

Welcome to the first Primary Care Programs Update. This update will be sent every month to all Victorian Divisions of General Practice. It is targeted specifically for program staff in divisions and it will include information on ...

[Asthma](#)

[Cervical Screening](#)

[Diabetes](#)

[EPC](#)

[HARP](#)

[HMR](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Immunisation](#)

[PCPs](#)

[Practice Nurses](#)

... and anything else you tell us that you would like to hear about. We want this publication to be timely and useful to you, so please send us your feedback on how we can improve and make this update more relevant to you. Your contributions of articles are also encouraged. Please email them to Lindy Hodgkin on L.Hodgkin@gpdv.com.au.

What's New on GPDV's Website?

★ [YOU ARE ALL STARS!](#)

Check out the highlights and achievements of Victorian Divisions in the first year of the Chronic Disease Management Program. Follow the link above, or look under "Programs" and then "Chronic Disease Management".

★ [CDM WORKSHOP IN OCTOBER](#)

Also on the CDM page of GPDV's website are most of the presentations from the October 23rd workshop for you perusal. If you were unable to make it on the day they are worth looking at.

★ [BOMHCI OUTCOME TOOLS](#)

GPDV's Mental Health web page has a range of outcome tools and resources suitable for use with the *Better Outcomes* Level 1 assessment. These include three different depression scales, a sleep diary and a briefing sheet on SF12.

★ [FPS](#)

Also new on the Mental Health web page is information on the Focussed Psychological Strategies; Level 2 of the *Better Outcomes Initiative*. Click on the above link and look under the GPMHSC section to view:

- evidence-based FPS interventions
- a summary of FPS interventions
- criteria for approval of level 2 courses
- a letter to GPs on Level 2 RPL
- a level 2 application form for RPL

★ [NURSES IN GENERAL PRACTICE](#)

The third Practice Nurse Update (October 2002) is now accessible on the GPDV website. Follow the link above, or look under "Programs" and then "Nurses in General Practice".

Attached to the Update is an Education and Training supplement – this lists some of the training courses available for practice nurses.

SOME LIGHT READING?

[“Most disease management programmes are effective”](#) according to a recent report in the British Medical Journal.

[Care for chronic diseases](#). E. H. Wagner and T. Groves. Br. Med. J., (2002) 325: 913-914.

Asthma

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ASTHMA A-TEAM WORKSHOPS

The funding submission to the National Asthma Council for the Asthma 3+ workshops has been submitted. Divisions in all DHS regions expressed an interest in running workshops which was an excellent outcome. As soon as GPDV is informed of the final outcome we will inform divisions. We are also actively seeking sponsorship and will send you the final list of A-Team presenters when we have them.

ASTHMA VIDEOS

The Lung Health Promotion Centre have professionally videoed the specialist presenters from their “Introductory Course in Asthma Education” and as these have been so well produced they have decided to make three of them available for sale. The videos are an update on current asthma, medications and childhood asthma for health professionals. All the speakers are experts in their field and also very good presenters. To view a poster detailing the content of each video, as well as an order look under “Asthma” on GPDV’s [Chronic Disease Management web page](#). For more information contact Adrienne James on 03-9276-2382 or A.James@alfred.org.au.

THE ASTHMA 3+ VISIT PLAN UPDATE

An updated range of support material and resources for the 3+ Visit Plan for patients, carers and health professionals is now available. The details can be seen on the [National Asthma Council's website](#).

Cervical Screening

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PAPSCREEN GRANTS TO DIVISIONS

The three divisions who received Papscreen grants this year are about to commence writing their final reports. PapScreen Victoria is in the throes of establishing what the grants program will look like next year. We will keep you posted.

The three divisions this year have all had very different looking projects, which have addressed or unearthed some very important issues. Goulburn Valley Division has had an intensive practice-visiting program, which has established some critical success factors for cervical screening success in the ‘easier’ demographics. Westgate and Eastern Ranges have found the issue harder to address where workforce and demographics play a much stronger role, but have had some strong learnings for all of us. I’m sure all three would love to chat with any divisions looking at ways to improve support for cervical screening.

