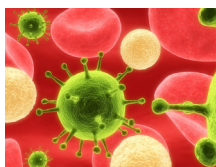




Make sure swine flu stops with you

The following is suggested wording, provided by DHHS, for consumer information on swine flu and the need for immunisation. If you would like to use this as a poster for the waiting room, it is available at the link on the General Practice South website Immunisation page.



"Although presently in a lull in Tasmania the pandemic H1N1 2009 influenza virus (swine flu) is still circulating and may suddenly come back strongly at any stage. Because the virus has potential to do a great deal more harm in the future, all Tasmanians are encouraged to get vaccinated against it now. People can get the Panvax H1N1 vaccine via their GP whether they are more at risk to flu complications or not. This is because vaccination provides protection that extends beyond the one getting it. Once enough people in a community are immunised against a disease it becomes harder for it to spread, even among those not-immunised. So, even if you are not worried about the impact of the virus on yourself, your vaccination could give protection to someone near to you who is more at risk of serious complications from the flu. Make a positive move to protect yourself and someone else, consider vaccination and ensure that swine flu stops with you."

Palliative Care Project

For information on the Palliative Care Project please visit the General Practice South website at www.gpsouth.com.au/pcp.html. It contains a range of palliative care resources and links for practices to use.

The National Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA) provides training for practice nurses and there is information on their website www.pepaeducation.com. Kate Atkinson, Rural Palliative Care Project Officer, at General Practice South.

Funding for free 10997 training package extended

AGPN are pleased to advise that the Department of Health and Ageing has funded an extension for **free access** to eligible participants (practice nurses and Aboriginal health workers) for the e-learning Training Package to support Medicare Item 10997 until 30 June 2010. The package has been very well received with over 1,600 participants having already registered to undertake one or more of the modules.

Information on the e-learning Training Package to support Medicare Item 10997 can be found at [Australian General Practice Network \(AGPN\) - E - learning Training Package to support Medicare Item 10997](http://www.australiangeneralpractice.com.au/e-learning-training-package-to-support-medicare-item-10997) and the package can be accessed from the RCNA website at [e-Learning Training Package to support Medicare Item 10997](http://www.rcna.com.au/e-learning-training-package-to-support-medicare-item-10997). Follow the instructions on the front page under 'Getting Started'. You do not need to be a member of RCNA to access the modules.

Template and PEN updates

The following templates have been added to the Information Management section of our website: www.gpsouth.com.au/infom.html#templates. They are:

- St Giles Southern Rehabilitation Services
- Calvary Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) referral
- Hugh Jackson Gastroenterologist Referral
- Wound Chart - This is a comprehensive management chart primarily put together by Lea Young who works at Risdon Vale CHC. She has kindly agreed to share her work in this area.

There was a major upgrade of the **PEN tool** in October. Highlights include:

1. A filter to quickly identify patients with no date of birth recorded
2. The ability to narrow age searching down to months
3. The addition of drug abuse as a search category
4. Alcohol usage is now reported
5. Several new MBS items for:
 - 75yr Health Checks
 - GP Management and Team Care Reviews
 - Domestic and Residential Medication Management Reviews
 - Diabetes SIP Items

Instructions for importing the templates are located at the top of the list. If you have any queries, template requests, or would like PEN installed, please give Ian McKnight a call at the Division.

Practice Manager Network

A meeting of the Practice Managers Network was held on Wednesday 28th October. Notes from the meeting are available via the link on the Practice Support page of the General Practice South website.



If you have any suggestions for topics or speakers for the network meetings, please contact Pip Scholten on 6208 7300.

Mental Health Nurses

Nurses engaged under Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program (MHNIP) must be credentialed by the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN) by 31 December 2009. Nurses holding an ACMHN Credential have been recognised as having the specialist postgraduate education and significant practice experience required to work under the program.

