



Recording Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status

The standard Indigenous status question is: 'Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?' This question should be asked of all patients, irrespective of appearance, country of birth or whether the staff know of the client or their family background (The RACGP Standards for general practice: 4th Edition).

Questions for your practice:

- If a patient leaves the self identification question unanswered on a new patient registration or existing patient update form, does your practice have a process in place to obtain an answer?
- Are all staff comfortable asking the question?
- Is staff training required to ensure all practice staff understand the importance of the question?

For more information or to obtain a copy of the publication "National best practice guidelines for collecting Indigenous status in health data sets"

Please contact:

Sharon Pepper (Indigenous Health Program Officer)
spepper@gpsouth.com.au or 6208 7300.

Your Help needed...

The Division is getting ready to deliver a service aimed at assisting aboriginal people to improve their health through improving access to primary care/general practice.

To effectively implement the service, we need to know what are the real barriers and difficulties experienced by aboriginal people when accessing primary care.

To this end, our Aboriginal Health Outreach Worker, Jon Gill, would like to meet up with aboriginal people to have a chat about these issues.

If you have any aboriginal patients who may be interested, please encourage them to contact Jon on jgill@gpsouth.com.au or 6208 7300.

Mental Health Allied Health Professionals List Update

In response to requests for quicker access, the Mental Health - Medicare Registered Allied Health Professionals resource can now also be accessed on General Practice South's website www.gpsouth.com.au through the **Fast Find Index** by clicking on **Mental Health AHPs**.

It remains available on the Mental Health page www.tinyurl.com/y9ot34r and in Section 2.1 in the Mental Health Resource Folder which is available on line at www.gpsouth.com.au/mhrf.html

The resource provides extended information about Mental Health Allied Health Professionals including areas of speciality, waiting times and fees charged. The online version of the resource is regularly updated.

If you would like a hard copy, contact Pam Reid at General Practice South on 6208 7320 or preid@gpsouth.com.au

Changes to Healthy Kids Checks

Recently Medicare sent a letter to all GPs describing a new government initiative called "Healthy Start for School". As of the 1st July, children who turn 4 **must** have a health check performed by either their Child and Maternal Health Clinic or their General Practice. **Under this new initiative parents will need to do this to receive the "Family Tax Benefit Part A Supplement" for the financial year in which their child turns four.**

In General Practice:

- The Healthy Kids Check can be performed and claimed using the time based item numbers: 701, 703, 705 and 707.
- Item number 715 can be claimed for a health check performed on a 4 year old who is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- Item number 10986 can be claimed if the Healthy Kids check is performed by a practice nurse.

Resources and Support:

- DoHA resources to support practices to perform Healthy Kids Check can be found on the nursing page of the General Practice South website: www.gpsouth.com.au
- Medicare's criteria for this check can be found at: www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm
- Fact sheets for parents regarding Centrelink's requirements can be found at: www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/publications/fpr080.htm

Please don't hesitate to contact the practice support team at General Practice South on 6208 7300 for more information or support on performing Healthy Kids Checks.

How to report an adverse reaction following Vaccination

The reporting of adverse events is made directly to the Department of Health and Ageing Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), using the 'Blue Card' adverse reaction reporting form which is available at www.tga.gov.au/pdf/forms/problem-medicine-forms-bluecard.pdf

Completed forms can be sent to the TGA:

- By mail to: Office of Product Review, Reply Paid 100, Woden ACT 2606
- By fax to: 02 6232 8392
- By email to: adr.reports@tga.gov.au

It is important that adverse reactions are reported as soon as possible so that follow up can be done and action taken to minimise harm to patients.

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

The Division has copies of a new DVD produced by the TIS National interpreting services. The resource contains brief presentations covering 'hints and tips for working with interpreters' and 'TIS National services for medical practitioners'.