PAPSCREEN WEBSITE

If you go to the [PapScreen Victoria website](#), and click on the Health Professional sections you can now subscribe to receive emails whenever the website is updated. When the new grants are announced, you would be the first to know.

Diabetes

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DIABETES OUTCOMES COMPONENT POSTPONED

Please note that the Diabetes Outcomes Component will not be commencing in November as planned. DoHA will inform us when they are likely to introduce it.

2002 DIABETES MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES NOW AVAILABLE

The *Diabetes Management in General Practice Guidelines 2002*, produced by the RACGP and Diabetes Australia are now available. Please note that the goals for management have changed from the 2001 publication of the same type (notably, cholesterol, LDL cholesterol and LDL/HDL ratio). You can obtain copies of this A5 booklet by phoning Diabetes Australia National Publications in Sydney on 02-9527-1951 or faxing them on 02-9527-1952 or Diabetes Australia 1-300-136-588 (Diabetes Australia, GPO Box 9824, Melbourne). They can also be obtained from the sponsors, Lilly. Contact Joanne Lenzo on 02-9325-4523 or [lenzo_joanne@lilly.com](mailto:joanne@lilly.com).

ACTIVITY SCRIPT ADDITION TO MEDICAL DIRECTOR AND MEDTECH32

It is very exciting to see the addition of a Physical Activity module in Medical Director and Medtech32 in the November 2002 updates. These will prompt the GP to prescribe physical activity for patients with particular conditions, including diabetes. The script prints out on the normal script paper making it look like a medication prescription. For more information contact Cate Lombard on 03-9412-4341 or Cate.Lombard@vicfit.com.au.

DR DIABETES RESOURCE KIT

Eastern Ranges GP Association has developed a 'Dealing Resourcefully with Diabetes' (DR Diabetes) Resource Kit for GPs. The kit consists of 3 sections:

- Clinical Resources
- MBS Items
- Patient resources

If you would like to receive a copy of the kit, Eastern Ranges Division are able to provide them at \$20 each (plus postage & handling) to cover the cost of production. Contact Natalie Russell on 03-9739-6751 or natalie.russell@ergpa.com.au.

EPC DISCHARGE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

The four EPC discharge demonstration projects are being conducted at the Austin Hospital, St Vincent's, Central Gippsland Health Service, and the Royal Women's Hospital. The four project teams having been meeting monthly under GPDV coordination to learn from each other and get some support as it has proved a tough job to get hospitals to incorporate EPC in their discharge planning processes. The Austin project has just finished last week. During the course of the project 68 careplans have been undertaken and a number of case conferences have been attempted. A summary of the 12 month report will be placed on the GPDV website when it is approved by DHS.

Hospitals Admission Risk ProgramLenora Lippmann: L.Lippmann@gpdv.com.au**HARP GP HOSPITAL WORKING PARTY**

GPDV has won a small tender to resource the HARP GP Hospital Working party. The purpose of the working party is to investigate the interfaces between GPs and hospitals and make recommendations for the next HARP funding round in March 2003 and beyond to strengthen the interface. The hospitals which received Acute Primary Care Liaison funding in 2001, under the Hospital Demand Management Program, have been selected for consultation along with their relevant divisions. We also have a written questionnaire if anyone outside this select group would like to make a response to issues of concern to the working party. Contact Lenora Lippmann on 03-9341-5214 or L.Lippmann@gpdv.com.au if you are interested in responding to this questionnaire.

Home Medication ReviewPeter Larter: P.Larter@gpdv.com.au**DIVISION INVOLVEMENT**

Twenty-six out of thirty Victorian divisions are now contracted with the Pharmacy Guild to employ an MMR facilitator to help roll out the program. The deadline for applying for funding is still fixed at 31 December 2002, though we haven't been informed what will happen after that date in divisions in which there is no facilitator.

STATISTICS

In the period October 2001 to September 2002, over 10,000 MBS Item #900's (payment for completion of a DMMR/HMR) have been claimed by GPs, including over 2,000 in Victoria. The Victorian % of total share has increased since the June quarter, and I would expect a further increase in the next two quarters, as the majority of facilitators have only recently been employed.

