



### RCNA Scholarships - Important information for Practice Nurses

Scholarships under the Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship and Support Scheme (NAHSSS) are now available for nurses working in general practice to provide assistance in undertaking Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and post graduate study.

For further detail, eligibility and applications visit the RCNA website: [www.rcna.org.au/scholarships/nahssscpd](http://www.rcna.org.au/scholarships/nahssscpd) or the RCNA Scholarships team, phone: 1800 117 262, or email [scholarships@rcna.org.au](mailto:scholarships@rcna.org.au)

Applications close on 1 October 2010.

### Chronic Pain

Information about local services, support organisations, guidelines and resources has been updated on a dedicated page on the General Practice South website.

This page can be accessed by clicking on Chronic Pain on the Fast Find Index or by going directly to [www.gpsouth.com.au/pain.html](http://www.gpsouth.com.au/pain.html)

If you have any comments about this page please contact Pam Reid at General Practice South on 6208 7320 or [preid@gpsouth.com.au](mailto:preid@gpsouth.com.au)

### Quit Smoking

The latest campaign, *What's Worse*, began on Thursday 19 August and will run on all commercial TV stations for three weeks in conjunction with Quitline advertisements.



The campaign focuses on a woman finding out from her doctor that she has lung cancer and then having the difficult task of communicating the reality of her illness to her children. This campaign emphasises the real health consequences of smoking and how it affects not only the smoker, but their family as well.

For information and resources, go to [www.quititas.org.au](http://www.quititas.org.au)

### AAPM National Conference 2010

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian Association of Practice Managers Ltd (AAPM) combined national conference, GP10, will be held at the Cairns Convention Centre 6-9 October.

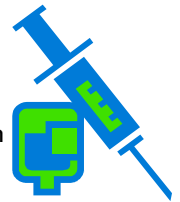
This year, the two organisations have joined forces to create a conference that is relevant to the much broader general practice community.

The conference will focus on the following key themes:

- Indigenous health
- e-health
- Sports medicine
- Rural health
- Health promotion
- The business of medicine
- Practical tips for students and registrars.

For more information or to register please go to: [www.gp10.com.au](http://www.gp10.com.au)

### Cease using Panvax H1N1 2009 Junior pre-filled syringes as the vaccine has expired.



The Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Professor Jim Bishop has advised that stability testing by the Therapeutic Goods Administration of Panvax H1N1 2009 Junior vaccine, for children between 6 months to < 3 years of age, has shown a decline in potency in the 0.25 ml pre-filled syringes. The vaccine should now be considered expired.

To ensure the vaccine is no longer administered, quarantine your stock of Panvax H1N1 2009 Junior pre-filled syringes immediately. CSL is retrieving this stock and will contact you shortly.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has advised the CMO that revaccination of children who have already received 2 doses of Panvax H1N1 2009 Junior is not necessary. The potency of the vaccine administered to date is considered adequate to induce an immune response.

If a child aged 6 months to <3 years of age is due to receive a second dose of H1N1 containing vaccine, this can be provided by using the age appropriate dose (0.25ml) obtained from a Panvax multi-dose vial.

Alternatively, the 2010 seasonal influenza vaccines (Vaxigrip and Influvac) are also suitable for use. Panvax multi-dose vials, Vaxigrip and Influvac influenza vaccines are not affected.

Please circulate this information to your colleagues. Thank you for your support and assistance with immediately quarantining your stock of Panvax H1N1 2009 Junior pre-filled syringes.

### APNA National Conference 2011



*Put the date in your diary NOW!*

After the outstanding success of its first two conferences (The Right Stuff and Golden Opportunities), **APNA will be holding a third, inspiring conference in 2011.**

The conference, 'Roadmap for the Future - great expectations' will feature renowned keynote speakers, interactive Masterclasses, extensive opportunities to network with practice nurses from around Australia, and much more. All topics and sessions have been designed to meet the needs of nurses working in general practice and primary health care. Learn and network over 2 1/2 exciting days.

**When:** Thursday 7th - Saturday 9th April 2011

**Where:** Hilton Hotel Sydney, 488 George Street, Sydney

**CPD Hours:** 13 - 20 hours

Registration will be open soon - **keep your eyes on the APNA e-News and website.** For further information about the conference, please email [events@apna.asn.au](mailto:events@apna.asn.au)

## BreastScreen Tasmania Program

BreastScreen Tasmania recognises the invaluable role health professionals play in prompting women to attend for screening mammography.



A referral is not required for women to take part in the BreastScreen Tasmania Program, however studies show that a recommendation by health professionals increases uptake of screening among eligible women.

BreastScreen Tasmania is asking practices to “Go Pink” for October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, to help increase awareness of the BreastScreen Tasmania service and the importance of breast awareness. Practices will receive letters inviting them to participate in this the campaign. This health promotion in practice strategy has been very successful in other states. In Western Australia over 1,000 general practices have participated over the past nine years.

