Clinic alert #69 – all clinicians
Effective from 25 October 2021

New information
The Primary Health Care Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions were signed by the Chief Health Officer (CHO) on 22 October 2021, and provide the following requirements:

- On and from 1 November 2021, a person who is a primary health care worker must not enter, or remain at, a primary health care facility, if they have not received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- On and from 1 December 2021, a person who is a primary health care worker must not enter, or remain at, a primary health care facility if they have not been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Primary Health Care Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions
The purpose of these directions is to put in place some measures to address the unique risks posed by COVID-19 in primary health care facilities, and ensure primary health care facilities are available to help manage the current public health state of emergency. The key points are summarised below:

- Primary health care workers include:
  - People providing health services to a patient at a primary health care facility
  - Students undertaking placements at a primary health care facility
  - Ambulance officers
  - People providing goods or services at a primary health care facility.

- Primary health care facilities include:
  - General practices
  - Health clinics, including a medical specialist operated clinic, a nurse operated clinic and an allied health professional operated clinic
  - Prison clinics and detention centre clinics
  - Premises where COVID-19 related testing or COVID-19 vaccination occurs
  - A community health centre
  - An Aboriginal health service
  - A service provider office or site, a mobile health vehicle, a pharmacy, a human pathology centre, a human medical imaging centre, a blood donation centre, a dental surgery or practice, a research institute where patients attend the premises for research purposes
  - Any other facility specified by the CHO.

- A primary health care worker must produce evidence of their vaccination status for inspection, recording and retention of a copy if directed to do so by an emergency officer, or if required to do so by their employer or by the owner, occupier or person apparently in charge of a primary health care facility.

Further information is available in the direction.

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