

EDITORIALS

- 139 Human embryonic stem cells leap the barrier
David G Penington, Graham F Mitchell
- 140 How should stable coronary artery disease be managed in the modern era?
Keith V Woollard, Mark A J Newman

RESEARCH

- 142 Management of migraine in Australian general practice
Richard J Stark, Lisa Valenti, Graeme C Miller
- 147 Overweight, obesity and metabolic syndrome in rural southeastern Australia
Edward D Janus, Tiina Laatikainen, James A Dunbar, Annamari Kilkkinen, Stephen J Bunker, Benjamin Philpot, Philip A Tideman, Rosy Tirimacco, Sami Heistaro
- 153 Discordance between level of risk and intensity of evidence-based treatment in patients with acute coronary syndromes
Ian A Scott, Patrick H Derhy, Di O'Kane, Kylie A Lindsay, John J Atherton, Mark A Jones for the CPIC Cardiac Collaborative
- 160 Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in general practice: a decision-making dilemma
Suzi S Mikhail, Nicholas A Zwar, Sanjyot Vagholkar, Sarah M Dennis, Richard O Day

HEALTH CARE

- 164 A national survey of medical morning handover report in Australian hospitals
Matthew J Fassett, Terry J Hannan, Iain K Robertson, Steven J Bollipo, Robert G Fassett
- 166 Will Australian rural clinical schools be an effective workforce strategy? Early indications of their positive effect on intern choice and rural career interest
Diann S Eley, Peter G Baker

FOR DEBATE

- 168 Organ donation after cardiac death: legal and ethical justifications for antemortem interventions
Bernadette Richards, Wendy A Rogers

MEDICINE AND THE COMMUNITY

- 171 Early medical abortion in Cairns, Queensland: July 2006 – April 2007
Caroline M de Costa, Darren B Russell, Naomi R de Costa, Michael Carrette, Heather M McNamee

IT AND HEALTH

- 174 The effect of Web 2.0 on the future of medical practice and education: Darwinkian evolution or folksonomic revolution?
Rick McLean, Brian H Richards, Janet I Wardman

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

- 178 "There will be no more!": the legacy of the Toowong breast cancer cluster
Bernard W Stewart

CLINICAL UPDATE

- 181 Remaining measles challenges in Australia
David N Durrheim, Heath Kelly, Mark J Ferson, David Featherstone

VIEWPOINT

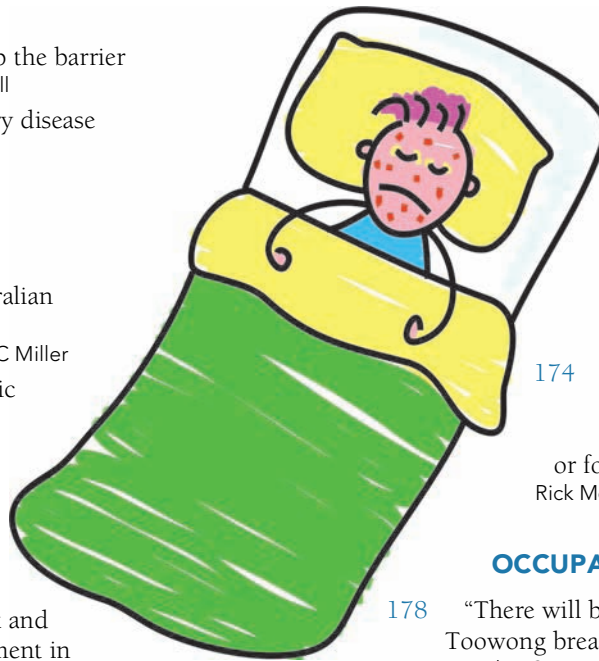
- 185 Personal carbon trading: a potential "stealth intervention" for obesity reduction?
Garry Egger

NOTABLE CASES

- 188 Liver transplantation in Jehovah's Witness patients in Australasia
Gary P Jeffrey, John McCall, Edward Gane, Andrew W Mitchell, Neville M Gibbs, Vanessa Beavis, Kerry Gunn, Stephen Munn, Anthony K House

LETTERS

- 194 (contents overleaf)



AUSTRALIANS DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS

The complexity and chaos of modern health care ensure that the system is constantly at risk of avoidable errors, which cause iatrogenic illness, injury and disability. This continuing threat has spawned a variety of international responses, driven either by a sense of urgency at one end, or by a “softly, softly” approach at the other.

