



eHealth

CIAP Newsletter

Medical students: a potentially sustainable solution for our workforce crisis and future reforms in health care

MJA

During the COVID-19 pandemic, enormous strain was placed on hospital and health care systems around the world as patient numbers increased beyond the health care facilities' capacity to deal with them.

In response to calls to bolster workforce capacity, Western Health in Victoria designed the Clinical Assistant (CA) program in which final year medical students assisted with administrative and low risk clinical tasks around the hospital in addition to their medical school placements, many of which had been disrupted by COVID-19 restrictions. Similar models have been adopted by many health services in Victoria and throughout Australia, including the Assistant in Medicine role in New South Wales. CAs form a dynamic workforce that are available and adaptable to meet the health care system's specific needs at any given time.

This article explores how medical students could be one sustainable solution to chronic staffing shortages, providing the health care workforce with contingencies.

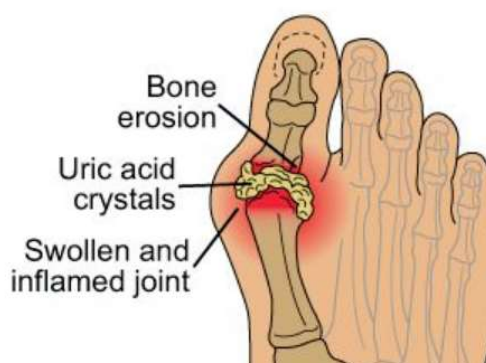
Learn more about the article in the [Medical Journal of Australia](#).

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What is the diagnosis?

This condition is a type of inflammatory arthritis caused by monosodium urate monohydrate crystal deposits. A build-up of uric acid in the blood causes sharp uric acid crystals to form in the joints or under the skin.

The most commonly affected areas are the feet, great toe, ankle and midfoot. The condition presents as an extremely tender, swollen, warm, dusky red or purple joint, with limited movement and tophi that may ulcerate.



What's the diagnosis?

[Find out the answer here](#) in Lippincott Advisor.

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Artificial pancreases for type 1 diabetes: “People say it’s the closest thing to living without diabetes”



Hybrid closed loop systems are being hailed as the greatest advance in type 1 diabetes care since the discovery of insulin over 100 years ago.

Consultant diabetologist Emma Wilmot has seen major advances in the management of type 1 diabetes over the past 20 years, including the advent of insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) sensors that attach to the skin.

Hybrid closed loop systems—also known as “artificial pancreas” systems—combine both of these elements to create an automated system of basal (long acting) insulin delivery.

This article explores a recommendation that all children with type 1 diabetes and adults who meet certain criteria should be offered hybrid closed loop technology over the next five years, an estimated 150,000 people.

Learn more about the article in the [British Medical Journal](#).

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A call for action: Need to expand the scope of women's health assessment



Addressing and optimising the health and well-being of women and girls is an important national and global agenda contributing to society's strength and productivity. According to O'Connor, Tricia, et al. despite significant progress in eliminating gender disparities during the last two decades, the health and well-being of women, girls and gender minorities are still elusive goals because of the limitations of the current women's health definition, assessment research and methods.

This article explores the key challenges for the assessment of women's health such as the limitation and unreliability of self-reported data related to the biological, social and holistic health needs of women and girls.

Learn more about the article in the [Journal of Advanced Nursing](#).

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What trials tell us about treatments for severe asthma



As understanding of asthma develops, so too does treatment. Four predominant drug types have been used over the past 100 years: anticholinergics,

bronchodilators, corticosteroids and, more recently, specifically targeted asthma treatments - eg, anti-immunoglobulin E and those aimed at broader type 2 inflammation.

With the benefit of time and data, as we learn more about long-term risks and benefits of asthma treatments and think in terms of disease phenotypes and personalised medicine, clinicians increasingly tailor treatment, focusing on subgroups of people with disease and targeting minutia within inflammatory pathways. Increasingly, biologics - eg, omalizumab, mepolizumab, and benralizumab - are prescribed for people with severe asthma and might facilitate a dose reduction in ICS.

Learn more about the review in [The Lancet](#).

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Decision-making in nursing research and practice: Application of the Cognitive Continuum Theory



Nurses make numerous simple and complex decisions every day, which impact patient care. By acknowledging decision-making processes that positively contribute to patient-centric care, recognising contributors to poor decision-making and working towards preventing them, patient care and safety can be improved. With increasing pressure on nurses to reduce medical errors and improve patient outcomes, systematic knowledge regarding the linkages between nursing practice, theory, research and decision-making is critical and urgent.

The influential theory, the Cognitive Continuum Theory, was devised almost 50 years ago as a significant breakthrough in decision-making but has not been further developed since Standing's contribution in 2008. The Revised Cognitive Continuum Theory was viewed as providing an understanding of the multiple cognitive inputs available when nurses make decisions within the complex and ever-changing health environment.

Learn more about the study in the [Journal of Clinical Nursing](#).

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Upcoming CIAP Events

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Evidence-based Practice Workshop
7 February

Nursing & Midwifery Workshop
22 February

[Register Here](#)

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