



Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association



Dr Ron Shnier (FRANZCR), President of ADIA, discusses Informed Financial Consent

The Australian Diagnostic Imaging Association (ADIA) is a not for profit organisation that represents the interests of diagnostic imaging practices and radiologists engaged in the private sector. Its membership comprises both practice groups and single independent practices that come together with a common interest in quality private practice and sustainable government funding.

The ADIA Executive Council comprises of radiologists as well as practice managers to ensure that all aspects of practice are represented. Many ADIA initiatives are coordinated with RANZCR and ADIA welcomes the opportunity to contribute to Inside News.

I would like to discuss Informed Financial Consent (IFC) and invite non-ADIA diagnostic imaging practices to participate in new services developed by ADIA to assist patients to understand the extent of any potential out-of-pocket expenses they may incur for imaging services during their stay in hospital.

ADIA has established a web-site www.adiaifc.com.au and a 1800 number (1800 244 442), with support from the Australian Medical Association, as a response to Minister Abbott's

call for measurable improvements in informed financial consent (IFC) for in-patient diagnostic imaging services.

ADIA acknowledges that diagnostic imaging practices must do all they can to inform hospital in-patients of potential out of pocket expenses associated with their imaging examinations. The full cost of providing imaging services is not covered by government rebates. Only 75% of the MBS fee is paid for in-patient services. In most circumstances, the patient's private health fund will pay the difference up to 100%, and in some cases, to a higher level. In other cases, there will be out-of-pocket expenses, for which the patient will be responsible.

There are some practical difficulties however in ensuring patients can give informed financial consent for the diagnostic imaging services they may require while they are in hospital. Medical specialist and other doctors involved in the patient's care order tests for their patients and practices are most often unaware of these until such time as the patients attend the imaging department. Often the patients only interact with technical staff who may not have the required information or the skills to obtain informed financial consent from the patient.

With the recently launched ADIA IFC website, patients and their doctors are now able to easily access information before they are admitted to hospital on the fee policies of the providers of diagnostic imaging services to almost 200 hospitals that are serviced by ADIA member practices.

For those unable to access the website, they will be able to access the information by the 1800 telephone number.

Patients and doctors are informed about these services through brochures and information cards that are distributed to hospital admission staff and treating doctors, with the aim of encouraging the doctors to obtain financial consent from patients, prior to their admission to hospital.

ADIA is seeking to expand the coverage of these services to all providers of diagnostic imaging services in 2008. If you would like to participate in this service, please contact info@adia.asn.au

Second To None

A recent donation to the library section of the Trainor/Owen collection is the latest publication by a retired Fellow, Dr Roger Freeman:

Second to none: a memorial history of the 32nd Battalion A.I.F. 1915-1919. Peacock Publications 2006.

This battalion was formed in Adelaide in late 1915, and included men from South and Western Australia. It fought in the great battles of Fromelles and Ypres, and in the final advances to the Hindenburg Line. The story is told through the eyes of the men themselves – the horrors of the trenches and the happy times. Detailed records of the battalion, and a huge collection of photographs combined with entries from diaries, letters and reminiscences combine to create a stunning work

Already in the library is Dr Freeman's earlier work: Hurcombe's hungry half hundred, a memorial history of the 50th Battalion A.I.F. 1916-1919. Peacock Publications 1991.

We are always grateful for donations of non-clinical books, so if you have written anything such as a local history, a cookery book, poetry, crime novels, fiction, children's books, or military history like Dr Freeman, please consider sending a copy to us.



Brenda Heagney
Librarian, Trainor/Owen Trust.