

In Case You Were Wondering

As from 1 November General Practice South has become Tasmania Medicare Local.

The Practice Support team - Ian, Tony, Pip, Margaret and Elaine - will still be providing assistance to Practices, so please contact us with all the usual queries on 6208 7300 or via email.

While the funding model will be different and management structures are changing, Practice Support is still a core part of our function.

Smoking Cessation: A Brief Intervention

Smoking rates in Tasmania remain above the national average, and about 570 Tasmanians die each year from causes related to tobacco.

A brief intervention for smoking cessation is about assessing people's readiness and motivation to quit smoking. It involves a short chat that encourages smokers to think about making changes to their smoking habits, and can be done by nurses during a consultation, for example whilst changing a dressing or giving a vaccination.

The World Health Organization encourages that brief interventions be delivered by all health professionals in the course of their routine work.

Training for practice nurses on using brief interventions for smoking cessation is being held at **General Practice South** on **Thursday 17 November**. The session will be delivered by Nancy Westcott and Stephanie Pitney from the Smoking Cessation Program with Alcohol and Drug Services.

The session will cover:

- the impact that brief interventions can have on cessation rates at a population level
- support available within the community for people wanting to quit smoking
- ABC method for smoking cessation



A light meal will be served at 6pm, with the 1 hour session running from 6.30pm - 7.30pm.

To RSVP call 6208 7300 or email events@gpsouth.com.au by Monday 14 November.

GP Mental Health Treatment Plan - further changes to MBS items

As from 1 November 2011 there have been changes to MBS item numbers and billing criteria for GP Mental Health Treatment Plans. For further information, please see links on the Mental Health page of Tasmania Medicare Local website at www.gpsouth.com.au/mental.html#BAMH

Recalls

The importance of a reliable recall and follow up system cannot be underestimated. Practices should take the time to review their recall system to ensure that it is as failsafe as possible and that staff understand the importance of following the process.

In circumstances where a recall is required, such as for an abnormal or "clinical significant" result, the following steps are recommended:

- Up to three calls to the patient's nominated phone number
- A letter sent via normal post
- A registered letter

Ensure that all actions are documented clearly in the medical record and if you are ultimately unable to contact the patient, contact your medical insurance company.

Healthy Kids Check elearning course now available

This free online course will prepare practice nurses to meet the requirements of the Medicare Healthy Kids Check for 4 year olds. The course has been developed with funding from the Department of Health and Ageing with input from experts in the field of child health and development. The flexible learning style allows for nurses to complete the two modules at their own pace. You'll receive a printable certificate once you have completed the online assessments. This course has been endorsed by APNA and is the equivalent of 2.5 CPD hours.

The link is: www.healthykidscheckelearning.net.au/login.php
A link to this course can also be found on the nursing page of the General Practice South website: www.gpsouth.com.au



Diabetes Management in the Primary Care Setting

It has been recorded that 1.7 million Australians have diabetes, with over 50% of people not knowing. An estimated 275 Australians will develop diabetes every day. APNA in conjunction with the Australia Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA) have developed an online learning program aimed at nurses providing diabetes care and management in the primary care setting.

Diabetes Management in the Primary Care Setting has been designed for those who have identified a need to update or increase their diabetes and diabetes management knowledge. This unit will provide nurses with a basic understanding of the disease and its impact on the individual and the broader community. The program will provide the minimum diabetes specific knowledge needed to support provision of quality care to the person with diabetes and their families and carers.

The course is comprised of 7 modules with a total of 16 CPD hours!

Course now available on APNA Online Learning

www.apna.e3learning.com.au/

Cost: Non-APNA members \$375 / APNA members \$320

Recording of the Prevenar 13 supplementary dose for ACIR

There have been some issues concerning the lodging of data to the ACIR for the supplementary dose of Prevenar 13. The supplementary program (one dose for those children 12 to 35 months to finish after 1 year) began on October 1st 2011.

