

# Monash Minute

Connecting with primary care

March 2018

## **Monash Health GP Liaison update: March 2018**

Please forward this newsletter onto GPs in your practice or email us at [GPLiaison@monashhealth.org](mailto:GPLiaison@monashhealth.org) to subscribe to this newsletter.

### **Geriatric oncology clinic now open**

New clinic focusing on holistic patient care

Monash Health Department of Oncology, in collaboration with Southern Metropolitan Integrated Cancer Service, have opened their first Geriatric Oncology clinic at Dandenong Hospital.

Cancer affects the elderly disproportionately, with 60% of cancer diagnoses and 70% of cancer deaths occurring in the over 65 age group. Australia also has a heavy burden of chronic comorbidity with 60% of older Australians suffering at least 2 chronic diseases which significantly impacts health outcomes and mortality.

The geriatric oncology clinic focuses on the whole patient rather than cancer alone. It includes collaborative patient management by a geriatrician, an oncologist, and allied health professionals. Each patient undergoes a comprehensive geriatric assessment, which identifies otherwise hidden problems, allowing clinicians, patients and families to tailor cancer treatment so that patients can benefit from modern therapies while protecting them from the risks.

The clinic is staffed by oncologist, Dr. Ranjana Srivastava, who trained at the University of Chicago's award-winning geriatric oncology clinic, and Dr. Irene Wagner, a geriatrician with extensive experience in managing dementia, behavioural issues, and the broader community needs of the elderly. They are supported by a range of hospital-based and community allied health services.

#### **How do I make a referral?**

GPs can refer patients through the eReferral Process which is clearly outlined on the [Monash Health website](http://www.monashhealth.org).

When referring, please note:

- The clinic sees elderly patients over age 70 with cancer, however, patients under 70 with multiple complex chronic comorbidities may also be referred.
- A family member is required to attend this clinic with the patient
- The appointment is one hour long.
- A comprehensive list of medications, investigations and other illnesses is essential.
- If the referral is urgent, please note this under the Service Requested section.

#### **For further information about the clinic and/or referral:**

**W:** <http://www.monashhealth.org/page/Outpatients1>

**E:** [outpatient\\_enquiries@monashhealth.org](mailto:outpatient_enquiries@monashhealth.org)

**P:** 1300 342 273



GERIATRIC  
ONCOLOGY CLINIC

**New clinic open at  
Dandenong  
Hospital**

# Monash Minute

Connecting with primary care

March 2018

## New Outreach service for youth aged 12-25

### Youth Drug and Alcohol service

Monash Health's Youth Drug and Alcohol service offers community-based support to young people (aged 12-25 years) in Cardinia Shire, City of Casey and the City of Greater Dandenong. Our multidisciplinary team works with young people to reduce the harms related to drug and alcohol use. Our team can work with GPs and other healthcare providers to help support a young person to engage or re-engage with school, work, health services or activities. The program offers a culturally safe space to work with clients from all backgrounds and identities.

#### Services offered:

- Drug and alcohol counselling
- Outreach support and community links
- Care coordination and referral pathways

Please contact us if you would like a supply of brochures for your practice.

#### How do I make a referral?

The referral process is easy and begins with a phone call or e-mail directly to our service.

**For referrals, consultation or further information regarding the outreach service for youth, please contact us at:**

**E:** [sdds@monashhealth.org](mailto:sdds@monashhealth.org)

**P:** 9556 5255



YOUTH DRUG AND  
ALCOHOL SERVICE

**Outreach service  
for youth  
aged 12-25**

## Improving physical health screening and monitoring for consumers of our mental health services

### Bridging the gap

Monash Health's mental health program has implemented the new Physical Health Screening and Monitoring Tools across all community settings and rehabilitation units with consumers aged 18 and over. This new tool ensures that consumer's physical health issues are identified, and timely referrals to GPs occur.

Recent feedback suggests that:

- Receiving support with physical health is important to clients.
- The new tools will help identify physical health issues and facilitate consumers to address identified health issues.
- Mental health services need to be communicating more with consumers' GPs, and ensuring consumers are attending appointments.

Once the screening and monitoring tool is completed, results will be shared with the consumer's GP to support their patients' ongoing care.



MENTAL HEALTH  
PROGRAM

**Physical health  
screening and  
monitoring tool  
implemented**

# Monash Minute

Connecting with primary care

March 2018

**For further information regarding the new Physical Health Screening and Monitoring Tools, please contact:**

**E:** [pam.maroney@monashhealth.org](mailto:pam.maroney@monashhealth.org)

**T:** 0409 232 220

## Big Red Kidney Bus

Mobile holiday dialysis and GP resources

Monash Health, in partnership with Kidney Health Australia, have been delivering a mobile dialysis program in beautiful Victorian holiday locations since 2014.

The Big Red Kidney Bus is open to all people living in Australia on hospital, satellite, or home haemodialysis. It has 3 haemodialysis chairs, and operates 6 days a week.

The Bus increases quality of life for people living with kidney disease by enabling patients to take a holiday, while continuing to receive life saving treatment at no cost, under the care of the expert Monash dialysis team.

Kidney Health Australia have a range of resources that can support GPs in the management of kidney disease. These include:

- An extensive range of face-to-face and online education options
- Guidelines
- Handbooks
- Applications, and
- Patient education tools.

**For more information on resources for GPs on kidney health:**

**W:** [www.kidney.org.au/health-professionals](http://www.kidney.org.au/health-professionals)

**E:** [primarycare@kidney.org.au](mailto:primarycare@kidney.org.au)

**For information on the Big Red Kidney Bus locations and patient eligibility, please contact:**

**W:** [www.kidney.org/bus](http://www.kidney.org/bus)

**E:** [bigred.kidneybus@kidney.org.au](mailto:bigred.kidneybus@kidney.org.au)

**P:** 1800 454 363



MOBILE DIALYSIS  
PROGRAM

**Big Red  
Kidney Bus &  
GP resources**

# Monash Minute

Connecting with primary care

March 2018

## Jessie McPherson Private Hospital

### TAVI Procedure

Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) is now available at Jessie McPherson Private Hospital (JMPH) for clinically appropriate patients who are symptomatic with aortic stenosis and/or in whom investigations have shown stenosis where surgical valve replacement is not an option.

### What is TAVI?

TAVI is a minimally invasive surgical procedure that repairs the valve by wedging a replacement valve into the aortic valve's place without the need to remove the damaged valve. TAVI patients recover faster in most cases, and generally require shorter hospital stays.

Care is provided by TAVI accredited, Interventional Cardiologists, Dr Robert Gooley and Dr Liam McCormick who specialise in the area of Structural Heart Disease.

**To find out more or to refer a patient for assessment contact the Structural Heart Disease Clinical Nurse Coordinator:**

**E:** [structuralheart@monashhealth.org](mailto:structuralheart@monashhealth.org)

**P:** 9594 4335

**For more information on Monash Heart services:**

**W:** <https://www.facebook.com/monashheart/>



JESSIE  
MCPHERSON  
PRIVATE HOSPITAL

**TAVI  
Procedure**

We are interested in your feedback on how we can provide the most useful information in the Monash Minute newsletter. Please email your comments or feedback to [GPLiaison@monashhealth.org](mailto:GPLiaison@monashhealth.org)

You are receiving the official Monash Health GP Liaison e-newsletter as you are listed on the National Health Services Directory. Click [unsubscribe](#) if you do not wish to receive this newsletter.