A prize will be awarded for the best display (practices are invited to send in a photo of their display), with the winning practice receiving a hamper containing \$150 worth of goodies.

For any further enquiries about the “Go Pink” promotion or if your practice has not been invited to participate, please call Amelia at BreastScreen on 6216 4323.

## Australian Lung Census

General Practitioners are being urged to register their interest to participate in the largest screening of lung function to be undertaken in Australia that aims to assess the lung health of 50,000 Australians.



The Lung Census will be conducted from 4-15 October 2010 to support and promote Global Test Your Lungs Day (14 October) and the Year of the Lung. Analysis and review of the Lung Census data will be overseen by Professor Peter Frith, Chairman of the Australian Lung Foundation’s COPD Committee. The findings of the program will provide an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of lung function testing, and place the earlier identification of COPD on Australia’s health agenda.

The call to action is taking place now to ensure screening equipment and material can be distributed to GPs in time for the Lung Census. To view the Lung Census website, please go to [www.lungcensus.com.au](http://www.lungcensus.com.au)



## Upcoming Events

Meeting Topic	Coordinator	Venue	Date & Time
<b>Cold Chain Management</b> (Speaker: Shelley Howe)	Pip Scholten	Hobart Conference & Function Centre	Wed 1 Sept 6.00pm - 8.30pm
<b>Immunisation and Cold Chain Update for Practice Nurses</b> (Shelley Howe)	Margaret Clarke	Hobart Conference & Function Centre	Sat 4 Sept 9.00am - 4.00pm
<b>Sterilisation &amp; Validation Update</b> (Speaker: Elaine Jackett)	Pip Scholten	GP South, 31 Tower Road, New Town	Wed 8 Sept 6.30pm - 9.30pm Wed 22 Sept (Session Full)
<b>Practice Managers Network Meeting</b>	Pip Scholten	GP South, 31 Tower Road, New Town	Wed 15 Sept 12.30pm - 2.00pm
<b>Ear Nose &amp; Throat Workshop for Practice Nurses</b> (Speaker: Dr John Vorath)	Margaret Clarke	GPTT, 206 New Town Road, New Town	Sat 18 Sept 11.30am - 1.00pm
<b>How to set up a Diabetes Clinic</b> (Speaker: Liz Broad)	Margaret Clarke	GP South, 31 Tower Road, New Town	Mon 27 Sept 6.00pm - 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.

## New Templates and More

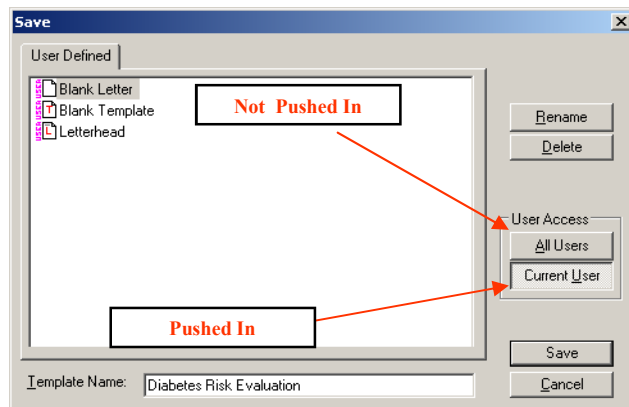
New templates added to our website during August include:

- Maria Brown Hearing Clinics
- Type 2 Diabetes Risk Evaluation (703)

As always you can find the templates here:

[www.gpsouth.com.au/infom.html#templates](http://www.gpsouth.com.au/infom.html#templates), and remember there is an “Instructions for importing Templates” document at the top of this section.

As more templates are installed on your system, the list can get long. You can create your own personal lists of template “favourites” in Medical director, by saving a copy and ensuring that the *User Access* buttons are selected as shown in the illustration.



In Best Practice there is a *Template Favourites* list that you can easily set up using the *ADD* button, once you are in the *Correspondence Out* section. If you have any queries around templates or using your clinical systems more efficiently, please call Ian McKnight at the Division.

## Storage of sterile stock

Correct storage and handling of sterile instruments is crucial to ensuring the sterility of your instruments at all times.

Sterility is EVENT related and not dependent on storage time. Sterile instruments should be stored in a clean, covered, and dry environment away from any form of moisture, ie not near sinks or above sterilizers.

Packs must not be bound by rubber bands or stored in direct sunlight as this may damage the packaging.

Stock rotation is important and it is best not to over handle sterile stock as this may compromise the integrity of the packaging.

It may be worth considering storing infrequently used sterile stock in a separate area or container and label as “Sterile, infrequently used stock”.