



MBS items 2710 and 2702 Mental Health Treatment Plans from 1 January 2010

GPs registered as having completed Mental Health Skills Training (MHST) are eligible to claim MBS item 2710.

GPs **not** registered as having completed this training claim MBS item 2702.

All GPs can continue to use MBS item 2712 for the Mental Health Treatment Plan Review.

GPs can confirm they are registered as having completed MHST by contacting General Practice Mental Health Standards Collaboration (GPMHSC) on either gpmhsc@racgp.org.au or julia.clarke@racgp.org.au or phoning Julia Clarke on (03) 8699 0554.

If a GP has confirmed their MHST accreditation with GPMHSC and a 2710 claim is rejected by Medicare, the GP should contact Bernadette Blenkiron at the Department of Health and Ageing on (02) 6289 8826 or email bernadette.blenkiron@health.gov.au



Australia's Healthy Weight Week (AHWW)

Healthy Weight Week, hosted by the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) along with its Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) members, was at the end of January but the website still has a range of resources that aim to help Australians achieve and maintain a healthy weight by eating better, feeling better and moving more NOW.

To mark the start of AHWW 2010, DAA launched a series of 'Take 10 in 2010' fact sheets. These are sets of ten tips to help patients achieve a healthy lifestyle by making small changes every week. Download the fact sheets from the 'Take 10 in 2010' section of the AHWW website.

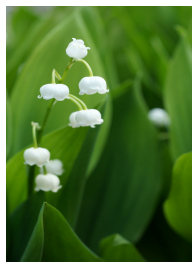
To download resources, visit the AHWW website www.healthyweightweek.com.au



Bereavement Support

The Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement is running a session on Monday 17th May for health-care workers who have contact with bereaved and grieving individuals, even though their primary role may not be in this field. The workshop will offer a simple framework and strategies that can be used to ensure effective bereavement support, when only having brief contact with the individual.

For more information see the link on the General Practice South website under Palliative Care.



Alcohol and Drug information

Information about local alcohol and drug services, support organisations, guidelines and resources are now available on a dedicated page on the General Practice South website.

This page can be accessed by clicking on Alcohol and Drug on the Fast Find Index or by going directly to www.gpsouth.com.au/ad.html

If you have any comments about this page, please contact Pam Reid at General Practice South on 62087320 or preid@gpsouth.com.au



Local practice nurse, Lea Young, has won the APNA 2009 Merck Sharp & Dohme Best Practice Nurse Award for Innovation in Nursing in General Practice.

Lea won the award for devising a scheme to better manage wound care. After starting work at the Risdon Vale Community Health Centre in February 2009, Lea recognised there was a lack of consistency in wound documentation, which was resulting in poor outcomes for patients and increased costs for the clinic. Because many patients' wounds were not healing satisfactorily, they were often being referred to the hospital out-patients wound clinic, where Lea started work in April 2009.

Having identified that a lack of appropriate documentation was contributing to poor continuity of care, Lea developed a wound assessment chart and gave a presentation to her colleagues from both centres about the importance of holistic care, why it is necessary to accurately document the findings, and how to document them to meet legal requirements.

Lea then gave staff an opportunity to test the new wound assessment chart from a variety of different case studies they would typically encounter on a day-to-day basis.

The wound assessment chart has been well-received, and Lea is hopeful it will become integrated into every day practice to ensure holistic assessment and comprehensive documentation. The template is available under Templates-Other Items on GP South website.

Get Up & Grow

Late last year the Commonwealth Government introduced *Get Up & Grow: Healthy Eating and Physical Activity for Early Childhood*. While the guidelines are aimed at child care centres and family day care, there are some useful resources on the Department of Health and Ageing website including posters and brochures covering health eating and physical activity that could be used to complement the Health Kids check (MBS Item 709/711). Follow the links on www.health.gov.au to [For Consumers > Education and Prevention > Nutrition and Physical Activity > Early Childhood Nutrition](#).



New MBS items

The new item numbers will be effective from 1 May 2010.

