



More nurse clinics despite first 'failure'

Michael Woodhead

Australia's first standalone nurse practitioner-led clinic is scheduled to open at Brisbane Chermside Westfield shopping next month.

The clinic will be staffed by ten nurse practitioners and four midwives to deliver standalone primary healthcare "with the support of a GP" says its operator, **SmartClinics**.

Patients at the clinic will have access to treatment for colds and flu, vaccinations, wound care, blood tests, repeat prescriptions and medical certificates, health checks, fracture assessment,

pregnancy check-ups and more, the company says.

SmartClinics plans to open a second clinic in south east Queensland in the near future.

However, the announcement of the new clinic comes as the AMA declares a nurse-led clinic set up at the Canberra Hospital to be a failure.

The AMA says an independent review has shown that the clinic may be leading to more presentations at the emergency department, possibly due to its proximity to the hospital.

The AMA's ACT branch president Dr Iain Dunlop says the clinic is not doing its job in

reducing ED burden and the money would be better spent on employing nurses within GP practices.

"If there is an unmet need for triage category 4 and 5, then those monies should be applied to the emergency department of Canberra Hospital," he added.

The Greens, however, want nurses in the clinic to be given great powers. They say if the centre was relocated and nurses allowed to practice their full scope of practice, there would be less people going to the emergency department.

What do you think?

comment@6minutes.com.au

In brief

Boostrix rejected for cocoon immunisation

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee has rejected an application to extend the indication for dTpa diptheria tetanus and pertussis vaccine to cover parents of newborns, saying it is of uncertain clinical effectiveness.

More doctors, but working fewer hours

The number of working medical practitioners in Australia increased by 21% to 72,739 from 2005 to 2009, but the average weekly hours worked by doctors decreased by 3.4% during the same period, from 43.7 hours 42.2 hours, an AIHW [report](#) shows.

No need for routine IUD checks

Regular annual recall of IUD users for routine checks is unnecessary, a primary care [study](#) from the UK has found. Review of 272 women using IUDs found no difference in adverse events among those who attended their GP regularly for routine checks. *Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care*

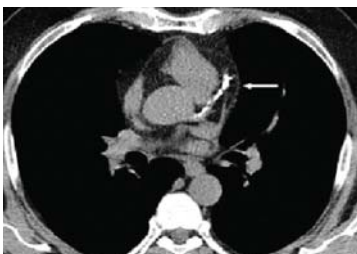
Coronary calcium could target statin therapy

Michael Woodhead

CT scan-derived coronary calcium scores could be used to target primary prevention with statins at the 25% of people who have 75% of cardiac events, a study shows.

Published in the *Lancet* today, an [analysis](#) of almost a thousand healthy patients involved in a primary prevention trial for cardiovascular disease found that about half had no coronary artery calcium scores and over a six year period they had very low rates of cardiovascular events.

In contrast, almost 75% of coronary heart disease events



About 75% of events were in the 25% of people with high calcium scores

occurred in the small (25%) group of patients with coronary artery calcium scores over 100.

For coronary heart disease, the five year number needed to treat to prevent one event was 549 in the low calcium score group, and

24 for those in the high coronary calcium group.

The study authors say their findings suggest that coronary artery calcium could be used to stratify risk and target patients for statin treatment.

"Focusing of treatment on the subset of individuals with low LDL cholesterol with measurable atherosclerosis might represent a more appropriate allocation of resources, reduce overall healthcare costs and prevent the occurrence of a similar number of events," they conclude.

What do you think?

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Medicine in the media



THE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS (COAG) will meet in Canberra today to sign off on the historic hospitals agreement and discuss the national disability scheme and mental health.

Nine News

THE NORTHERN HOSPITAL IN MELBOURNE is being sued by a man for a series of alleged delays and misdiagnosis for a bone infection at the base of his skull which led to a permanent brain injury.

The Age

HEALTH REFORMS WILL NOT PROVIDE LOCAL MANAGEMENT to regional South Australians, as they will be managed from Adelaide, says Liberal MP Rowan Ramsay.

The Advertiser

NSW HEALTH FACES CUTS OF UP TO 30% under the Coalition, say hospital administrators.

