

Welcome to the latest edition of Nurse News!

Lymphoma Australia’s Nurse News aims to keep nurses across Australia, with a special interest in lymphoma and CLL, up to date with all aspects of lymphoma care.

2021 has been a busy and exciting year so far for the Lymphoma Australia team. We are starting to make our way around Australia as hospital and travel restrictions are starting to ease from the pandemic.

Featured on our front cover of this edition is the ward 5A (haematology) team from Peter Mac in Melbourne, who went lime for their lymphoma awareness month in March 2021! Thank you for your support!

Lymphoma Australia are pleased to announce our Inaugural Lymphoma Nurse Conference being held on the 5th and 6th of June 2021. The event includes presentations from some of Australia’s leading experts in lymphoma and CLL. The theme is understanding lymphoma and CLL, so that nurses can empower and improve patients’ lives. The event will be a virtual event this year, due to the uncertainty of travel due to COVID-19. See inside the newsletter for the full details of the agenda and how to register for the event.

We have also expanded our nursing team in New South Wales and Queensland. We will introduce the new team to you later in this edition. The Lymphoma Care Nurse team will be visiting or will be in contact with you soon to meet and update you all on how we can support nurses, your patients, and carers.

On behalf of the Lymphoma Australia team, we wish to thank you for the wonderful care you provide lymphoma



and CLL patients or carers and your ongoing support for the work we do.

For further information or questions please contact the Lymphoma Care Nurse team, Lymphoma Australia: nurse@lymphoma.org.au or 1800 359 081.

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Inaugural Lymphoma Nurse Conference 2021 – Virtual

Piecing it together

Understanding lymphoma and
CLL to improve patients' lives



Inaugural *Lymphoma* Nurse Conference

Lymphoma Australia invites all nurses and health professionals to our first virtual annual nurse conference.

Join us to gain new and interesting insights into care and treatment for lymphoma and CLL and a greater understanding of the patient experience. The conference will include presentations from Australia's leading lymphoma and CLL experts.

Date: 5-6 June 2021
Time: Saturday 5 June (10am-4:30pm AEST)
 Sunday 6 June (10am-12:30pm AEST)
Location: Webinar
Cost: FREE registration
RSVP: 1 June 2021
Note: Attendees will be awarded 8 CPD points

For more information contact 1800 953 081 or email nurse@lymphoma.org.au and to register visit the website :

 <https://bit.ly/3tf3xMq>

Agenda

Day 1 - Saturday 5 June 2021	
10:00 am	Welcome & opening // Lymphoma Australia
Session 1 Nurses can empower patients through knowledge	
10:25 am	Revealing the patient voice // Pru Etcheverry, Regional Director, Asia Pacific, Lymphoma Coalition
	Patient story
	Novel therapies for lymphoma // Dr Michael Dickinson, Disease lead - Aggressive lymphoma, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Session 2 Improving patient outcomes - Clinical Trials	
11:40 am	Understanding the benefits of clinical trials for patients // Professor Judith Trotman Head of Haematology, Concord Hospital
	Patient story
	Nurses can empower patients to improve outcomes // Jennifer Harman, Clinical Trials Nurse Coordinator, Concord Hospital
Session 3 Era of novel oral therapies	
1:10 PM	Lymphoma, CLL & the oral therapy evolution // Professor Chan Cheah, Haematologist & clinical lead lymphoma, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital & Hollywood Private Hospital
	Nursing management of patient on oral therapies // Tania Cushion, Lymphoma Clinical Nurse Consultant, Olivia Newton John Wellness & Research Centre, Austin Health
Session 4 COVID-19 vaccines & lymphoma/CLL	
2:15 PM	COVID-19 vaccines - best global practice // Associate Prof Paul Griffin, Director of Infectious Disease, Mater Health Services, Brisbane, Australia

Day 1 - Saturday 5 June 2021	
	COVID-19 pandemic - how has the management of lymphoma/CLL patients been affected? // Dr Jason Butler, Senior Staff Haematologist Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital & Sunshine Coast University Hospital
Session 5 What goes on behind the scenes for patients?	
3:20 PM	Having difficult conversations with patients - breaking bad news & The role of the nurse to facilitate conversations // Professor Fran Boyle Pam McLean Centre, Sydney
	Panel discussion // Professor Fran Boyle & Dr Renee Lim Pam McLean Centre, Sydney & Erica Smeaton, Lymphoma Australia
4:30 PM	Close
Day 2 - Sunday 6 June 2020	
10:00 AM	Welcome
Session 1 Lymphoma/CLL in regional & rural settings	
10:10 AM	Management of the lymphoma/CLL outside of large metropolitan centres // Medical lead
	Patient story
	Caring for the regional or rural patient with lymphoma/CLL // Caroline Ford, Haematology Nurse Coordinator, Mid North Coast Cancer Institute, Coffs Harbour
Session 2 Lymphoma Australia - Nurse awards	
12:30 PM	Close

Introducing the NEW Lymphoma Care Nurse Team

Lymphoma Australia's lymphoma care nurse team has had a few changes and has expanded over the last couple of months. This will enable us to visit more hospitals across Australia to meet with you, provide education, resources, and support for those affected by lymphoma or CLL.