Information on the changes is available through the MBS

On-line website

under Latest News – Changes to Medicare

Primary Care items. General Practice South will provide education around the changes when more information is available.

PIP Indigenous Health Program

The new PIP Indigenous Health Program also starts in May 2010. Registration forms will be available from the Medicare Australia website from late February.

For more information, see the Question & Answer document on the Medicare website, under [For Health professionals > Incentives and Allowances](#) > Practice Incentives Program (PIP).

The Division will be running an Aboriginal Cultural Awareness session on Thursday 18 February.

Waiting Room Displays

Are you looking for themes for your waiting room information? During February the following might be useful:

World Cancer Day (4 February)

www.cancer.org.au

Australian Organ Donor Awareness Week (21 - 28 February)

www.organdonor.com.au

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

<http://nbocc.org.au>



Thankyou

A big thankyou for filling out your Practice Update request forms in December. Considering the busy time of year, it was very heartening that almost every practice completed and returned these forms quickly. This really helps us stay on top of what is happening in General Practice in southern Tasmania, as well as ensuring the accuracy of the GP listings we produce.

Collaboratives Update

In early December 2009 doctors and practice staff from Sorell Family Practice and Stoke Street Family Medical Centre attended a workshop in Sydney as part of their commitment to improving systems within their practices.

Part of improving practice systems involves having the time to actually look at them and evaluate what is being done – “protected time” in Collaborative terminology. If you have ever wondered how to get some time to yourself to undertake a particular task we may have found the answer! For more information go to the APCC virtual tabletop website at <http://stories.apcc.org.au> and read “Purple Time – Protecting Endangered Species”.



Upcoming Events

Meeting Topic	Coordinator	Venue	Date & Time
Practice Manager Network Meeting	Pip Scholten	GP South, 31 Tower Road, New Town	Wed 17 Feb 12.30pm - 2.00pm
Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training	Pip Scholten	GP South, 31 Tower Road, New Town	Thurs 18 Feb 6.00pm - 9.00pm
Practice Nurse Network Meeting	Margaret Clarke	GP South, 31 Tower Road, New Town	Mon 22 Feb 6.00pm - 7.30pm
CPR Training	Pip Scholten	GP South, 31 Tower Road, New Town	Tues 23 Feb 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Disclaimer: Whilst every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the information given in this newsletter is accurate, General Practice South will not accept liability, any injury, loss or damage arising directly or indirectly from any use of or reliance on this information.

SMS reminders

An SMS reminder is sent before all educational events held by the Division.

If you wish to take advantage of this, please give Kelly or Ange a call on 6208 7300 and make sure we have your mobile number recorded.



Educational Event Communications

We are always looking to streamline our communications with you. If you have any GPs that receive hard copy invitations, and would prefer email, please let us know. We currently have 62% of GPs receiving email invites.



REMEMBER: Check. Refrigerate. Rotate.

When stocking your refrigerator please remember:

- Keep vaccines in their original packaging; do not remove until ready to use
- Open and close the refrigerator door only when required
- Monitor the refrigerators temperature by recording it at the beginning and end of every working day. Record the temperatures. Observe the thermometer throughout the day ensuring temperatures are within 2-8°C
- Have back-up storage for your vaccines in case of power failure (refer to ‘Strive for 5’ National Vaccine Storage Guidelines)
- Position the refrigerator away from heat sources e.g. not directly under a window, or next to machinery
- Tape or place a ‘do not turn off refrigerator’ sticker over, on or near the electrical plug to avoid it being accidentally turned off.



Laminated Allied Health and Specialist Listings

You would be aware that this year, we did not send out multiple copies of these lists to practices, but rather asked you to let us know if you wanted any, and if so, how many. You will see more of this in the future as we try to be more efficient with our resource distribution, rather than taking an “en masse” approach. This may mean an extra communication with the division, but will hopefully result in less wastage.

To reiterate, please let us know if you want copies or more copies of these listings, but also be aware that this information is available:

- a) On our web site, and is updated all year round, and is “linkable” from your desktop.
- b) In our 2010 Health directory booklet, which you will be receiving during February.