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ISSUE

17

APRIL
2010



Working Together - GPNW and NW Area Health Service

GPNW is actively involved with the NW Area Health Service in the development of the Endoscopy Clinic, at the Mersey Hospital. GPNW E-Health Program Officer, Gary Walker, has assisted in the development of the referral template for the clinic. The template is now being trialed with some GPs and the referral template will be finalised shortly.

The referral template will enable the endoscopy clinic to receive consistent information from GPs, allowing them to have a single referral point for the service and eventually enable the GPs to send a pre-populated referral via secure electronic messaging.

Tamar Valley Resort

GPNW Weekend Education Event

26th & 27th June 2010

Pain Management

Keynote Speakers :

Associate Professor Michael Nicholas:

Pain Management and Research Centre
Royal North Shore Hospital Sydney

Author of 'Manage Your Pain'

Dr Fiona Blyth:

Widely recognised internationally for her work in the "pain management" field and is an Associate Editor for the journal PAIN.

All North West and West Coast GPs are invited to attend.

To view the GP Information Pack or Registration Forms go to <http://www.gpnw.com.au/#WEEInformation> or for more details see page 11, or contact Gaye Aitken, gaitken@gpnw.com.au



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GPNW Updates

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GPNW CLINICAL SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH

The Mental Health Clinical team will shortly be expanded to eight clinicians with the commencement of Louise Terry-Blume. The Clinicians are permanently located in Burnie, Ulverstone and Devonport with outreach sessions in Smithton and the West Coast.

It is a preference for Mental Health referrals that they are accompanied by a Mental Health Care Plan. This will help reduce the questions asked during the initial assessment and enhance the client experience.

Referral forms for clients into the Mental Health service are located on the GPNW Website <http://www.gpnw.com.au/mental-health.html#resources> in Microsoft Word and Medical Director/Best Practice format.

Waiting times are 2 to 6 weeks depending on location.

DIABETES

The Diabetes Nurse Education team has been expanded to three clinicians with the recent employment of Linda Turner. Linda will be helping with a GPNW project to enable Low Care Residents of Aged Cared facilities to access an assessment of their diabetic status. This will be available through referral to our service by the Aged Care staff in consultation with the GP.

All clinicians recently conducted their three monthly clinic on King Island and had a Diabetes Awareness Health Promotion and information stand at the King Island Show.

Monthly visits to the West Coast continue to be heavily booked with planned Group Sessions to be held during the year. The focus of these groups will be “Healthy Living” and “Learning to Live with Diabetes”.

It is planned to commence other groups through the year “Diabetes – Managing Your New Diagnosis” will include presentations by a Dietitian as well as GPNW Diabetes Nurse Educators. Referrals to these groups is by GP referral.

Waiting times are 3 to 6 weeks depending on location with Insulin Commencement and new diagnosis being areas of priority.

Please fax all Diabetes and Mental Health referrals to 6425 0888 or free fax 1800 671 359.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR, BEST PRACTICE AND MED TECH TEMPLATES

GPNW and DHHS Medical Director, Best Practice and Med Tech Templates are now available on our website to view these templates go to: <http://www.gpnw.com.au/useful-links.html#templates>.

eHealth Updates

Gary Walker

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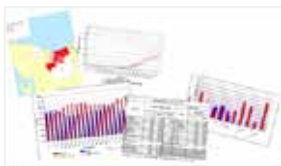
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND ASSISTANCE

General Practice North West provide a number of tools and training to assist practices with data cleansing, patient analysis, practice benchmarking and proactive patient management. The tools and training are provided for free by GPNW.



CAT scrutinises a practice's patient information and presents it in a refreshing graphical format that is easy to understand. It can be used to assist with accreditation, or be used to produce a list of patients who fall into selected population 'target groups', making population health and quality care initiatives simple to act upon and measure, and allow a practice to identify business opportunities.

Practice Health Atlas



Aims to inspire **general practice teams** to reflect on their clinical activities and to develop innovative business models for more effective health care services/outcomes.

Broken into three main areas:

demographics | chronic disease | item number utilisation

If you want to know more about the Information Management tools available for your practice, contact Gary Walker at gwalker@gpnw.com.au.

