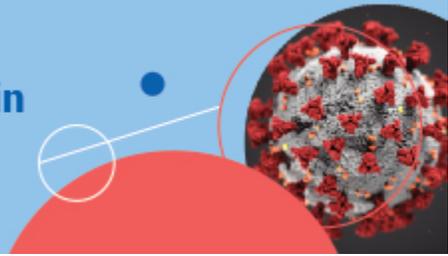


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sexual health workforce bulletin
love in the time of covid-19



[A project of the Taskforce on BBVs, Sexual Health and COVID-19](#)

Sexual Health Workforce Bulletin

Love in the time of COVID-19 #4

09 June 2020

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Welcome to the fourth edition of the Sexual Health Workforce Bulletin. These bulletins aim to provide the sexual health workforce with information on changes in clinical practice, health service innovation, medical education, emerging research and useful resources.

This fortnight's bulletin contains feature articles from the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association on [telehealth and sexual health](#), and an opinion piece from Teddy Cook (ACON's Manager, Trans and Gender Diverse Health Equity and architect of TransHub) on the [engagement of trans and gender diverse people with the health care sector during COVID-19](#).

The bulletin also includes updates from the [SPHERE Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health COVID-19 Coalition](#) and [Guy's and St Thomas'](#) London .

Other resources include:

- [New HIV and ageing online learning module for nurses](#)
- [Webinars from ASHM's COVID-19 Taskforce](#)
- [Links to relevant news items, research, resources and education](#)

The bulletin has been developed by the ASHM Sexual Health Program with expert input by members of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine (AChSHM) and the Taskforce on BBVs, sexual health and COVID-19.

We hope that you are finding this bulletin useful, and are keen to receive your submissions and ideas for future editions (please email these to sexualhealth@ashm.org.au). Please distribute this bulletin through your networks.

Stay safe and well,

Dr Vincent Cornelisse

ASHM Clinical Advisor

Medical Unit Manager and Staff Specialist, Kirketon Road Centre

&

Jessica Michaels

ASHM Sexual Health Program Manager

[For more information or to subscribe to the bulletin click here](#)

The following articles were graciously supplied by our colleagues in the workforce. For any questions or commentary please reach out to the organisations listed.



Engagement of trans and gender diverse people with the health care sector during COVID-19

“We have never been more ready to tackle a global pandemic but we also know that it is populations that are most vulnerable and most marginalised who fare worse in the social determinants that lead to poorer health outcomes.

These include discrimination, stigma, barriers to care and invisibility within policy frameworks.

While being trans or gender diverse is not a COVID-19 risk factor, trans people report extremely high levels of discrimination and stigma within healthcare settings. We are regularly misgendered at hospital, particularly those of us who live visibly trans, or those whose glorious expression of gender identifies them as different in some way, and also for those whose name and gender marker are not reflected accurately in Medicare records or within

hospital systems.”

[Click here to read the full opinion piece from Teddy Cook](#) (ACON’s Manager, Trans and Gender Diverse Health Equity and architect of TransHub). Find more at www.transhub.org.au/clinicians



Telehealth and sexual health

The extension of telehealth MBS items to Nurse Practitioners has opened up more options for people seeking care for sexual health and blood-borne illnesses.

“It definitely makes us more accessible for patients,” says a Nurse Practitioner from regional Victoria who works with clients with Hep C. “I’m now doing telehealth into more remote parts of the state, which is a plus for people in those communities.”

New telehealth item numbers for health professionals were introduced by the Government as a way of maintaining health care for the community during COVID-19. The new item numbers for Nurse Practitioners mirror the existing face-to-face item numbers. They can be used in combination to meet patient needs. For example, initial patient information for sexual health screening can be gathered via telehealth, then followed up with a face-to-face consultation which can be shortened because of the first contact.

“The good thing is we can continue to do our normal work but offer it in a broader way to at-risk communities,” says the Nurse Practitioner from Victoria. “For some people on limited incomes, that’s a real bonus. They might not be able to afford a tank of petrol to drive halfway across the state to see me, but they can get me on the phone.

“Now that those telehealth consults come under MBS, I can also send patients direct to pathology for testing as I normally would.”

[See MBS online for details of telehealth items for Nurses Practitioners and other health professionals.](#)

Thanks to the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association for supplying this article



SPHERE Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health COVID-19 Coalition

The [SPHERE NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women in Primary Care](#) recently established a coalition aimed at advocating for the sexual and reproductive health of women in Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health COVID-19 Coalition brings together clinician experts, health service providers, academics, researchers and consumers to give a strong, collective voice in advocating for high quality sexual and reproductive health services for women during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, particularly the delivery of and access to contraception and medical abortion services.

