

Welcome to the third edition of Nurse News for 2020!

Lymphoma Australia’s Nurse News aims to keep nurses with a special interest in lymphoma or CLL up to date with all aspects of lymphoma care locally and from around the world.

Lymphoma Australia hopes that you are all keeping well, especially our colleagues in Melbourne, during a particularly challenging year for healthcare. We are still working hard to keep you updated, educated and supported during these uncertain times. We thank you for the care that you continue to provide to those affected by lymphoma or CLL.

There have been two new PBS listings for lymphoma and CLL from 1st September for patients. This was a wonderful way to launch September’s Lymphoma Awareness Month. Thank you to all who participated in the “LIME IT UP” campaign, as did the nurses on ward 4.1 at Box Hill Hospital in Melbourne (see photo). For more information and coverage see inside.

Lymphoma Australia recently launched the Lymphoma Nurse Learning Modules in August. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have participated in the national live webinars so far or have registered after the events to catch up. We still have module 6 planned for remainder of this year. The feedback that we have received has been fantastic and the modules will continue in 2021. For those who have not registered, they are now available to register through our new website, in the health professional section. For more information see inside this edition.



Lymphoma Care Nurses are available in Queensland and New South Wales for in-services and education in person. We are also available on virtual platforms everywhere else, so please contact us to schedule a time soon. Contact nurse@lymphoma.org.au if we can help you.

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Lymphoma Nurse Learning Modules



Lymphoma Australia recently launched our Nurse Learning Modules in August. We will be hosting 6 nurse learning modules by the end of November. Thank you to all who have participated so far.

The nurse learning modules are FREE live webinars that are available to nurses and other health professionals who work with lymphoma/CLL patients. The aim is to upskill, enhance or update your knowledge on the latest management about all aspects of lymphoma/CLL.

The Nurse Learning Modules include presentations from some of Australia's leading expert clinicians on the current standard management of lymphoma/CLL and related topics. They aim to help nurses to feel more confident in their knowledge when caring for a lymphoma/CLL patient. The Nurse Learning Modules give everyone an opportunity to have your questions answered by the experts.

Alongside each individual learning module, you will be provided with a learning package that includes the objectives, further reading including the key study publications for each topic for further reference and a post assessment to help with your learning needs and to review how we have met the objectives. We have one more module planned for 2020 and the modules will recommence in February 2021 on a monthly basis.

Lymphoma Nurse Learning Modules

The completed nurse learning modules will be available to watch via our NEW website. You can find them under nurse education in the Health professional section. You can register for module 6 now!

Module 6 – Hodgkin lymphoma Thursday 19 November 2020

Professor Mark Hertzberg, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney
This module will be discussing the management of Hodgkin

lymphoma. The presentation will provide an overview of the current and emerging treatment and management of HL, including diagnosis, subtypes, staging, prognostic treatment decisions.

For more information or for any questions, please contact Donna Gairns, National Nurse Manager ph 1800 953 081 or nurse@lymphoma.org.au

Module 1	Pathophysiology & classification of lymphoma/CLL	Dr Jason Butler Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital
	The patient's experience	Donna Gairns Lymphoma Australia
Module 2	Diagnosis & diagnostic tests explained	Dr Colm Keane Princess Alexandra & Mater Private Hospital, Brisbane
	Staging, test & scans explained	Dr Collin Chin Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth
Module 3	Management of indolent lymphoma: follicular lymphoma & marginal zone lymphoma	Professor Chan Cheah Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth
	Nursing implications & caring for the indolent lymphoma patient	Ron Middleton, Haem. CNC, Toowoomba Hospital, QLD
Module 4	The evolving treatment landscape of lymphoma/CLL	Dr Katharine Lewis Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth
	Patient care in the era of new therapies for lymphoma/CLL	Helena Furdas, Lymphoma CNC Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth
Module 5	Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma	Professor Mark Hertzberg, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney

Meet Aggie Zielonka, Senior Clinical Trials Nurse, Concord Hospital, Sydney

In each edition of Nurse News, we plan to feature a specialist nurse or team working with lymphoma patients across Australia. Please let us know if you have a team or nurse you would like to highlight. This edition we would like to introduce you to Aggie Zielonka.

