

COMMUNIQUE

AUSTRALASIAN PELVIC FLOOR PROCEDURE REGISTRY

PURPOSE

The APFPR aims to identify and report on trends and complications associated with Pelvic Floor Procedures that treat Stress Urinary Incontinence and Pelvic Organ Prolapse, and to identify *best surgical practice* and *optimal patient health outcomes*. This knowledge will come from analysing high-quality data, over time, relating to thousands of surgical procedures.

PROCEDURES CAPTURED

The following list shows the procedures that we capture outcomes for. We also capture whether other procedures were performed at the same time, for risk adjustment purposes only. We do not capture outcomes for them.

Stress Urinary Incontinence Procedures

- Mid urethral Sling (synthetic mesh)
- Peri-urethral Bulking agent injections
- Bulking agent removal
- SUI mesh revision/explantation
- Autologous Fascial sling (**commencing in FY 2023/2024*)
- Burch Colposuspension (**commencing in FY 2023/2024*)

Pelvic Organ Prolapse Procedures

- Sacrocolpopexy with mesh
- Sacrohysteropexy with mesh
- Anterior repair with mesh
- Posterior repair with mesh
- POP mesh revision/explantation

PATIENT RECRUITMENT

Total patients recruited= 728*
(Private & Public)



*As at 3/10/2023

HEALTH SERVICE AWARDS

In 2023, the APFPR launched the **Health Service Awards** to recognise the significant contributions by hospitals that have entered patient records up to 30 June 2023. We are delighted to advise that 3 Victorian and 2 South Australian hospitals were recipients of these awards. We will be announcing the winners very soon.

SITE ENGAGEMENT

Participation in registries is voluntary. The APFPR seeks expressions of interest from eligible hospitals and invites them to participate. We refer to this as 'recruiting'. The APFPR has recruited a total of **37 sites** (as at 23 October 2023), with a further 50 potentially eligible sites identified for the future. The list below shows sites that have had ethics and governance approval. This means they are ready and set up to input data into the APFPR.



Approved Hospitals



Victoria

Bendigo Health
Cabrini Health
Epworth HealthCare Eastern
Epworth HealthCare Freemasons
Epworth HealthCare Geelong
Epworth HealthCare Richmond
Mercy Hospital for Women
Monash Health
St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne
St John of God Bendigo Hospital
St John of God Geelong Hospital
Western Health
Waverley Private Hospital

Australian Capital Territory

Calvary John James Hospital
Canberra Private Hospital
Canberra Public Hospital

Tasmania

Royal Hobart Hospital

Western Australia

Hollywood Private Hospital

New South Wales

Concord Hospital
John Hunter Hospital
Nepean Hospital
Royal Hospital for Women
St George Hospital
St George Private Hospital
Sutherland Hospital
Westmead Hospital
Westmead Private Hospital

South Australia

Calvary North Adelaide Hospital
Royal Adelaide Hospital
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Flinders Medical Centre

Queensland

Buderim Private Hospital
Gold Coast University Hospital
Robina Hospital
Sunshine Coast University Hospital
Varsity Lakes Day Hospital
Townsville University Hospital

WHAT IS AN APPROVED HOSPITAL?

The APFPR refer to 'approved hospital' to indicate those hospitals that have successfully applied for and been granted ethics approval and site specific authorisation to participate in the registry. The APFPR received Ethics approval from the Monash Health Human Research Ethics Committee and the Research Governance Office in each of the hospitals in the above list have assessed the project to be suitable for implementation and in keeping with the resources onsite.

Once they receive approval they are provided training and then can enter patient data into the Registry. To date, 29 hospitals have entered data into the registry.

Consumer Engagement Update

In June 2023, the newly established **APFPR Consumer Reference Group** met to discuss the proposed APFPR **Clinical Quality Indicators (CQIs)** and Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs). Patient Reported Outcome Measures are captured through questionnaires, where patients provide their own perspectives on how they feel after a procedure, as opposed to any assessment by clinicians. This information, combined with the Clinical Quality Indicators (CQIs) and other clinical data relating to pelvic floor procedures, provides a comprehensive perspective of the safety and quality of the procedures.

There are a number of questionnaires regarding outcomes from pelvic floor procedures in use internationally. The APFPR undertook a project to review the most appropriate surveys to capture patient outcomes following these procedures. Many consumers and a number of clinicians were invited to participate in this review. Following this, the APFPR recommended and has piloted the **Australian Pelvic Floor Questionnaire (APFQ)**, (found here <https://urogynaecology.com.au/wp>) which captures a broad range of measures relating to both Stress Urinary Incontinence and Pelvic Organ Prolapse. Following further consumer feedback and Steering Committee approval, additional survey questions relating to **Quality of Life (the EQ-5D-5L)** and global postoperative improvement (the **Patient Global Impression of Improvement**) have also been added.

Consumer feedback regarding the current Clinical Quality Indicators has been positive, noting that as the dataset grows that opportunities for additional indicators will also be possible.

Currently there isn't a questionnaire specifically addressing pelvic floor pain (a Monash PhD student is currently working on designing an instrument to capture this specific type of pain).

We would like to thank the following consumers for their conscientious work in providing feedback on these important data items: Pip Brennan, Jenny Leslie (both Steering Committee Members), Kim Blieschke and Michelle Kennedy (Co-chairs of our Consumer Reference Group), Dora Vasiliadis, Kirsty Short, Nicolle Germano and to the others who prefer to remain anonymous.

Coming up

- Announcements regarding Health Service Award Winners
- Annual Report - Launch on or around 7th December

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GOVERNANCE UPDATE

A Steering Committee Meeting was held on 16th June 2023. Since our last issue, the APFPR has appointed a new Steering Committee Member. Dr Fiona Bach, a surgeon from the UK whose practice is now based in New Zealand. She is one of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) representative. **We extend her a very warm welcome.**



Dr Fiona Bach

We would like to take a moment to thank all our Steering Committee members who voluntarily commit time to the APFPR in the interest of improving clinical practice. Their profiles are available on our website.

RANZCOG CPD Points

Another important milestone to report. Members of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) will be able to claim up to 3 hours of CPD points per calendar year. This complements our existing arrangement with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS). The RANZCOG CPD cycle aligns with the calendar year.

The APFPR can backdate CPD points to the 1st January 2023. Please contact us if you need more information.



CONFERENCE ATTENDANCES

Conference attendances and presentations are a key focus for the APFPR as it enables face to face contact with eligible clinicians and those that are already contributing to the registry. We provide updates on the APFPR's progress, to continue to raise the profile of the registry and keep our stakeholders engaged.

In June 2023, the APFPR benefited from a complimentary booth at the Continence Foundation of Australia's **National Conference on Incontinence (NCOI)**. This year, this important and highly professional event was run in conjunction with the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand (USANZ). Dr Oliver Daly, the APFPR Clinical Data Lead (up to June 2023) presented the results of a survey we conducted with surgeons earlier in the year. We would like to publicly acknowledge and express our appreciation to the **Continence Foundation of Australia** for their support of the APFPR. Upcoming Conferences:

- **2023 Australian Clinical Registries Annual Scientific Meeting** 19/20 October 2023
- **Urogynaecological Society of Australasia (UGSA) 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting** 22/25 November
- The **Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting** 28/10-1/11