Nursing in General Practice

Bronwyn McLaren

bmclaren@gpnw.com.au

NATIONAL REGISTRATION FOR NURSES JULY 2010

GPNW recently attended the Australian Nursing Midwifery Council (ANMC) workshops regarding the national registration implementation.

The ANMC will become the NMBA – Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

All relevant information is on their website www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au. It is important that all nurses go to the website in the next few months.

National registration will come in to affect on **July 1 2010**, however Tasmanian nurses will still register with the NBT this year due to state legislation requirements not quite in place. This also affects other states as well.

There will be core competencies and standard national requirements that all nurses will have to complete – the final paper is currently before the health minister for sign off.

Immunisation Program

Bronwyn McLaren

bmclaren@gpnw.com.au

PANVAX, H1N1 AND SEASONAL INFLUENZA UPDATE:

More than 126,000 doses have been delivered in Tasmania since October with 82% delivered by General Practice.

Well done!!

Trivalent Seasonal influenza vaccine is now available and contains pandemic H1N1 2009.

Thanks to all practices that responded to the request to run further immunisation clinics especially out of hours.

The response has been great with many extra people vaccinated consequently.

For more information go to: www.health.gov.au

Australian Government – fact sheet for immunisation providers: Influenza Vaccination 2010

USEFUL LINKS

Therapeutic Goods Administration – Rotarix

<http://www.tga.gov.au/new/new.htm>

Seasonal Flu – Who is eligible for the FREE Vaccine.

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/BF9D380AE62DE9BCCA2575BD001C80CB/\\$File/FactSheet-19-March-2010.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/BF9D380AE62DE9BCCA2575BD001C80CB/$File/FactSheet-19-March-2010.pdf)

GSK OFFERS \$60,000 FOR INNOVATION IN CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION

The 2010 GSK Childhood Immunisation Awards are now open with four grants of \$15,000 to be won.

The GSK Childhood Immunisation Awards reward innovation and share best practice in improving coverage or delivery of childhood immunisation. Entrants are asked to submit an overview of an initiative implemented in their practice or organisation in the past two years and demonstrate the impact it has had on immunisation coverage rates in their local community.

The Awards are open to all immunisation providers in Australia. The four categories for 2010 are for initiatives that achieve:

- A significant increase in or maintenance of immunisation coverage in children 12 months to 4 years of age – coordinated by a small team (fewer than ten people)
- A significant increase in or maintenance of immunisation coverage in children 12 months to 4 years of age - coordinated by a large team (more than ten people)
- A significant increase in or maintenance of immunisation coverage in hard to reach children and/or adolescent populations
- Improved coverage and/or timely delivery of childhood or adolescent vaccines as per the Australian National Immunisation Program schedule.

To enter go to www.gsk.com.au/immunisationawards to download an entry form or enter online. Entries close June 9, 2010 at 5.30 AEST. For further information contact the Awards Secretariat on 02 9286 1251 or immunisationawards@gsk.com.

Immunisation Program Continued

HOW EARLY CAN 4 YEAR OLD VACCINES BE GIVEN?

Four year old vaccines of DTPa/IPV (Infanrix IPV) and MMR (Priorix) can be given as early as three years and six months. Please see the following excerpt of advice from the 40th meeting, of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI):

'The ATAGI Members recommended that the scheduled fourth dose of pertussis vaccine can be administered from the age of three years and six months.'

Further Reading: Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). ATAGI provides advice to the Minister of Health and Ageing on the Immunise Australia Program and other related issues. In addition to technical experts, ATAGI's membership includes a consumer and general practitioners. ATAGI bulletins outlining discussions held at face to face meetings can be accessed at the following link: www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/advisory-bodies

Medicare

Rebekah Sheehen

rsheehen@gpnw.com.au

THE NEW PRACTICE INCENTIVES PROGRAM (PIP), INDIGENOUS HEALTH INCENTIVES

STARTS IN MAY 2010

This incentive will support general practices and Aboriginal Health Services to provide improved health care for Indigenous Australians. This incentive is a key part of the Federal Government's Indigenous Chronic Disease Package. The Indigenous Health Incentive is a key part of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap: Tackling Indigenous Chronic Disease. To join this new incentive, practices will need to be participating in the PIP and meet specific sign on requirements. To find out more go to: www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/incentives/pip/files/Indigenous-health-incentive-guidelines.pdf

