Common Sense Pathology
Final Report – April 1, 2016

This is the Final Performance Report from the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) to the Department of Health as required by the Deed of Variation 1, signed on 27 May 2015 for the publication of Common Sense Pathology (CSP).

Aims and Objectives

Editions for 2015/2016

In May 2014 the CSP Committee from the RCPA liaised to discuss possible articles topics for remaining 5 editions for 2015/2016.

Participants included:
Dr Debra Graves, Chief Executive Officer, RCPA
Dr Bronwen Ross, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, RCPA
Dr Stephen Flecknoe-Brown, RCPA Editor
Dr Linda Calabresi, Medical Editor, Australian Doctor & CSP Editor
Ms Gemma Robson, CSP RCPA Coordinator
Ms Marion Higginson, CSP RCPA Coordinator (commenced November 2015)

Dr Stephen Flecknoe-Brown was retained as the RCPA Editor based on his previous experience in the role and also the skills and experience he brings to the position.

The Medical Editor of Australian Doctor is currently Dr Linda Calabresi, who is also the CSP Editor, and Clinical Director, Cirrus Media (formally Reed Publishing). The role of the CSP Editor role has traditionally been undertaken by skilled medical editors at Cirrus Media, the publishers of Australian Doctor. The incumbents have changed during the contract period, however all CSP editors have been General Practitioners employed by Cirrus Media as medical editors.

The CSP Coordinator role was undertaken by an existing RCPA staff member with the appropriate skills, level of administrative expertise and available time.

During the funding period the publisher of Australian Doctor (which also includes Common Sense Pathology insert) changed their business name to Cirrus Media Limited. This name change did not affect the delivery of the publication and the publishers address details remained the same.

During the 2013-2016 funding agreement the CSP Committee met on two occasions to discuss and agree a list of topics, authors and order of publication. As in the past, the focus of potential subjects was on areas that are topical or known to be problematic when it comes to diagnosis and management by general practitioners (GPs). The RCPA Advisory Committees in each sub discipline were also consulted during the funding period to identify topic suggestions, possible authors and timing. The RCPA Advisory Committees suggested a number of relevant and interesting topics which were used after consultation with Cirrus Media.
Topics were also identified as being of current significance due to proposed changes in practice such as the National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP). The changes in new NCSP will impact GPs and the significance of these changes requires sharing with the broader community.

The RCPA communicated the selection of these topics, authors and publication dates with the Department of Health via the progress reports. The First Performance Report from August 2013 identified five publications due between October 2013 and October 2014, and the Second Performance Report from November 2014 provided the full publication plan for the ten issues to February 2016. Hence, Department of Health were provided all topics in advance to allow feedback on topic selections.

In addition, the RCPA sought and received permission from the Department of Health in June 2014 on behalf of Cirrus Media regarding the opportunity to use Common Sense Pathology for additional online educational activities targeting CPD points for GP’s. The Department agreed this was a good way to promote increase readership and use of CSP among GP’s.

Activity Work to date
All Editions for 2013/2014 and 2015/2016

The final titles, authors and dates of publication for the entire project (10 editions) are listed below.

Links below are to the published editions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edition/Date of Publication</th>
<th>Article Topic</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 25 October 2013</td>
<td>Interpreting Serum Ferritin</td>
<td>Dr Que Thanh Lam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 28 February 2014</td>
<td>Non-invasive prenatal testing</td>
<td>Dr Melody Caramins and Dr Maya Chopra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 25 April 2014</td>
<td>Lipid and lipoprotein testing</td>
<td>A/Prof David Sullivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27 June 2014</td>
<td>Making sense of Inflammatory Markers</td>
<td>A/Prof Stephen Adelstein and Dr Alan Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 31 October 2014</td>
<td>Pigmented Skin Lesions</td>
<td>Dr Trevor W Beer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27 February 2015</td>
<td>STI Screening</td>
<td>Dr Bernie Hudson &amp; Dr Stephen Davies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 24 April 2015</td>
<td>Point of Care Testing</td>
<td>Dr Andrew Francis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26 June 2015</td>
<td>Precision and Uncertainty in Pathology</td>
<td>A/Prof Peter Stewart &amp; A/Prof Tony Badrick</td>
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Each CSP supplement in Australian Doctor is circulated to approximately 19,150 outlets, essentially encompassing every GP in Australia. Approximate circulation breakdown was as follows NSW 32%; Vic 26%; QLD 20%; SA 7%; WA 10%; TAS 3%; ACT 1%; NT 1%.

All 2013-2016 editions of CSP were sent to the Department of Health and posted on the RCPA website within one month of publication, providing GPs and other doctors as well as medical students, health professionals and the public with access to all editions.

**Addressing any difficulties encountered**

Overall, the Project did not encounter any major difficulties in the delivery of the required 10 editions of Common Sense Pathology. During the funding period, the Project addressed the following minor issues:

1. The RCPA CSP Co-ordinator changed during the contract period as a result of a change in staff. This staff change did not affect the continuity or delivery of any aspect of the Project as there was adequate handover of responsibilities.

2. The Publisher of Australian Doctor which includes the Common Sense Pathology insert, changed their business name to Cirrus Media Pty Limited. This name change did not affect the publishing of any CSP editions, and the Publisher address details remained the same.

3. Dr Gillian Wood was unable to meet the timeline requirements for her article on STI screening to be completed for publication in October 2014. The CSP Steering Committee was able to adjust the timeline and relevant Advisory Committees were consulted regarding the identification of alternative authors who were selected based on suitability and availability to act as voluntary authors. The article was moved for publication to February 2015 and new authors were appointed. Dr Trevor Beer’s article on Pigmented Skin Lesions was moved forward to October as the final article for publication in 2014.

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Dr Bronwen Ross  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
RCPA