into NHS complaints handling has called for doctors' appraisals to place greater emphasis on dealing with patient concerns positively.

27 October 2013 - [Doctors must be central to seven-day care model, says BMA](#) Doctors should be part of the solution in providing NHS patients access to quality seven-day hospital services, the BMA has declared.

27 October 2013 - [BMA commits to high-quality, seven-day working](#) The BMA is supporting a move towards making more NHS services available over seven days as part of a drive to ensure acutely ill patients have access to high-quality care throughout the week.

Canadian Medical Association (CMA)

25 October 2013 - [MDs warned to be cautious with their Facebook settings.](#)

American Medical Association (AMA)

28 October 2013 - AMA Wire [AMA launches more robust communications.](#) A more robust way to stay current with the changing world of medicine now is available especially for you. The AMA Monday unveiled new communications for the medical community about the news and business of medicine and the rapidly evolving profession. The launch includes an updated and expanded AMA Morning Rounds.

28 October 2013 - AMA Wire [AMA warns FDA to weigh unintended consequences of reclassifying hydrocodone.](#) As the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) moves to limit the number of refills physicians can write for hydrocodone-containing combination products, the AMA warns the agency "should carefully weigh the full range of unintended consequences for patients suffering from pain."

29 October 2013 - AMA Wire [AMA, medical groups urge HHS to overturn CMS policy on Sunshine Act.](#) In a jointly signed letter, the AMA and 73 national specialty and state medical associations expressed serious concerns Monday with a recent policy by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

to classify medical textbooks, reprints of peer reviewed scientific clinical journal articles, and abstracts of these articles as reportable transfers of value under the *Sunshine Act*.

30 October 2013 - AMA Viewpoints **Physician-led health care teams: A focus on quality** The trend toward team-based care is one that makes sense in today's health care environment, writes AMA President Ardis Dee Hoven, MD. With the rapid increase in the patient population and prevalence of chronic conditions, providing patient care as a team can help improve access, enhance quality and enable greater continuity.

30 October 2013 - AMA Wire **AMA announces RUC process improvements at October meeting** At the latest AMA/Specialty Society RVS Update Committee meeting in October, several process improvements were announced. These process updates will support the RUC's primary mission to provide the best possible relative value scale update recommendations to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. These improvements also will bolster the committee's recent efforts to increase transparency, accessibility, and efficiency while continuing to offer CMS with trusted expertise and advice.

30 October 2013 - AMA Wire **Congressional committees release draft framework for SGR repeal** A bipartisan collaboration between two committees in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives has led to a draft framework for repealing Medicare's failed payment formula, released Wednesday.

ABOUT US

Anthony Willis



Although maintaining a government focus, Anthony also advises corporate clients particularly in the technology and research and development sectors. He advised the government on proposed changes to Australian patent legislation concerning pharmaceuticals in the context of the US Australia Free Trade Agreement.

He has also advised on the patenting of genetic technology in the context of the BRCA genes.

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