MBS PRIMARY CARE ITEMS - REMOVAL OF ENHANCED PRIMARY CARE (EPC) TERMINOLOGY

The Department of Health and Ageing is removing references to EPC in the (Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Group A15 (GP management plans, team care arrangements, multidisciplinary care plans and case conferences) items (721-779) and in the Miscellaneous Group 3 (allied health individual) items (10950-10970). The change has been made because the GP Enhanced Primary Care (EPC) care planning items were removed from the MBS in 2005 and replaced by the Chronic Disease Management (CDM) items (721-731).

The term 'EPC plan' is now obsolete.

There are no changes to the eligibility requirements for the CDM items, including the allied health services for people with chronic disease. This is simply a change to terminology to bring it up to date.

Medicare Australia and provider organisations have been advised of the change.

EPC language has also been removed from the MBS Group A14 (Health Assessments) items.

Medicare Continued

CHANGES TO MEDICARE PRIMARY CARE ITEMS

In the fact sheet for General Practitioners put out by Medicare in December entitled 'The Changes to Medicare Primary Care Items', Medicare outlined a new time based fee structure for Health Assessments. In essence, it planned to reduce the number of item numbers currently used for Health Assessments.

This sparked concern about how or even if the nurses' time would be funded. Medicare has since added the following line regarding the Health Assessment item numbers to its fact sheet: 'The time period includes the time taken by the doctor and the practice nurse to undertake a health assessment.' Questions and answers regarding the changes can be found on the Department of Health and Ageing website: www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems .

The current Qs and As are presented below for your convenience. An Item 732 is replacing both the GP Management Review Item 725 and the Team Care Arrangement Review Item 727.

QUESTION AND ANSWERS - CHANGES TO MEDICARE PRIMARY CARE ITEMS - 1 MAY 2010

How often can item 732 be claimed?

A rebate is not payable more than twice in a three month period, except where there are exceptional circumstances. Where a service is provided in exceptional circumstances, the patient's invoice or Medicare voucher should be annotated to indicate the reason why the service was required earlier than the minimum time interval for the relevant item. Payment can then be made.

Can a GP claim item 732 twice on the same day?

Yes. Providing an item 732 for reviewing a GP management plan and another 732 for reviewing Team Care Arrangements (TCAs) are both delivered on the same day as per the MBS item descriptors and explanatory notes, they could be claimed on the same day.

Is there any change to the way that GPs charge for their own services and the services of the practice nurse when providing health assessments?

No, there is no change to the way that GPs charge for their own services and the services of the practice nurse when providing health assessments. Practice nurses and registered Aboriginal health workers may assist medical practitioners in performing the health check, in accordance with accepted medical practice and under the supervision of the medical practitioner. This may include activities associated with information collection and providing patients with information about recommended interventions at the direction of the medical practitioner. The time taken by the doctor and the practice nurse to undertake a health assessment.' Questions and answers regarding the changes can be found on the Department of Health and Ageing website: www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems . The current Qs and As are presented below for your convenience. An Item 732 is replacing both the GP Management Review Item 725 and the Team Care Arrangement Review Item 727.

All other components of the health assessment must be undertaken by the medical practitioner and must include a personal attendance by a medical practitioner. The time taken by the practice nurse to complete the above components of the health assessment can be included in the total time for GPs to claim these items. The exception is the Healthy Kids Check item (10986) provided by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal health worker.

The MBS Healthy Kids Check can be provided by a medical practitioner or a practice nurse/registered Aboriginal health worker. Both items are claimed by a general practitioner. If the Healthy Kids Check is provided by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal health worker, it is undertaken for and on behalf of a medical practitioner. This item was previously MBS item 711. It has been retained but has been allocated a new MBS item number 10986 and the fee has been increased to align with the Brief Health Assessment provided by a GP.