Other interesting stats:

- 62% of patients receiving an HMR so far were female, and 38% were male (Oct 01-Aug 02);
- 72% of pharmacies in Victoria are now approved service providers for HMR services (Sep 02), up from 50% in May. To find a pharmacy who can provide HMR services in your local area, go to <http://www.guild.org.au/public/vic/dmmrinput.adp>.

FACILITATOR TRAINING

The first MMR National Conference will be held in Sydney on 4-5 December 2002.

The second Victorian MMR facilitator training workshop will be held in Melbourne on 11-12 February 2003. If facilitators have suggestions as to what they would like to see on the agenda, please contact me or Mel Blachford at the Pharmacy Guild on mel.blachford@guild.org.au. The workshop is not intended to be an orientation session, it will be more about discussing successful strategies, reflecting on our work so far, and planning for the coming year.

Immunisation

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IMPORTANT GPII ANNOUNCEMENTS

On 7 November 2002, the Minister for Health and Ageing, Senator, the Hon. Kay Patterson, announced that the GPII Scheme will continue until 30 June 2004. GPII funding for Divisions of General Practice and State Based Organisations will therefore continue until 30 June 2004.

The Minister also announced that **vaccinations administered as catch up schedules would be included in the calculations for GPII Outcomes payments to practices from 1 July 2003.**

In addition, the Minister announced that the planned increase in eligibility for receiving Outcomes payments from 85% to 90% immunisation coverage, due to take effect on 1 January 2003, would be postponed for six months until 1 July 2003. This means that **outcomes payments will continue to be made to practices with 85% immunisation coverage until the end of June 2003.** After this, practices will need a minimum of 90% immunisation coverage to receive an outcomes payment.

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES AVAILABLE IN JANUARY 2003

Commencing in Victoria on 1 January 2003 will be the introduction of conjugate meningococcal serogroup C vaccine onto the Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule. The vaccine is free to the following age cohorts:

- Children turning 12 months old on or after 1/1/03 (vaccine is given at the same time as the 12 month immunisations)
- Adolescents 15 years of age or all students in Year 10 at school (vaccine is given at the same time as the ADT booster).
- In 2003 only, adolescents turning 16 and 17 years of age, and/or
- In 2003 only, all students in Years 11 and 12 of secondary school.

For further information on ordering, reporting and other details, refer to the [new DHS immunisation website](#) after November 2002.

Mental Health

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ADGP NEWS

NEW NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR

GPDV welcomes Ms Leanne Wells to the position of National Co-ordinator, Primary Mental Health Care Initiative, recently vacated by Dr Grace Groom. GPDV looks forward to working with Leanne on the national mental health in primary care reform agenda.

VISION FOR DIVISIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH

ADGP has circulated the draft Divisions Policy Paper: *A Vision for Divisions of General Practice to 2007*. This paper is the culmination of months of consultation with divisions and SBOs, especially in the time leading up to and during the 'Vision for Divisions' Strategic Summit', July 2002. The first round of feedback on the document will inform the Review of Divisions process.

GPDV will coordinate comment from divisions on the role of Mental Health Programs to contribute to a consolidated national mental health response through the Development and Liaison network. In review of the document, it is clear that the coverage of mental health needs strengthening.

Comment will be sought from divisions from GPDV before the 9 December 2002.

E-CD FOR FAMILIARISATION TRAINING FOR RURAL AND REMOTE GPs

The E-CD has had a very long gestation, but is close to fruition. The final version of the E-CD is expected to be approved by DoHA and then sent to the printers. Delivery of E-CDs to divisions is expected soon.

MORE FAMILIARISATION TRAINING PRACTICE MANUALS

ADGP hopes to deliver reprinted Practice Manuals to divisions before Christmas for any familiarisation training being conducted early in 2003. Print run will be 1,500 copies nationally, depending on demand.

SUPPLEMENT FOR FAMILIARISATION TRAINING PRACTICE MANUAL

ADGP will include a four-page supplement in the reprinted Practice Manual. The supplement will contain information on:

- FPS items
- Ongoing learning requirements
- Access to Allied Health Services Pilots
- Frequently Asked Questions

REQUESTS FOR BETTER OUTCOMES RESOURCES

A chart seeking requests for all the *Better Outcomes* resources will be emailed to division Mental Health program managers from GPDV by Friday 22 November.