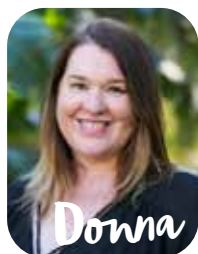
Lymphoma Nurse team

Donna Gairns

National Nurse Manager - Nurses

Based in Melbourne, Victoria (National remit)

Monday - Friday // Donna.gairns@lymphoma.org.au



Donna has over 25 years of experience as a Registered Nurse, specialising in haematology and oncology nursing, in a variety of roles. Donna joined the Lymphoma Australia team in 2017 where she has created the foundations of the lymphoma nurse program across Australia. Donna will continue to lead the nurse program, the lymphoma nurse special interest group, nurse education including nurse modules and the nurse

conference. She is pleased to see the team grow considerably over this time and excited to welcome new lymphoma care nurses to the team. Donna is currently making her way around Victorian hospitals, that have recently opened to visitors to meet with you all. She has also recently visited Tasmania, South Australia and Perth and enjoyed meeting with as many of you as she could.

Erica Smeaton

National Nurse Manager – Hospitals & Patients

Based in Brisbane, Queensland

3 days per week // Erica.smeaton@lymphoma.org.au



Erica will be joining our team very soon in a new management position. She will manage the lymphoma care nurse team and be responsible for further developing our patient service. Erica has been a haematology nurse for the past 15 years in a variety of roles. She is currently the Lymphoma and Multiple Myeloma Clinical

Nurse Consultant at Gold Coast University Hospital, where she will be joining our team concurrently with alongside her current role. Erica hopes to develop a balance between the roles to benefit patient outcomes. We look forward to welcoming Erica into the Lymphoma Care Nurse team soon.

Queensland team

The Queensland team has a few new faces that Lymphoma Australia are pleased to introduce you to:

Lisa Oakman

Lymphoma Care Nurse - Queensland

Based in Brisbane, Queensland

Wed, Thu & Fri // Lisa.oakman@lymphoma.org.au



Lisa gained her bachelor's degree in nursing through the University of Southern Queensland in 2007. She has experience in Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplant ward, bone marrow transplant coordination, apheresis, and Clinical Nurse role in the Haematology outpatient clinics. Since 2017, Lisa has been working at St Vincent's Hospital Northside in the Oncology/Haematology ward and in Cancer Care Coordination. Lisa

maintains this position part-time while also providing a wealth of clinical experience to the Lymphoma Australia team in Queensland, working three days a week.

Annette Smith

Lymphoma Care Nurse - Queensland

Based in Brisbane, Queensland

Tuesday // Annette.smith@lymphoma.org.au



Annette commenced her nursing career in 2008 in cancer nursing. Annette loved every aspect of cancer nursing, and she developed an interest in haematology nursing, especially lymphoma. Annette most recently held the role of clinical facilitator Gold Coast University hospital since 2017. Annette is excited to be working for Lymphoma Australia and the opportunity to work with a great team dedicated to lymphoma. She looks forward

to connecting with those who have been touched by lymphoma in whatever way she can help.

New South Wales team

Lymphoma Australia are pleased to introduce you to two new team members in New South Wales, who join Rebecca Beck. Please contact the NSW team for a visit or lymphoma education soon, by emailing them directly or via nurse@lymphoma.org.au



Rebecca Beck

Lymphoma Care Nurse - NSW

Based in Sydney, New South Wales

Mon & Tue //

Rebecca.Beck@lymphoma.org.au

Rebecca is based in Sydney and joined the Lymphoma Australia team in March 2020. Many of you across New South Wales have had the opportunity to meet Rebecca over the past 12 months during her visits and

hospital education sessions. Bec will continue to mainly be based across Sydney, greater Sydney, and regional areas. She is now joined by Wendy and Sue, where the NSW team will work together to ensure we provide support for nurses, patients and loved ones across NSW.