Aggie is a senior Clinical Trials Nurse who works within the Clinical Research Unit in the Department of Haematology at Concord Hospital, the largest clinical research unit for blood cancers in NSW. The unit conducts world leading, patient centred clinical trials to access and develop innovative therapies for lymphoma, leukaemia, myeloma and other blood disorders.

Aggie Zielonka, Senior Clinical Trials Nurse

I have a decade's experience in haematology and oncology clinical trials and have worked in cancer clinical trials units both in Australia and the UK. I've completed a Graduate Certificate in Acute Care Nursing and a Graduate Diploma in Cancer Nursing and am keen on sharing my knowledge with the broader nursing community. I'm committed to safeguarding the role of the nurse in patient care and dedicated to maintaining a clinical role in a traditionally non-clinical work environment; Clinical Trials Nursing is not all paperwork and databases!

A small snapshot of a typical workday includes consulting potential trial participants in clinic, joining patient consults, collecting and processing blood or tissue samples, performing ECGs, liaising with nurses in ambulatory care, ensuring trial medications are dispensed and supplied, and communicating with study sponsors. I love the structure of clinical trial nursing: your decisions are guided by the principles of good clinical practice and study protocols.

We work closely with the consultants and clinical trial



L-R Christine Lee (CNS Haematology), Aggie Zielonka (CNS Haematology), Jennifer de Vos (CNS & CRU Research Manager) & Sylvia Chan (CNS Haematology)

fellows to ensure our patients are cared for safely and efficiently. It is always a pleasure to know that your hard work results in beneficial outcomes. The challenges of the role are the same as those faced by nurses in other clinical areas: time constraints. There are instances where the day's task list seems never-ending but, as always, patient care and safety comes first which makes it much easier to prioritise.

We run a number of the trials in the unit for patients with lymphoma, including Hodgkin lymphoma, diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, marginal zone lymphoma, as well as CLL. We always have upcoming trials in the pipeline so I'd recommend browsing the ClinTrial Refer app or website as it's a great resource which patients and clinicians can use to find out more information about clinical trials for a range of disease types.

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LIME IT UP – *Lymphoma* Awareness Month

September was Lymphoma Awareness Month, that coincided with World Lymphoma Awareness Day on 15 September 15. Thank you to all nurses and health care professionals who care for lymphoma and CLL patients.

A big thank you to those who participated in the “LIME IT UP” campaign, by dressing up and bringing awareness to the 6th most common cancer in Australia adults, the 3rd most common in paediatrics and the most common cancer in 15-29-year-old age group.

We enjoyed seeing your photos that you sent to us and appreciate the enthusiasm! For those who missed them, check them out!





**GO
LIME!**



Lymphoma and CLL pharmaceutical updates

There have been two new Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listings for lymphoma & CLL!

Drug name and sponsor	Subtype	New listing	PBS funded
Pembrolizumab (MSD)	Primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma (PMBCL)	For the treatment of relapsed or refractory PMBC	PBS funded from 1 September 2020.
Acalabrutinib (AstraZeneca)	Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) or small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL)	For the treatment of relapsed or refractory CLL/SLL	PBS funded from 1 September 2020.

Upcoming PBAC meeting agenda – November 2020

November 2020 PBAC meeting agenda - lymphoma/CLL pharmaceutical submissions

Submission type	Drug name and sponsor	Drug type and use	Listing requested by sponsor & purpose
New listing (minor submission)	Ibrutinib	Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL); Small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL); Mantle cell lymphoma	To request an authority required listing of ibrutinib tablet under the same conditions as the already listed capsule.
New listing (minor submission)	Mogamulizumab (Kyowa Kirin)	Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL)	Resubmission to request a Section 100 (efficient funding of chemotherapy) Authority Required listing for patients with relapsed or refractory CTCL who have previously been treated with at least one prior systemic therapy

Meet the Lymphoma Australia staff members...

