



Free extra dose of infant pneumococcal vaccine

The Federal Government has announced a single free supplementary dose of Prevenar 13® will be provided to children aged between 12 and 35 months who have completed their primary vaccination course with the Prevenar® vaccine, to ensure these children can also benefit from the improved vaccine. The program will be available for one year and runs from 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012.

For more information, visit www.racgp.org.au/healthalerts

Changes to Immunisation Schedule

Minor changes have been made to the immunisation schedule, particularly around the wording regarding Influenza vaccination and the Pneumococcal vaccination for 65 years and over.

The new schedule with these changes is available in the Immunisation page of the General Practice South website; www.gpsouth.com.au Printing of the schedule will take place following the implementation of other changes to the schedule in the near future.

Patient concerns about influenza vaccination

General practices are reminded that updated influenza vaccination information for 2011 addressing potential concerns of patients, including vaccination in children, is available from the Immunise Australia website at www.immunise.health.gov.au under

Diseases & Programs A-Z > Influenza (Flu) > Questions & Answers.

Recalls and reminders

Urgent recalls – when you are up to the stage of sending the registered letter as a final attempt to contact the patient, remember to include information on the clinical reason for the patient's need to return, as well as the request for the patient to make an appointment.

Front Desk Staff Orientation or "Bootcamp" for Receptionists!

After the success of the Orientation for Practice Nurses program, General Practice South is introducing a program for Front Desk Staff who are new to General Practice.

Over two days we hope to cover a wide range of topics including communication skills, infection control, triage and accreditation and give you the chance to ask all those questions you've been waiting to ask! Numbers will be limited so keep your eyes open for the invitation to the inaugural (guinea pig!) session.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Clinical waste containers should be placed out of reach of children, either on a high bench or wall mounted.

Separate containers are used for sharps and generated clinical waste materials.

The clinical waste containers need to have a good sealing lid and may be hands free operated. These containers are to be lined with a plastic biohazard bag and have a biohazard label attached.

They should only be used for true clinical waste which is human tissue (excludes teeth, hair, nails, urine and faeces) and materials containing free flowing or expressible blood. The bins should be emptied when full and/or at the end of the day.

It is worth remembering that other materials generated during a procedure, such as dressing trays, gloves etc, do not need to be included in the clinical waste.

Further information regarding other types of waste can be found on Pages 46 to 48 of the RACGP Infection Control Guidelines for Office Based Practices 4th Edition, which can be accessed through www.racgp.org.au/infectioncontrol

Changes to practice nurse item numbers

On the 30th May General Practice South held an information evening for practice staff to explain the changes to practice nurse funding that will be in place as of January 2012, and to explore the implications of these changes for practices.

This session was held at the Hobart Hockey Centre and was attended by 44 practice staff: practice managers, senior reception staff, GPs and Practice Nurses. The speaker was Liz Meadley, who has a nursing background that extends over 40 years, has worked in different capacities with Divisions of General Practice in NSW, and has now been contracted to GP NSW to inform general practice of these changes.

Basically, practices will receive payments of \$25,000 per full time GP for the employment of a Registered Nurse, and \$12,000 for an Enrolled Nurse. This will be capped at 5 incentives. The purpose of this new incentive is to expand the role of the practice nurse beyond the funded practice nurse item numbers.

A grandfather clause will be put in place to ensure that no practice will be disadvantaged over a 3 year period after the inception of the new incentive. Other item numbers such as Health Assessments, GPMPs & TCAs and Cycles of Care will remain. More information regarding these changes to practice nurse funding will be available in the near future.