Interim arrangements are in place to allow time for nurses to apply for a Credential until 31 December 2009. From 1 January 2010, eligible organisations will only be able to receive MHNIP payments for services provided by a Credentialed mental health nurse. For more information, visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/incentives/mental-health.jsp or contact Liz Rees at the Division.

Practices are encouraged to report problems with VacPac needles and syringes

The syringes, needles, alcohol swabs, sticking plaster, and alcohol hand rub in the VacPacs are considered medical devices by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and are listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).



Any problems with medical devices should be reported to the regulator. The easiest way to report is by completing the 'Reporting Form for use by Medical Device Users' on TGA's website at www.tga.gov.au/problem/devices.htm

HPV Register

The HPV vaccination program is an ongoing program which will continue to offer vaccination to first year high school students either 12 or 13 years old dependant on the state, through school based programs. People outside the program may continue to receive the vaccination however there will be a cost.

The HPV register does not cease after 31 December 2009. The register will continue to take notification of vaccines and GPs are asked to still notify the register when they administer a HPV vaccination, however they will not receive the \$6.00 payment for this notification as they have done during the catch up period.

The HPV register will continue to:

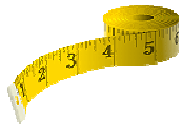
- send completion of vaccination statements to all individuals who have received the vaccine
- send reminders to individuals who are overdue for vaccination within the school-based program
- notify vaccinated individuals, in the event that booster doses are required in future
- provide reports on vaccination status to vaccination providers
- provide de-identified data to inform policy making and approved research and
- in the future, the HPV Register will facilitate cross-referencing of vaccination data with information from cervical cytology (Pap smear) or cervical cancer registries for evaluation purposes.

Order your free Measure Up campaign tape measures

The second phase of the Measure Up campaign commenced on 13 September 2009. You can view the evaluation results for the first phase of the campaign at:

www.australia.gov.au/MeasureUp

"Measure Up" tape measures in aluminium cases and fact-sheets have been produced specifically for GPs and health professionals to use when measuring patients. These resources, booklets and posters can be ordered from the Measure Up campaign website at: www.measureup.gov.au/internet/abhi/publishing.nsf/Content/OrderGP





UPCOMING EVENTS

Meeting Topic	Coordinator	Venue	Date & Time
Practice Nurse's Network Lunch	Margaret Clarke	General Practice South 31 Tower Road, New Town	Thursday 5 November 12.30 pm to 2.00pm
CPR Training	Pip Scholten	General Practice South 31 Tower Road, New Town	Wednesday 18 November 6.30pm to 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 for any injury, loss or damage arising directly or indirectly from any use of or reliance on this information.

Product alert

Providers are alerted to familiarise themselves with the Hiberix and Infanrix hexa vaccine product similarities and differences as presented in the table. In mid 2010 GlaxoSmithKline, the manufacturer of these vaccines, will be introducing blister packs for Infanrix hexa and Hiberix 10 dose packs to ensure each presentation encourages correct dilution.

Hiberix® vial	Infanrix hexa® vial
The vial label States "Hiberix" for Hiberix vial	The vial label States "Hib" for the vial contained as part of the Infanrix hexa package
The coloured vial collar A silver collar for the "Hiberix" vial in the Hiberix package	The coloured vial collar A green collar for the "Hib" vial contained in the Infanrix hexa package.
Hiberix (<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b) is used routinely at the 12 month old schedule point and the pellet should always be reconstituted with the diluent provided in the pre-filled syringe supplied.	Infanrix hexa is used routinely at the 2, 4 and 6 month old schedule points and the Hib pellet (<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b) should always be reconstituted with the diluent provided. Diluent contains the other five components of the vaccine - Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Poliomyelitis and Hepatitis B.
	

Elaine's Hot Tip: Logging of Instruments

Please remember that when you are using your Steriliser printer for logging purposes the number on the printer load/cycle/run should match the number you are recording in your logging sheet.

The pattern of numbers will vary depending on the type of machine you have. For example, some machines will revert back to one each 24 hours and others may run through to one hundred or higher and then revert back to one to begin again.