For those who are new to Lymphoma Australia, I would like to introduce you to our current team members:

Sharon Millman CEO
Donna Gairns National Nurse Manager

Carol Cahill Community Support Manager
Josie Cole National Community Engagement Manager
Samantha Ormerod Lymphoma Care Nurse – QLD
Rebecca Beck Lymphoma Care Nurse – NSW

Lymphoma Australia resource – Update

Lymphoma Australia has released two new fact sheets recently that we welcome you to check out. There are many more currently being developed. Let us know if there is a fact sheet that you think will help lymphoma patients in your care.

CAR T-cell therapy (chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy)

CAR T-cell therapy is a type of immunotherapy that uses a person's own immune system to try to destroy lymphoma cells. Earlier this year, it was announced that CAR T-cell therapy will be publicly funded for people who meet the criteria that may include:

- Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
- Transformed follicular lymphoma
- Primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma
- B-cell acute lymphoblastic lymphoma (younger than 26th birthday)

At present, CAR T-cell therapy (Kymriah) is publicly funded only for relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.

As treatment centres open to treat patients with CAR T-cell therapy, including clinical trials for other subtypes

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I feel that the role of the senior nurse in maintaining and promoting continuing education is vital to ensuring a consistent, well-informed contemporary nursing workforce. A mantra I came up with a number of years ago is "If you're a nurse, learn!", which I aim to live up to every working day. There is always something new to be learned in the workplace, no matter how inconsequential it may seem.

Overall, Clinical Trials Nursing has enhanced my skills in assessment, risk management, and care coordination, and I'm proud to contribute to safe, patient-centred care. Stop and have a chat with us next time we're in clinic or on the ward, we love what we do, and we'd love for you to share our passion!



and indications, Lymphoma Australia aims to keep the fact sheet updated. To find out more about this therapy, the side effects and CAR T-cell therapy in Australia, see the fact sheet on our website.

Nodular lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin lymphoma

Nodular lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin lymphoma (NLPHL) is a rare subtype of Hodgkin lymphoma (HL) which accounts for around 5% of HL cases. This subtype most often affects those between 30–50 years of age and is slower growing in nature to the more common subtypes of HL (classical HL).

To find out more about this subtype, the management and treatment, see the **fact sheets & resources** on our website:

lymphoma.org.au/page/1218/fact-sheets

For more information about clinical trials: **'Understanding Clinical Trials', fact sheet:**

<https://bit.ly/34nRzae>

'Understanding Clinical Trials', presentation, Aggie's recent presentation for Lymphoma Australia and many more presentations on our YouTube channel:

youtube.com/watch?v=k6WXNSJg_Ok

Lymphoma Australia resource – Patient Referral Form

For many patients and their loved ones, a lymphoma diagnosis, the treatment, after treatment and living with lymphoma can have an impact for many years. Lymphoma Australia is a dedicated patient advocacy organisation providing awareness, support and education for patients and their loved ones.

People affected with lymphoma or CLL may not always need Lymphoma Australia immediately, but it is important for them to know about our supports and services in case they do need us or more information when things change.

Lymphoma Australia have developed a patient and carer referral form. The referral form has been developed to help connect patients and their loved ones with Lymphoma Australia. This will ensure that they receive all the information that they need to know about their subtype, treatment and supportive care options, including peer support.

A referral can be made at any point during the lymphoma journey, however ensuring that they know about Lymphoma Australia as early as possible will ensure they are connected with support, the latest information and clinical trials when or if they need it.

Patient referral process includes:

- The referral form can be either completed online or printed
- Healthcare professionals can refer the patient by completing their details for them or given to the patient if they have the ability to complete the form for you
- Email the completed form to Lymphoma Australia's Lymphoma Care Nurse team nurse@lymphoma.org.au

- The Lymphoma Care Nurses will triage and contact the patient to introduce our services, sign them up to newsletters or provide additional information.
- Resources and information will be sent to the patient/ carer as required.

A link to the form can be found under the 'healthcare professionals/patient referral form' or we can send you hard copies. Please email us: nurse@lymphoma.org.au

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. Donna Gairns, National Nurse Manager: donna.gairns@lymphoma.org.au or 0404 749 884

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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