Wendy Riordan

Lymphoma Care Nurse & Regional Coordinator - NSW

Based in Wollongong, New South Wales

Monday-Thursdays // Wendy.odea@lymphoma.org.au



Wendy has had 40 years involved in cancer care and over 20 years as a Registered Nurse, oncology clinical trials nurse and professional counsellor. Wendy has most recently worked for the Leukaemia Foundation of Australia as a Blood Cancer Support Coordinator, working closely with haematology cancer nurses and social workers in providing practical, educational, and emotional support to patients, carers, and families. Wendy has vast experience

from working in several state and national roles. Her goal and focus are to empower people to live as well as possible with a blood cancer, no matter which cancer pathway they were on.

Suzanne Westgarth

Lymphoma Care Nurse - NSW

Based in Coffs Harbour, New South Wales

Mon & Tue // Suzanne.westgarth@lymphoma.org.au



Sue has over 13 years of experience as a Registered Nurse, after gaining her degree in 2007. She found her passion in oncology and haematology nursing early in her career. Sue has worked at Mid North Coast Cancer Institute (MNCCI) in Coffs Harbour, NSW for over 12 years. Throughout her nursing career at MNCCI, she has worked within several clinical areas. Sue is passionate about advocacy and patient care. Sue is working with

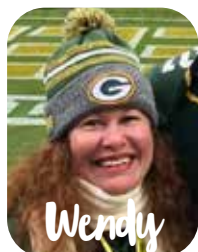
Lymphoma Australia part-time while also continues to work part-time on the chemotherapy day unit at MNCCI. Sue is based in Coffs Harbour and will cover northern regional areas of NSW.

Wendy O'Dea

Lymphoma Care Nurse & Health Literacy - Queensland

Based in Brisbane, Queensland

Tuesday & Wednesdays // Wendy.odea@lymphoma.org.au



Wendy has recently joined the team with almost 17 years' experience as a cancer nurse. She has a broad range of experience in the cancer setting including in private and public health sectors, clinical nursing, apheresis, education and quality and risk management. She has a passion for health literacy, and empowering staff and consumers with education, policy and procedures, and frameworks to ensure the best outcomes for health consumers.

Wendy shares her time between Lymphoma Australia, Division of Cancer Services at Princess Alexandra Hospital (QLD) and Cancer Institute NSW.

Lymphoma and CLL patient support campaign

From April to June, you are invited to help raise awareness and create additional support for lymphoma patients and their carers.

We have FREE lymphoma support packs that can be given to your lymphoma/CLL patients over the coming weeks. Each pack contains some special gifts to help make treatment a little more bearable and to help patients to stay up to date about our national services and support.

Our Lymphoma Care Nurse Team can also hold information or coffee morning for patients and provide a range of information materials.

To speak with our team about an information session or to order for your clinic or department and the number required, please email: nurse@lymphoma.org.au



Lymphoma and CLL pharmaceutical updates

Please see below the results and updates from the March 2021 Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) meetings.

Drug name and sponsor	Subtype	Listing requested and purpose	PBAC outcome
Brentuximab Vedotin (Takeda)	T-cell lymphoma	To request PBS listing for first line treatment of CD30 positive peripheral T-cell lymphoma (PTCL).	PBAC recommended the PBS listing of BV for use in combination with cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, and prednisolone (CHP) for the treatment of patients with previously untreated CD30 positive PTCL. BV-CHP was clinically more superior than CHOP.

Upcoming PBAC meeting agenda – July 2021

Please see below the July 2021 PBAC meeting agenda for lymphoma and CLL, that will be discussed in the next meeting.

Submission type	Drug name of sponsor	Subtype	Listing requested by sponsor/purpose
Change to listing	Acalabrutinib (AstraZeneca)	Relapsed and/or refractory mantle cell lymphoma (R/R MCL)	To request an Authority Required listing for the treatment of patients with R/R MCL who have received at least one prior therapy or who have developed an intolerance to another Bruton's tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitor.
New listing	Selinexor (Antengene)	Relapsed and/or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL)	To request a Section 100 (Highly Specialised Drugs Program), Authority Required listing for the treatment of relapsed and/or refractory DLBCL in patients who have received at least two lines of systemic therapy.
New listing	Zanubrutinib (BeiGene)	Waldenstrom's macroglobulinaemia	To request a General Schedule, Authority Required (telephone) listing for the treatment of adult patients with Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia
New listing	Zanubrutinib (BeiGene)	Relapsed and/or refractory mantle cell lymphoma	To request a General Schedule, Authority Required (telephone) listing for the treatment of relapsed and/or refractory mantle cell lymphoma.