Enquiries regarding the above can be directed to **Rebekah** on **6425 0800** or email rsheahen@gpnw.com.au

MENOPAUSE – PERCEPTION VS REALITY

As new evidence has emerged over the last decade there has been debate about the safest and most effective treatment options for managing the symptoms of menopause.

The National Prescribing Service (NPS) says the decision about which treatments to use should be made jointly between the health professional and the patient.

Concerns about the potential adverse effects associated with hormone replacement therapy have led to an increased interest in non-hormonal therapies. While many women often think complementary medicines are safer, the evidence is still inconclusive and there have been reports of adverse effects and interactions between complementary medicines with conventional medicines.

In its latest education program, *Therapeutic choices for menopausal symptoms*, NPS advises that oestrogen with or without progestogen hormone replacement therapy is the most effective treatment for menopausal symptoms, if a decision is made to use drug therapy.

The therapeutic program reinforces the following:

- Discuss a woman's goals and concerns about menopause and her treatment preferences
- Oestrogen with or without progestogen is the most effective treatment for women with menopausal symptoms
- Consider potential benefits and harms and assess cardiovascular risk
- Tailor the dose and duration of therapy according to individual symptoms and existing risks
- Inform women about the limited efficacy and safety data on complementary and alternative medicines

As part of the therapeutic program, NPS provides health professionals with:

- NPS News (64) - *Therapeutic choices for menopausal symptoms*
- Case study (59) - *Optimising quality of life during menopause*
- Prescribing Practice Review (47) - *Therapeutic choices for menopausal symptoms*
- One-on-one educational visiting by NPS facilitators
- Small group discussions led by NPS facilitators

For more information on NPS contact Rebekah at GPNW rsheahen@gpnw.com.au or phone 6425 0800, or you can contact Dr Alison Tasker directly on 0418 594 738.

The National Prescribing Service Limited (NPS) is an independent, non-profit organisation for Quality Use of Medicines funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Medical Software



If you are interested in receiving in-house training, resource creation, or templates for your medical software, please contact Rebekah on 6425 0800.

Palliative Care Program

Sharee Taylor

staylor@gpnw.com.au

NORTH WEST RURAL PALLIATIVE CARE PROJECT – INFORMATION FOR GPs

The North West Rural Palliative Care Project Advisory Committee, along with the Palliative Care Services have been working extensively over the past six months to enhance and streamline communication between General Practice, the Palliative Care Service (PSC), Community Health Nursing (CHN) and Allied Health Services.

The project outcome is the development of the following communication tools for GPs:

1. GP Life Extinct Communication Fax Form
(this form is a “high priority” fax to GPs advising of expected deterioration & death at home of a patient sent by either PCS or CHN. The GP to complete & fax back)
<http://www.gpnw.com.au/AAWeb%20Pages/Programs/Rural%20Palliative%20Care%20Project/GP%20Communications%20Fax%20-%20Version%201%20-%20Mar%2010.pdf>
2. Palliative Care Patient Access to Non PBS Medications
(this advises the GP of Palliative Care medications availability)
<http://www.gpnw.com.au/AAWeb%20Pages/Programs/Rural%20Palliative%20Care%20Project/PC%20Patient%20Access%20to%20non%20PBS%20Meds%20-%20Version%201%20-%20March%2010.pdf>
3. Palliative Care Referral Pathway
<http://www.gpnw.com.au/AAWeb%20Pages/Programs/Rural%20Palliative%20Care%20Project/PCS%20GP%20Referral%20Flow%20Chart%20-%20Version%201%20-%2024%20Nov%2009.pdf>
4. Palliative Care Electronic Referral Form (Med Director/Best Practice)
(if you use MD/BP please upload for GPs - most fields are auto-populated for a quick and convenient referral)
<http://www.gpnw.com.au/useful-links.html#Templates> - Templates (DHHS PC referral)
5. Palliative Care Patient Transfer to Hospital/Discharge Yellow Envelope
(which streamlines the patient’s journey [in/out of hospital] for palliative care patients) this will be in operation by the PCS/CHN staff shortly.