The Coalition is currently working on a number of evidence-based consensus statements calling for policy and practice changes to improve the delivery of medical abortion and contraceptive services in Australia. Our first consensus statement focusing on [early medical abortion](#) has been released and outlines recommendations to improve the accessibility and delivery of this essential health care service, particularly for women living in regional and remote areas.

For further information about the Coalition, [visit their website](#) or contact SPHERE-CRE@monash.edu.

[Click here to read the Coalition's consensus statement on early medical abortion](#)

[Click here to subscribe to the Coalition's bulletin](#)



Guy's and St Thomas': Journey to the 'new normal' in Sexual Health & HIV Care

We are pleased to provide an international update from our colleagues at [Guy's and St Thomas'](#) (GSST) London. The challenges they have faced and innovations they have adopted in the face of the UK COVID-19 epidemic will be familiar to those who have been following the Australian sexual health workforce response. These include:

- Open-access walk-in and appointments service have made way to telephone triage
- New clinical pathways have been implemented, combining tele-consultations, patient taken images and home testing
- A medication pick-up or postal service has been enabled
- Two thousand patients with HIV were contacted and assessed to ensure no break in antiretroviral supply
- Careful patient channelling and PPE for staff have become the norm

[Click here to read the full piece.](#) Our thanks to Dr Mark Pakianathan, Dr Jennifer Dobbie, and Dr Nick Larbalestier for providing this insight into their work.

Webinars, podcasts and recordings

Register for these upcoming webinars:

- **Health and human rights for sex workers in Asia and the Pacific in the time of COVID-19**
ASHM's Regional Advisory Group on BBVs, Sexual Health and COVID-19
Tuesday June 9 2020, 4:00PM AEST
Invited experts will discuss issues on health and human rights for sex workers across the Asia Pacific region in the time of COVID-19. The webinar will address key topics, such as: community responses, issues for transgender sex workers and what normalcy might look like as lockdowns lift. [Register here.](#)
- **Universal Health Coverage and SRHR during COVID-19 and beyond**
Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters
Monday 15 June 2020, 10:00PM AEST
Invited experts will discuss the new reality of achieving universal health coverage for sexual and reproductive health and rights during COVID-19 and beyond. [Register here](#)

Subscribe to this podcast:

- **Sexual Health Matters - Clinical Podcast**
SHINE SA
SHINE SA's new podcast *Sexual Health Matters – Clinical* delves into the intimate regions of the body and broaches the uncomfortable conversations necessary to ensure client safety and sexual/reproductive well-being. The first episode focuses on providing contraception during COVID-19. Find it on spotify, stitcher or google podcasts, or [access it here.](#)

Access these recordings:

- **The Indigenous Health Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**
ASHM Taskforce for BBVs, Sexual Health and COVID-19

A/Professor Edwina Wright, Professor James Ward and Doctor Darren Russell provided a situational update on the Indigenous health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Access the recording here.](#)

- **Mental health and wellbeing through COVID-19 – Support for the health workforce**

ASHM Taskforce for BBVs, Sexual Health and COVID-19

Ms Ruth Hennessy Senior Clinical Psychologist, Dr David Baker and Nurse Practitioner Kurt Andersson-Noorgard discussed many of the workplace stressors currently being experienced by frontline health care workers, including receptionists and other ancillary staff. [Access the recording here.](#)

- **Sex in the time of COVID-19: Insights from the sexual health sector**

CATIE

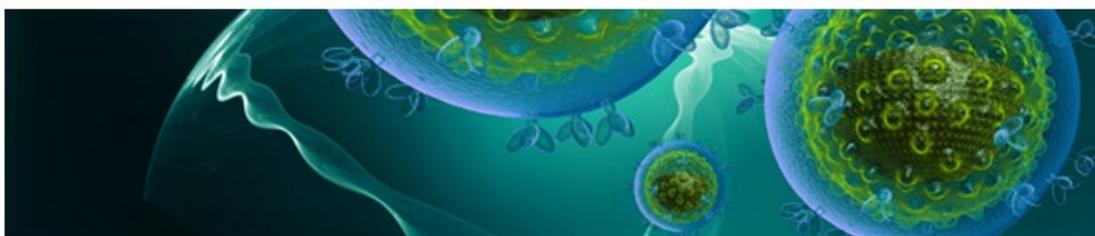
Canada's leading voices in sexual health speak to how their organizations are meeting the needs of people looking for guidance on sex in the time of COVID-19 — both online and in person. [Access the recording here.](#)