If your practice would like a copy, please contact Jane Barrett at the Division, jbarrett@gpsouth.com.au

AGPAL – National Satellite Navigation Workshop – 30th September 2011

AGPAL is launching a series of workshops on the RACGP 4th edition Standards. The workshops will be traveling to major cities in 2011 to ensure that the 4th edition Standards accreditation journey remains stress-free and uncomplicated.

The program promises practices a comprehensive overview. Highlights include the key differences between the 3rd and 4th edition Standards, the top 10 changes, new areas driven from national standards, an explanation of clinical governance and patient handover and assistance with the more challenging Standards.

In Hobart the workshop is scheduled for Friday 30 Sept. For a program overview and registration information, go to www.agpal.com.au and look under "Events".

Palliative Care website for practice nurses:

www.caresearch.com is a website funded by the Department of Health and Aging as part of the national palliative care program. It is managed by Flinders University, and provides links to many different services both nationally and on a state by state basis.

Care Search Nurses (Hub) is a part of this website. The Hub has palliative care information written specifically for nurses. The materials are free and are useful for all nurses in any care setting, not just palliative care nurses.

**26 August
2011 is...**



Vaccine Storage

It is desirable for vaccine fridges to be serviced every 12 months if possible, by the appropriate service agent. The service will ensure that the digital thermometer is working correctly, the door is balanced and closing correctly and the machine is running efficiently at the preset factory temperature of 5° which will allow for slight fluctuations occurring when the fridge door is opened (between 2 to 8 degrees).

It is advisable to have the fridge logged every 12 months regardless of whether you are having an annual cold chain audit carried out by General Practice South.

If you have not had your fridge logged in the last year and would like to have it done, please ring General Practice South on 6208 7300.



Upcoming Events

Meeting Topic	Coordinator	Venue	Date & Time
Practice Nurse Network Meeting - Healthy Kids Check Speaker: Jane Ambrose	Margaret Clarke	Change of Venue - to be announced.	Mon 8 Aug 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Practice Managers Network Meeting	Pip Scholten	Seminar Room, General Practice South	Wed 17 Aug 12.30pm - 2.00pm
Practice Nurse Immunisation Update Speaker: Tanya Panitzki	Margaret Clarke	Mercure Hotel 156 Bathurst Street, Hobart	Sat 20 Aug 9.00am - 4.30pm
CPR Training	Pip Scholten	Seminar Room, General Practice South	Wed 24 Aug 6.15pm - 8.30pm

School of Nursing seeking placements for student nurses

The School of Nursing and Midwifery are seeking expressions of interest regarding support of year 1, 2 and 3 undergraduate nursing students in the form of Professional Experience Placements (PEP) in 2012. If you or your colleagues in practice would like to offer a professional experience placement to an undergraduate student, UTAS would like to hear from you.

Staff from the SNM are able to visit with your practice, at your request, to outline student supervision and assessment requirements, and above all to outline the support that could be provided to you for the duration of the students' practicum. Typically the SNM sends an Expression of Interest to all agencies asking them to nominate the times they would like to facilitate the learning of students. For placement dates and any further information please contact:

Annette Marlow, Director of Professional Experience
School of Nursing & Midwifery, University of Tasmania
E: annette.marlow@utas.edu.au , Ph: 6324 3455

Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship and Support Scheme: Continuing Professional Development

This scholarship scheme is an Australian Government initiative supporting nurses and midwives to undertake continuing professional education activities, short courses and conferences. Applications are now open and will close on 16 September 2011.

The scheme provides financial assistance for Continuing Professional Development in the form of a scholarship worth up to a total of \$1,500 per applicant. These funds are intended to assist scholars in meeting the cost of their chosen CPD activity. Scholarships will be awarded on the recommendation of a selection committee and will be based on how you address the following criteria:

- How the scholarship will benefit you in furthering your career
- Commitment to clinical practice in your chosen professional field
- How life experiences and/or professional career to date demonstrates your commitment to furthering your nursing career in chosen professional field

For more information and to apply please go to: www.rcna.org.au/scholarships/nahssscpd or call:

1800 112 240



FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCE

School of Nursing & Midwifery