Also part of this project has enabled two specialised education forums;

- Pain Management for Complex Palliative Care Patients
By Dr Greg Mewett, a palliative care physician (experienced GP) from Ballarat.
(which was held on the 17th March).
- Decision Making at the End of Life and Advance Directives
By Prof Michael Ashby, Director of Palliative Care Services in Hobart
(to be held on the 31st March at Ulverstone).

Copies of these presentations and handouts are available on the website after the 17th & 31st March http://www.gpnw.com.au/events_resources.html

To access all information/templates on the North West Rural Palliative Care project please refer to the General Practice North West Website: http://www.gpnw.com.au/programs_palliative.html

Practice Manager Network

Gaye Aitken

gaitken@gpnw.com.au

PRACTICE MANAGER NETWORK

Eleven Practice/Office Managers attended the first Practice Manager Network meeting for 2010. The meeting was held at GPNW's new premises in Ulverstone; with the Managers given a tour.

The main items on the agenda were the implementation of industrial relations (IR) laws that came into effect on the 1st January and an eHealth presentation by Gary Walker.

All Managers will receive a copy of the minutes, as well as a copy of Gary's presentation over the next few days. Please contact Gary gwalker@gpnw.com.au or phone 6425 0800 if you have any questions in relation to eHealth.

AAPM VIRTUAL SEMINARS

AAPM recently announced the dates and topics for the 2010 seminars; once again GPNW have registered for the seminars.

The dates and topics are listed below:

Seminar 1 – Time Management 29th April 2010

Glenn McMahon Manager, Quality General Practice Education and Training Ltd

We all have the same amount of this valuable commodity...time! Some of us manage to use it well, others not so well. Let's look at how we use our time and how we can improve the effectiveness and quality of our minutes, hour and days.

Seminar 2 – End of the Financial Year June (date to be confirmed)

Cutcher & Neal Accountants

Make sure you are prepared for the end of the financial year.

Seminar 3 – Risk Management 21st October 2010

Marianna Kelly Medico-legal Risk Adviser, Avant Mutual Group Limited

Risk management for Practice Managers. An update on medico-legal issues – relevant changes and your responsibilities as managers.

Aged Care Program

Sharee Taylor

staylor@gpnw.com.au



VISITING GERIATRICIAN - DR. JANE TOLMAN (BA, DIP. ED., MED., BSc., MBBS, FRACP)

Education – Early Dementia Diagnosis

GPNW are pleased to advise that Dr Jane Tolman will be visiting the North West Coast from 7th April to 4th July. During this time Dr Tolman will be available to provide education sessions to GPs and Practice Nurses on "Early Dementia Diagnosis".

The talk will include discussion on;

- The importance of Initial diagnosis
- Modified version of the DSM 4 diagnostic criteria for Alzheimer's disease and
- Provide practice nurses with tools to assist the GP

To book a session at your practice please contact Sharee Taylor (staylor@gpnw.com.au) or Ph: 64250807

GPNW Upcoming Events

contact@gpnw.com.au

NURSING IN GENERAL PRACTICE EVENTS

ORIENTATION TO GENERAL PRACTICE: 2 DAY WORKSHOP

For Nurses that have commenced working within General Practice in the last 12 Months

This course provides a 2 day overview of working in General Practice and is combined with General Practice North

Date: Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th April

Location: Elizabeth Town Cafe
Elizabeth Town

For further information please contact Bronwyn McLaren on 6425 0800 or email bmclaren@gpnw.com.au

STRENGTHENING NUTRITION IN GENERAL PRACTICE COURSE

The “**Strengthening Nutrition in General Practice**” short course for Practice Nurses.

All 3 sessions must be completed to receive RCNA recognition.

The sessions in the North West will be held at GPNW, and a light meal will be provided.

Session 1 – Thursday 22nd April 5:30pm - 9.00pm

Session 2 – Thursday 6th May 5:30pm - 9:00pm

Session 3 – Thursday 20th May 5:30pm - 9.00pm

Registrations are now open. Places are limited.