- **Australian PCOS Guidelines: An update for general practice**

Shine SA

The first international evidence-based guidelines on PCOS were developed in Australia and released in 2018. This webinar reviewed the guidelines and discussed key recommendations for diagnosis and management in general practice. [Access the recording here.](#) (You will need to log in or create a free account)

Education



New HIV and ageing online learning module for aged care and community nurses

ASHM is excited to announce the launch of the free online learning module *HIV in Ageing: for Aged Care and Community Nurses*. The one-hour module has been designed as an introduction to HIV, with a focus on the health challenges of HIV in ageing. The module explores the nurses' role in patient management and care, including managing common comorbidities experienced by people who are ageing with HIV; supporting psychosocial needs; managing medication adherence and maintaining patient privacy.

Dr Denise Cummins, Clinical Nurse Consultant for Sydney District Nursing SLHD, was a clinical advisor for the module's development. Denise welcomes the module's launch, commenting: *"The module is an excellent resource which will benefit nurses working in aged care or community settings. Nurses in this sector play an important role in supporting and meeting the needs of people who are ageing with HIV, and this module will support their provision of high quality care."*

[Click here to access the free module.](#) You will need to log in or create a free account, then navigate to the Nursing/Midwifery section of the Course Catalogue.

This activity has been endorsed by the Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) according to approved quality standards criteria. Completion of this educational activity entitles eligible participants to claim 1 CPD hour. Accreditation for 1 CPD hour with the Australian College of Nursing is pending.

The module has been endorsed by the Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association (ASHHNA).

Access more ASHM education:

- [ASHM upcoming training](#)
- [ASHM online learning](#)

Other training providers:

Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service presents **LGBT + youth mental health practice and suicide prevention training**. The training is designed for clinicians who wish to provide evidence-based, informed, affirmative psychological interventions for young people diverse in sexuality and/or gender.

It would benefit mental health clinicians, school-based youth health nurses, psychologists, social workers, nurses, counsellors, guidance officers, chaplains, youth justice staff, child safety officer and youth residential care workers. [Click here to find out more.](#)

And more from:

- [Children by Choice](#)
- [Family Planning NSW](#)
- [Sexual Health Quarters](#)
- [ShineSA](#)
- [True Relationship & Reproductive Health](#)

News and research

Coronavirus anti-vaxxers aren't a huge threat yet. How do we keep it that way? ([The Conversation](#))

Could SARS-CoV-2 be transmitted sexually via semen? ([Global Health Now](#))

COVID-19 creates long anxious waits for fertility treatments ([Wired](#))

Collaborating for Menstrual Health Rights in the Pacific ([Papua New Guinea Post-Courier](#))

Articles and studies included in this section have not been reviewed by the Taskforce, however we endeavour to only include content from reputable sources.

Resources

AHPRA: [Telehealth guidance for health practitioners](#)

ASHM: [Taskforce on BBVs, sexual health and COVID-19](#)

CERSH: [April 2020 News Update \(subscribe to future editions here\)](#)

Marie Stopes Australia:

[Sexual and reproductive health rights in Australia situational report](#) / [Service delivery updates](#)

RACGP: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information for GPs](#)

RACP: [How the college is supporting you](#)

RANZCOG: [COVID-19 information hub](#)

Scarlet Alliance: [COVID-19 impact and response for sex workers](#)

SPHERE: [SRH and COVID-19 Coalition](#)

SRHM: [Collection of papers on sexual and reproductive health and rights in the era of COVID-19](#)

Call for contributions

We are now calling for submissions for the next edition of this bulletin. Below are some examples of the type of content we would like to include in the bulletin, relating to sexual, reproductive and transgender health:

- Practice changes as a result of COVID-19
- Implications for care and communities
- Innovative responses and adaptations
- Telehealth challenges and successes
- Education opportunities (e.g. online training and conferences)
- Emerging research
- Useful resources

However all contributions are welcomed. Please send any contributions to sexualhealth@ashm.org.au. Submissions for the next edition close on **Monday 15 June**, with the bulletin to be published the following week. Submissions after **Monday 15 June** will go toward subsequent editions.

Please forward this email to your networks.



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Developing a sustainable HIV,
viral hepatitis and sexual health
workforce for 30 years.

Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis
and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM)

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CIRCULATION INFORMATION

ASHM is a peak professional society representing a multidisciplinary health workforce in HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health. We have a membership of over 3500 and almost 60 organisational members providing reach to a large majority of health care worker activity involved in the sector.

You are receiving this email because you are an ASHM member or an affiliate through the organisational member program who has indicated an interest in further education. This is our principal way to keep you informed about matters in which you indicate an interest. This email was sent to a targeted group.

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