Commercial CAR T-cell therapy is now manufactured in Australia



Australian blood cancer patients including those with eligible subtypes of lymphoma and CLL will benefit with a breakthrough CAR T-cell therapy now to be made in Australia for the first time, within the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has granted approval for Cell Therapies Pty Ltd to commence commercial manufacturing of Kymriah®, a chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy (CAR-T) one-time treatment, in its manufacturing facility, which is located within the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, Australia.

The approval makes Cell Therapies the first and only approved commercial manufacturing site for CAR-T in Australia for both clinical trial and non-clinical trial patients. Cell Therapies has been engaged in CAR-T development and clinical trial manufacturing for clinical investigators and other clients for over 10 years.

Kymriah® was the first CAR-T therapy to be approved by the TGA and publicly funded in Australia, for the treatment of eligible adult patients with relapsed or refractory DLBCL (diffuse large B cell lymphoma) and eligible paediatric and young adult patients up to 25 years of age with relapsed or refractory ALL (acute lymphoblastic leukaemia).

The Kymriah® manufacturing process is highly complex and requires several carefully performed steps. The patient's cells are first extracted then reprogrammed in the manufacturing facility and returned as a personalised, one-time treatment for infusion back into the patient.

Until now this advanced manufacturing process was conducted either in the Novartis Morris Plains facility in New Jersey, USA, or another approved overseas facility. Final approvals have now been received allowing Cell Therapies Pty Ltd, which operates a state-of-the-art facility within Peter Mac, to manufacture this treatment in Victoria.

"This is great news for Australian Lymphoma patients who may benefit from this potentially lifesaving treatment", said Lymphoma Australia Board Chairman, Serg Duchini.

The sites around Australia that now provide commercial CAR T-cell therapy for adult lymphoma/CLL includes Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (Melbourne), Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (Sydney), Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital (Brisbane) & Fiona Stanley Hospital (Perth).

 <https://bit.ly/2QNPbFJ>

Lymphoma Nurse Learning Modules

The Lymphoma Australia nurse learning modules are an innovative, online learning module developed specifically for haematology and oncology nurses with a particular interest in lymphoma and CLL.

The modules comprise separate learning live webinars that provide a comprehensive overview of the disease entity including pathogenesis, diagnosis, diagnostics, staging & prognostic indicators, treatments, symptoms, and complications arising from treatment, clinical trials, and

supportive measures to help with the care of your patient.

The first 6 modules are now available to register (FREE) via the Lymphoma Australia website and include a learning package, short assessment and on completion you will be awarded a certificate with 2 CPD points.

 <https://bit.ly/2Rm4gOz>

Lymphoma Australia updates

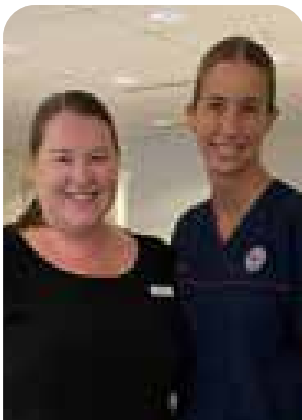
The Lymphoma Care Nurse team are planning to visit your hospital soon.

Let us know if you would like a lymphoma care nurse to visit for an in-service or education session. We are here to help you with your patients and to help better educate nurses at your site about lymphoma, treatments, and care. To schedule a visit by emailing nurse@lymphoma.org.au



Day Haematology Nurse Team, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

Donna Gairns, National Nurse Manager visited the team at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth recently. Donna also met with some of their lymphoma patients and provided them with a support bag.



Donna Gairns, Lymphoma Australia (left) and Helena Furdas, Lymphoma Nurse Consultant (right)



Dominico, CLL Patient



Christine, Lymphoma Patient

The fact sheets and booklets are available to download or print from the website.

You can also order hard copies through the website or email the lymphoma care nurse team: nurse@lymphoma.org.au

New fact sheets

- Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia & small lymphocytic lymphoma (CLL/SLL)

Updated resources

- Living with CLL & SLL – booklet
- Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
- Double-hit & triple-hit lymphoma
- Primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma
- Hodgkin lymphoma
- Follicular lymphoma
- Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma
- CAR T-cell therapy
- Oral therapies in lymphoma
- Autologous stem cell transplant
- Allogeneic stem cell transplant
- Maintenance therapy

lymphoma.org.au/support-for-you/fact-sheets/

Thank you again for all of your support for the work that we do. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions contact the Lymphoma Care Nurse team: nurse@lymphoma.org.au or call 1800 359 081.

Connect with us...    

Join our dedicated closed Facebook group for patients and carers by searching **Lymphoma DOWN UNDER**

For more information visit www.lymphoma.org.au

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