For more information go to: <http://www.gpnw.com.au/info/eventscalendar/SNGP%20rego%20form%202010%20NW%20reschedule.pdf>

INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL PRACTICE WORKSHOP

For Registered/Enrolled/Endorsed Enrolled Nurses

The Introduction in General Practice Workshop is for Nurses wanting to work in General Practice, the course will provide participants with an overview of the role of the general practice nurse.

Date: 12th May

Time: 8.45am - 5.00pm

Location: The House of Anvers
9025 Bass Hwy, Latrobe

RSVP: Friday 23rd April

For further information please contact Bronwyn McLaren on 6425 0800 or email bmclaren@gpnw.com.au

There is a limit of 20 participants

GPNW Upcoming Events Continued

WEEKEND EDUCATION EVENT...ENTER THESE DATES INTO YOUR DIARY NOW

When: 26th & 27th June 2010

Where: Aspect Tamar Valley Resort (formerly Grindelwald)

Key Speaker: Associate Professor Michael Nicholas
Pain Management & Research Centre, Royal North Shore Hospital Sydney

Topic: **Pain Management**

- Helping chronic pain patients to self-manage their pain
- Making sense of pain, from a psychological perspective
- Psychological Management of Low Back Pain
- Chronic Pain and Recovery – psychological influences
- Integrating medical and psychosocial interventions in chronic pain
- Managing chronic pain in those who are also depressed

Dr Richard O'Regan, Addiction Specialist, Alcohol & Drug Service, has also agreed to be part of our event.

For a copy of the GP information pack and registration forms go to: <http://www.gpnw.com.au/index.html#WEEInformation>

If you require any information regarding the Weekend Education Event please contact Gaye Aitken gaitken@gpnw.com.au or phone 6425 0800.

Upcoming Events

contact@gpnw.com.au

AN EVENING WITH DR MICHAEL BUIST

The UTAS Alumni invite you to join them for a talk by Michael Buist followed by drinks and networking. Mike is Director of Medicine at the NW Regional Hospital and UTAS NW Clinical School and his specialist subject is patient safety. Having nearly died twice himself at medical hands he has an interesting story to tell, and he tells it well.

Date: 21st April 2010

Time: 6.45pm for 7.00pm

Where: UTAS - Cradle Coast Campus

Cost: \$15.00

Registrations are essential.

For more information and to register: <http://www.utasalumni.org.au/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=212&cid=1&ceid=78&cerid=0&cdt=21/04/2010>

LUNG HEALTH PROMOTION CENTRE AT THE ALFRED HOSPITAL, VICTORIA

2010 COURSE DATES

For Practice Nurses

For information or to register for a course, please contact the Lung Health Promotion Centre at The Alfred on (03) 9076 2382, email lunghealth@alfred.org.au or visit www.lunghealth.org.

Upcoming Events Continued

DIABETES MANAGEMENT IN THE GENERAL CARE SETTING

A National Training Program for Nurses and Allied Health Professionals.

A 3 day program prepared by the National Association of Diabetes Centre and presented by the North West Diabetes Centre.

Dates: Monday 10th, 17th & 24th May 2010
Where: Devonport Community & Health Services Centre
Cost: \$150.00 (Morning and afternoon tea provided)
RSVP: 30th April 2010
Contact: NW Diabetes Service on 1 300 556 899

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING FOR NURSES - WATCH THIS SPACE

Date: 26th May 2010
Where: UTAS Simulation Centre, Launceston

TRIAGE TRAINING - WATCH THIS SPACE

Date: TBA

PHARMACOTHERAPY TRAINING FOR NORTH WEST TASMANIA

A training package is now available for GPs in the North West of Tasmania to become authorised pharmacotherapy (methadone and buprenorphine) prescribers. The comprehensive course covers evidence based treatment for opioid dependence and will enable participants to prescribe appropriate medications for this condition. Ongoing support and mentoring will be provided through the Addiction Medicine Specialist and the clinical staff at Alcohol and Drug Services. To register your interest and for further information please contact Dr Richard O'Regan on 6336 5577.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE PRACTICE NURSE COURSE

The University of Melbourne, Department of General Practice has invested in practice nurses by developing the Certificate/Diploma of Primary Care Nursing delivered by distance education.