Sydney Morning Herald

CHRONIC BED SHORTAGES, FREQUENT PHYSICAL ABUSE of staff and under-resourcing have prompted nurses in Adelaide to take industrial action.

The Advertiser

A GLOBAL STUDY TO UNCOVER EARLY "BIOMARKER" signs of Parkinson's disease has been expanded to include Australians.

News.com.au

THE GREENS WILL BLOCK THE GOVERNMENT'S third attempt to introduce \$2.9 billion worth of savings through its private health insurance bill.

The Australian

THE WA HEALTH DEPARTMENT has been told to re-instate a nurse found fraudulently claiming meal expenses with copied restaurant receipts.

The West Australian

HUMAN TRIALS OF A POTENTIALLY WORLD-CHANGING MALARIA VACCINE are just six months away, say Griffith University researchers.

Sydney Morning Herald

MASTERCHEF HAS INSPIRED FUNDRAISERS to become a "medical chef" in the Cook for a Cure initiative to raise money for medical research.

Inner West Courier

THE INTERNET COULD BE A MENTAL HEALTH 'VACCINE' to support to the large numbers of young people who do not seek help for their mental health issues, says the head of a new research centre.

The Age

MORE DOCTORS ARE WORKING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, but they are working fewer hours data released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows.

The Advertiser

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References: 1. Approved Product Information for EZETROL. 2. Davidson MH *et al.* *Am J Cardiol* 2002; 40: 2125-34. 3. Ballantyne CM *et al.* *Am J Cardiol* 2007; 99: 673-80. 4. Bissonnette S *et al.* *Can J Cardiol* 2006; 22(12): 1035-44. 5. Leiter LA *et al.* *Am J Cardiol* 2008; 102: 1495-501. 6. Ballantyne CM *et al.* *Circulation* 2003; 107: 2409-15. 7. Al-Shaer MH *et al.* *Lipids Health Dis* 2004; 3: 22. Copyright © 2011 MSP Singapore Company, LLC. All rights reserved. Merck Sharp & Dohme (Australia) Pty Limited. Level 4, 66 Waterloo Road, North Ryde NSW 2113. VTY-11-AUS-8573-J. First issued July 2011. MSDA4931/6MIN/HP. 07/11. Ward6.



Your say

Canberra nurse-led Walk-in Clinic (link)

Twelve nurse practitioners and 50 patients a day - does not sound cost-effective to me.

Alan Richardson

GPs really have themselves to blame. Very many only work sessions and are not on call. No house visits. Fully booked etc. In the good old days there were no appointments and GPs were always available. You cant have your cake and eat it, as the saying goes.

Isaac Brajtman

I think Steve Sant's comments are fair; however I want to clarify there are no Nurse Practitioners (NP) working in the Walk in Centre (WiC) in the capacity as an NP. To date, the one remaining



NP working there has been working in the capacity of an Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) with no ability to work to his full scope of practice. The report made available by ACT Health is a reflection of APN practice, which is quite limited by standard operating procedures and a very limited scope of practice.

To make any generalisations to the NP profession working in Primary Health Care as a whole is incorrect and inadequate. I feel the ACT Health report did not reflect this matter clear.

Nurse Ratchet

Antipsychotics in nursing homes (link)

Behavioural and psychological strategies are far more important than medications to assist with behaviours associated with dementia. The Commonwealth has assisted state governments to develop specialist teams to assist Aged Care Facilities (ACFs) with behavioural and psychological strategies. These teams are available for consultation in metropolitan and rural areas.

Access is dependant on how the states have resourced them. ACFs are poorly resourced to manage these issues however generally tend to do much better than many acute facilities. I would reserve any judgement either on the ACF, the GP or the coroner without all the facts.

David

Weight loss reduces knee pain (link)

And someone got a grant to study this? Oh puuhhhleeease!

Veronica Stewart

Avant and Doctors Health Fund to merge

In your article about the proposed merger between Avant and DHF on Tuesday 16, you referred to Dr Stuart Boland as being the chair of DHF. Dr Boland is in fact the chairman of Avant Mutual Group.

Adam Golabek
Avant Mutual Group Limited

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