The Prevenar 13 supplementary dose should be reported to the ACIR as "dose 4" to enable accurate reporting against the catch up program. For children who are on a catch up schedule for their primary course of pneumococcal vaccination (ie. they may have received less than 3 doses), if they are eligible for the supplementary program, the supplementary dose still needs to be recorded as dose 4 on the ACIR.

Reporting of Prevenar 13 dose 4 can be submitted to the ACIR manually in the 'Other vaccine' box on the Immunisation Encounter (IMMU-2) form.

Providers using the Record Encounter function on the ACIR secure internet site can report dose 4 of Prevenar 13 under the 'Other' tab. Other electronic methods of reporting data to the ACIR (Online Claiming and Internet Data Interchange (IDI)) should now be set up to submit Prevenar 13 dose 4 details to the ACIR.

Questions about how to report data to the ACIR can be directed to the ACIR's general enquiry line on 1800 653 809.

CVC training module up and running

The first training module for the Department of Veterans' Affairs [DVA] [Coordinated Veterans' Care Program](#) [CVC] has been released. The module called *Is your service ready?* has been designed as a flexible, self-paced learning tool enabling individuals to design their own study timetable. Module One is accredited for RACGP QI & CPD, ACRRM PDP and has been endorsed by RCNA and APNA.

A Certificate of Completion is awarded upon successful completion of this module, which has five sections and will take approximately six hours to complete. Additional [resources](#) including recommended readings, case studies with sample self-management plans and care plan templates are also available.

A further three Modules will be released progressively over the next nine months:

- Adapted Flinders Program of Chronic Condition Management™ Care Planning for Veterans
- Integrating the Flinders Program for Veterans with Disease Specific Care
- Social Isolation and Veteran Carers' Needs

AGPN, in conjunction with Australian Practice Nurses Association (APNA), Flinders University and Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, have been engaged by DVA to provide this training and the resources for GPs, Practice Nurses and Community Nurses to improve treatment plans for Veterans' with chronic and complex conditions.

Andrology Australia Clinical Summary Guides

Andrology Australia has developed clinical guides for general practice staff. The Summary Guides are free of charge and contain pertinent information on the management and treatment for a range of male reproductive health issues in general practice. To access these guides, please go to:

www.tinyurl.com/bmgfzxe



Upcoming Events

Meeting Topic	Coordinator	Venue	Date & Time
Spirometry Training Course	Margaret Clarke	Mercure Hotel	Sat 12 Nov 9.00am - 4.30pm
Front Desk Staff Orientation	Pip Scholten	Seminar Room, TML (General Practice South)	Mon 14 Nov 9.30am - 4.30pm Tue 15 Nov 9.30am - 4.30pm
Practice Nurse Network Meeting	Margaret Clarke	Seminar Room, TML (General Practice South)	Tue 15 Nov 6.00pm - 8.30pm
Smoking Cessation: A Brief Intervention	Karen Bevis	Seminar Room, TML (General Practice South)	Thu 17 Nov 6.00pm - 7.30pm

New templates

The following electronic templates were created during October and can be found here:

www.gpsouth.com.au/infom.html#templates

- Aclasta Infusion Request - G Jones
- AudioClinic Tasmania
- Beachside Physiotherapy
- Kingston Physiotherapy
- Healthy Kids Check Recall Letter
- Healthy Kids Check

As always, please give Ian McKnight a call on 6208 7303 if you need any assistance importing these, or if you would like a template created.

Pen Update

Version 3.1 of the Pen Clinical Audit tool is due to be released on the 8th of November. The main enhancement is a change to the MBS Item numbers collected to incorporate Item 11506 (Measurement of Respiratory Function). The MBS collections have also been updated to reflect the new Mental Health Item Numbers.

If you are still running version 2 of Pen Clinical Audit tool, you will not see these changes. Please contact Ian McKnight if you want to upgrade to version 3 and need assistance to do so.

Medical Director

For Medical Director users, it's worth re-emphasising this excerpt from a recent HCN notice.

Medical Director subscribers are advised to upgrade to MD3.12.1 before 1 December 2011.

All subscribers MUST update to 3.12.1 as ongoing monthly MDref support will not be available for earlier versions of Medical Director.

MDref is Medical Directors drug database.