The format supports nurses who often have busy lives or with limited access to educational facilities in rural areas. It has been developed by experienced practice nurses and general practitioners to suit the needs of general practice nurses in areas (chronic disease, risk management, health promotion, women's health, mental health and youth health) that will complement previous experience and expand your scope of practice. Spaces are available for second semester 2010.

Further details: www.gp.unimelb.edu.au or call Ms Bernie Cooper, course administrator on 03 8344 7275.

Other Information

contact@gpnw.com.au



Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) is the peak national organisation for Australians personally affected by breast cancer.

Through its advocacy work and services, BCNA seeks to ensure that women diagnosed with breast cancer and their families receive the very best information, treatment, care and support possible – no matter who they are or where they live.

BCNA supply free information resources to women affected by breast cancer, including the **My Journey Kit** - a comprehensive information resource for women newly diagnosed with breast cancer and the **Hope & Hurdles Pack** for women with secondary breast cancer. Brochures and fact sheets are also available covering a range of topics such as lymphoedema, hair loss and depression.

Free *My Journey Kit* and *Hope & Hurdles* sample packs are available to General Practitioners and Practice Nurses to use as display copies. To order a sample pack or for more information please visit: wwwbcna.org.au or call **1800 500 258**.

To order a Kit for a patient:

My Journey Kit - 1300 78 55 62 or wwwbcna.org.au *Hope & Hurdles* - 1300 88 73 40 or wwwbcna.org.au

PEAK TIME FOR GASTROENTERITIS

The Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit (CDPU) has recently responded to a number of outbreaks of gastroenteritis. These have been occurring across Tasmania in a range of settings including aged care facilities and child care centres. In addition there was a higher than usual notifications of salmonellosis, campylobacteriosis and cryptosporidiosis. Outbreaks in residential health and aged care facilities are of particular concern because of the high proportion of people vulnerable to severe complications from gastroenteritis and the higher risk of disease transmission residential settings.

Below is a brief summary of response procedures and how GPs can help in managing and containing outbreaks in institutional settings.

An outbreak is declared when two or more people (staff and or attendees/residents) in an institutional setting report vomiting (x2 episodes) or diarrhoea (x3 episodes) within a 24 hour period.

Measures to that reduce the impact of gastroenteritis in an institution include:

- Isolating symptomatic residents as they present from other residents in the institution.
- Excluding affected staff (including food handlers) from the institution from the time they become symptomatic until 48 hours after their symptoms cease. This is important in institutional settings as the excretion of many pathogens can continue after symptoms have resolved. Staff will often need to see their GP for medical certificates to cover this exclusion period, even if they have recovered and feel able to work.
- Implementing strict infection control procedures during the outbreak, including wearing personal protective equipment and maintaining strict hand hygiene practices.

The CDPU regularly requests testing of stool samples during an outbreak to confirm the nature of the pathogen.

The CDPU would like to extend their thanks to all GP's for their support in managing these outbreaks. Feel free to contact us on 1800 671 738 if you any queries or concerns.

BREAST SCREEN TASMANIA MOBILE UNIT ITINERARY 2010



Area	Date	Location
Queenstown	29 March – 9 April	In the car park at the West Coast District Hospital, Queenstown
Rosebery	12 April – 16 April	At the rear of the Rosebery Community Hospital
Smithton	19 April – 7 May	Grounds of Smithton District Hospital
Deloraine	10 May – to 21 May	Deloraine Community Complex, Alverston Drive
Latrobe	24 May – 4 June	In the laneway between the Memorial Hall and Council Chambers, Gilbert Street
Devonport	7 June – 12 August	Car park, adjacent to the Council Chambers, Rooke Street, Devonport
Equipment Service	13 August	
Ulverstone Street	16 August – 1 October	Adjacent to Ulverstone Civic Centre via Victoria
Burnie	4 October – 17 December	Burnie Civic Centre Plaza

To make a booking telephone 13 20 50

Note: Above itinerary as at 11 November 2009.
The itinerary for the Mobile Unit is subject to change without notification.

GPNW Wish You All A Happy and Safe Easter Break

GPNW will be closed from Friday 2nd April and will re-open Wednesday 7th April.



Disclaimer:

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