DoHA NEWS

ACCESS TO ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES FUNDING APPLICATIONS – 2003-2004

The DoHA application form and guidelines for submissions were distributed to divisions by email on 18 November from GPDV. Applications for this round of funding to commence in July 2003 close on **14 February 2003**. Please contact Anne Diamond at A.Diamond@gpdv.com.au, for copies of the documentation.

A National Access to Allied Health Services meeting is scheduled for 4 February 2003.

HIC DATA FOR BETTER OUTCOMES

Early signs indicate that data for *Better Outcomes* GP uptake should be available once more GPs are registered. This data will be made available from DoHA, as is the case with the other CDI data.

MENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES PRO FORMA

A pro forma for Mental Health activities for the period January-June 2002 has been emailed to divisions. Many have replied, some are still to do so. Division reports are compiled and sent to DoHA each six months, and to PARC for updating their national Mental Health database on their website. The reports are also posted on the GPDV Mental Health website. Reports are due by Wednesday, 27 November.

NEXT MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK MEETING

The next Divisions' Mental Health Network Meeting is on **13 December**, 10.00am- 4.15pm, at the Saville on Russell. The program includes updates on the Vision for Divisions and Review process; FPS and ongoing learning; division presentations on Peer Support and Allied Health projects; and Mental Health Branch updates on RAPID and the new guidelines on discharge planning from mental health services. The latter is an important issue relevant to divisions and PMHTs alike. The draft agenda can be seen on [GPDV's Mental health web page](#).

Primary Care Partnerships

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PCP STATEWIDE SERVICE DIRECTORY

The PCP Statewide Health Services Directory can now be accessed on the web at <http://pcpdirectory.health.vic.gov.au>. This live database is an impressive first step in making information about services readily available to GPs and other service providers across the state. The PCP Statewide Health Services Directory will be further developed to meet the needs of health practitioners.

Divisions have an important role to play in making it work well for GPs. Congratulations to those divisions that have already promoted it to their members and offered to give a demonstration in the practice (have a look at Monash division's newsletter - October 2002).

A DHS Information Resource about the delivery and future development of the PCP Statewide Health Services Directory has been distributed to all PCPs. It will be available on GPDV's website later this week.

Access to the directory for GPs

The live database can only be freely accessed over the internet. At this stage a CD-ROM version has been made available to each PCP (five copies) - but unlike the live database on the internet, the data on the CD-ROM will not be updated. Future arrangements for GP access to the directory are not yet determined, but DHS is aware of the need for workable 'interface' with the GP's use of computerised referral and sharing of patient information. Division advice to GPDV on this issue is welcome. Ongoing opportunities to be updated by DHS and provide feedback will also be provided through the ITIM Network. Please contact Sonya Tremellen to discuss.

Information about GPs in the directory

The directory contains a large, but incomplete, listing of GPs. Divisions could initiate strategies to support their members to check their entry, and amend it if needed, to ensure its accuracy. Changes to existing entries and new entries can be made over the web. The content manager of the PCP Statewide Health Services Directory (Infoexchange Australia) will follow-up by telephone to verify the changes to an existing entry. A step by step instruction sheet for amending and adding information is currently being finalised and will be sent to all divisions asap.

Some divisions have raised concerns with us that there was a less than optimal process used for obtaining consent from general practice. GPDV has advised DHS that the gold standard for consent in the GP sector is explicit 'sign off' by each GP. Clarification as to the consent process is currently being sought and will be passed on to you asap.

Practice Nurses

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GPDV NURSING IN GENERAL PRACTICE UPDATES

The Primary Care Programs Updates will now replace the GPDV Nursing in General Practice Updates. However, I still intend to disseminate separate Education and Training Updates, if people think they are a useful resource. Most of the recent nursing news is in the October update, which is on GPDV's [Nurses in General Practice web page](#).

NEXT 'NURSES IN GENERAL PRACTICE' WORKSHOP

...will be held on 27 February 2003 in Melbourne. If there are any suggestions for themes/speakers, please do let me know (although I haven't started planning that far ahead just yet!)



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