The electrifying US report *To err is human: building a safer health system* galvanised public opinion with its revelation that 100 000 Americans die each year because of medical errors. This seminal report was quickly followed by a purposeful blueprint for reform — *Crossing the quality chasm: a new health system for the 21st century*.

Similarly, British politicians were recently dismayed at the vagueness and bureaucratic obfuscation of the National Patient Safety Agency in responding to the question of how many people die in the United Kingdom from medical errors each year. Failure to produce this information saw heads roll. The UK's Chief Medical Officer, in ordering a shake-up of the services responsible for patient safety, demanded that “more needs to be done to accelerate the pace of change in this area”.*

Meanwhile, our initial national response — the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Health Care of 2000 — has since morphed into the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care in 2006. We have also witnessed various safety and quality clones appearing in different jurisdictions.

Despite this flurry of seeming activity, we are yet to have a clear and concrete national enunciation or implementation of a comprehensive range of clinically relevant workplace safety indicators beyond sentinel events, or a timely reporting system for mishaps in safety. It appears that our safety and quality movement is more comfortable to “talk the talk” than “walk the walk”.

Where is our equivalent of the US “100 000 Lives” campaign? Where are our national core clinical safety indicators? Where is our effective national mandatory incident reporting and learning system for safety mishaps, or a contemporaneous outcome measurement system? Surely Australians deserve better than this!



Martin B Van Der Weyden

* Kmietowicz Z. Simplify patient incident reporting, says CMO. *BMJ* 2007; 334: 12.

LETTERS

- A treatable cause of aborted sudden cardiac death**
194 Aditya Kapoor, Timothy A Wells, Daniel Wong, John P O'Shea
- Childhood overweight and obesity by Socio-economic Indexes for Areas**
195 Mu Li, Karen Byth, Creswell J Eastman
- Increase in adult body weight in coronial autopsies: an impending crisis?**
195 Roger W Byard, Maria Bellis
- Challenge or opportunity: can regional training hospitals capitalise on the impending influx of interns?**
196 Diann S Eley, David K Morrissey
- Intern choices for James Cook University graduates**
197 Tarun Sen Gupta, Richard B Hays, Richard B Murray
- Transition Care: what is it and what are its outcomes?**
197 Ian D Cameron, Owen Davies
- Beyond the evidence: is there a place for antidepressant combinations in the pharmacotherapy of depression?**
198 David P Horgan
199 Murray J Walters, Alston M Unwin, Sean B Gills
199 Nicholas A Keks, Graham D Burrows, David L Copolov, Richard Newton, Nick Paoletti, Isaac Schweitzer, John W G Tiller
- Writing to the next of kin after the death of a patient**
200 Ian T Jones

OBITUARY

- 159 **Derek Adrian Trickett Farrar** by Philip J Moore

BOOK REVIEW

- 191 **Disputes and dilemmas in health law**, reviewed by Paul Gerber

CORRECTIONS

- 152 **Management outcomes of patients with type 2 diabetes: targeting the 10-year absolute risk of coronary heart disease**
(*Med J Aust* 2007; 186: 622-624)
- 152 **Research misconduct: can Australia learn from the UK's stuttering system?**
(*Med J Aust* 2007; 186: 662-663)

- 138 **IN THIS ISSUE**
177 **BOOKS RECEIVED**
191 **BOOKS RECEIVED**
192 **IN OTHER JOURNALS**