Practice Web Pages

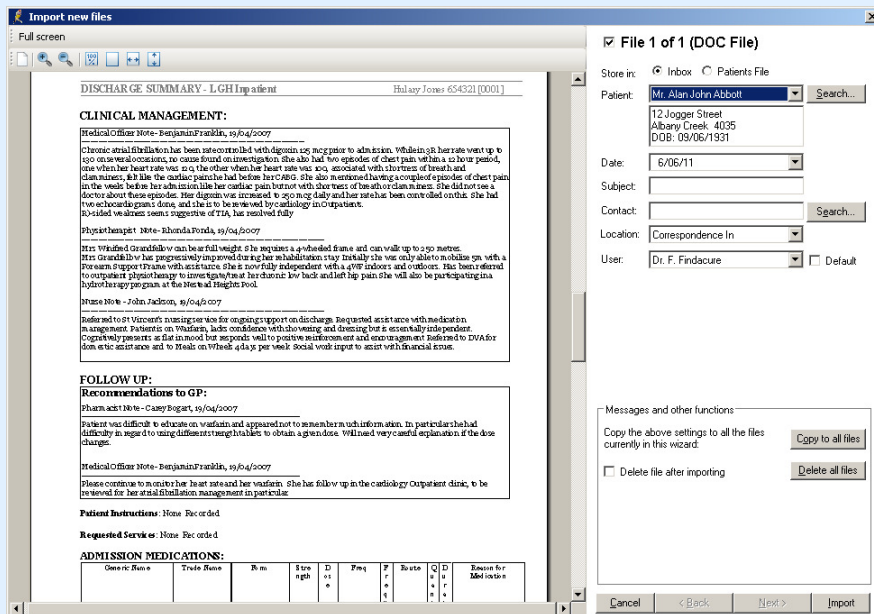
In the Health Directory section of our website, www.gpsouth.com.au/hd.htm we have a listing of all southern General Practices, along with an individual page for each practice. This is accessed through the "Practice Listing" link on the left hand side. In this section we show things such as the practice address and contact details, attending GPs, opening hours, and any extra information you may have given us. We also have a google map showing the location of your practice.

If you have a moment, please check the listing for your practice. If we have anything wrong, or if you would like some extra information shown, please contact Ian McKnight on 6208 7303 or email to imcknight@gpsouth.com.au

Scanning in Best Practice

The latest release of the Best Practice Program, (1.8.0.542) includes a vastly improved bulk document scanning facility.

You now have the ability to scan directly to a GP Inbox, which means that scanned documents can now become a more seamless part of the GPs normal results checking process. If you would like clarification or assistance with this, or any other aspect of using Best Practice, please contact Ian (details above).



A new wound management website

B.Braun has produced their first edition of a new educational newsletter that gives you as a wound clinician the opportunity to learn and share your experiences in wound treatment and management. B. Braun Australia has developed the Wound Bed Innovations (WBI) newsletter, as a forum for wound care clinicians to share their voice and to share knowledge.

Inside you will find some interesting facts about wound bed preparation and cleansing, and some of the latest clinical information. Also hear from your wound care clinician peers from across Australia as they share their clinical experiences and find out how you too can share your voice. You can ask to join the mailing list by emailing marketing.au@bbraun.com

Overheard in a busy clinic as a receptionist spoke to an obviously hard-of-hearing client:
"No Mrs Smith, not the HEARSE, I'm sending the NURSE!"



Upcoming Events

| Meeting Topic | Coordinator | Venue | Date & Time |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Practice Manager Network Meeting | Pip Scholten | Bellerive Quay Surgery | Wed 15 June 6.30pm - 9.00pm |
| Clinical Triage for Practice Nurses - Alanna Dalwood | Margaret Clarke | Hobart Function Centre | Tue 21 June 6.00pm - 8.00pm |
| Non-clinical Triage for Practice Managers and Practice Staff - Alanna Dalwood | Pip Scholten | Hobart Function Centre | Wed 22 June 6.30pm - 8.00pm |
| Non-clinical Triage - Alanna Dalwood | Pip Scholten | Huon Manor, Huonville | Tue 28 June 6.30pm - 9.00pm |

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.

2011 Education and Training in Hobart

UNE Partnerships, in conjunction with the Australian Association of Practice Managers (Tasmania) is conducting a Certificate III in Business Administration (Medical) workshop program in Hobart. The Certificate will suit healthcare staff involved with office reception and other administrative tasks. Workshop program commences 24 June 2011.

Workshop Program is available at www.aapm.org.au/files/2TO2PDP8KS/Workshop_Program.pdf

The Enrolment Form at www.aapm.org.au/files/9G0CRFRDGC/Enrolment_Form.pdf

Please note that this workshop program is available as a **government funded** Existing Worker traineeship for all eligible participants. Traineeship Information is available at www.unep.edu.au/General/UNEP_Traineeships.htm For further information in regard to traineeship programs and eligibility, please contact JobNet Tasmania on 1300 376 776.

Please note that participants not eligible for traineeship funding are encouraged to enrol and complete the training program. For more information contact UNE Partnerships on 1800 288 622.