Information Circular

Enquiries to: Regulatory Support and Training Unit
Phone number: 08 9222 2327

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Subject: Requirement for Notifications of Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) and Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD)

From 19 June 2015, under State health legislation, all known cases of Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) and Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) must be notified to the Rheumatic Heart Disease Register of Western Australia.

The Health (Rheumatic Heart Disease Register of Western Australia) Regulations 2015 apply to:

- the Chief Executive Officer of a hospital at which a patient with ARF and/or RHD presents
- a medical or nurse practitioner who diagnoses or is responsible for the treatment of a person with ARF and/or RHD; and
- an obstetrician responsible for the treatment of a pregnant woman who is, or becomes, aware of ARF or RHD in a patient.

The legal duty to notify includes all patients that have, and are currently being treated for, ARF or RHD. This includes knowledge of previous diagnoses or treatments; even if made in another State or Territory.

The requirements only apply to information about a diagnosis or treatment, diagnostic test or medical report prepared after 19 June 2015.

Health professionals need to inform patients that it is a statutory requirement to send information to the WA RHD Register. A patient may request, in writing, limited disclosure of identifying information available to health sites and health professionals.

For more information on how to notify and the information required, please refer to: http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Corporate/Articles/U_Z/WA-rheumatic-heart-disease-register

Dr Tarun Weeramanthri
Assistant Director General
Public Health Division

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