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Aged Care:
Lee Stamford

Broadband for Health:
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GP/CHS Collaboration:
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Collaboratives:
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HIV, Viral Hepatitis &
STI Education:
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Immunisation:
Kim Riley

IM & ICT:
Chris Hayward &
Paul Macdonald

Lifescrpts:
Vacant

Lymphoedema:
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Mental Health:
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Nurses in GP:
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Practice Accreditation:
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Practice Capacity for
Chronic Disease Mgmt:
Vacant

Primary Care Liaison:
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Policy:
Louise Willis &
Christine Macdonald

Quality Use of
Medicines:
Lee Stamford

Refugee Health:
Annette Dupont

Star Divisions:
Helen Threlfall

Coming Events

Event	Date
Mental Health Network	Fri 1 Jun
Information Management for CEOs, and Divisions Accreditation & CQI Network	Wed 6 Jun
Clinical Risk Management Network	Wed 6 Jun
Joint meeting of div CEOs and PCPs	Thur 7 Jun
CEO Network	Thur 7 Jun
<i>DHS Statewide Forum on IM&ICT**</i>	<i>Mon 18 Jun</i>
GPLO Network	Tues 19 Jun
Metro Divisions Teleconference	Tues 19 Jun
Rural Divisions Teleconference	Wed 20 Jun
<i>RACGP Accredited Provider Workshop**</i>	<i>Wed 20 Jun</i>

** denotes event not auspiced by GPDV*

Please send your contributions for the next Update to Vanessa Collinson
v.collinson@gpdv.com.au

Hot Topics

GPDV Statistics Package Update

Email: s.tremellen@gpdv.com.au

Medicare Australia have updated data to include the Jan-Mar 07 quarter and we have updated the following tables in the GPDV [Stats Package](#)

- GPMPs, TCAs and contributions to Care Plans ie Item 729 and 731
- 45-49 year old health check
- HMR
- Immunisation

We have developed a new table showing the number of GPs claiming GPMPs and TCAs as a proportion of the number of GPs in the division catchment.

Hopefully you will find all this information useful for thinking about your programs.

Palliative education clinical placements for GPs

Email: l.stamford@gpdv.com.au

There is a new round of PEPA funding for 2007-2009 and divisions are asked for expressions of interest to participate. For further details contact Lee Stamford on l.stamford@gpdv.com.au.

AIHW Report: Burden of Disease and Injury in Australia 2003

www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10317

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has recently released its Burden of Disease and Injury in Australia 2003 report. Most notable is that cancer (19%) has overtaken cardiovascular disease (18%) as the leading cause of burden of disease, primarily due to a 35% drop in the cardiovascular rate over 10 years.

Of the 14 preventable health risks examined, tobacco contributed the greatest burden (7.8%).

Media release: www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2007/mr20070525.cfm

View the report online at: www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10317

GPDV Staff Changes

Whilst we are sorry that David Overton has recently left GPDV, we are glad that he is still able to give his extensive experience and knowledge to the Divisions Program as he has taken up a position as GP Services Officer (workforce, recruitment, retention and locum services) with the Eastern Ranges GP Association. His position here at GPDV looking after the Lifescripts program will fall to Helen Threlfall until a new incumbent can be found.

On another note, we are looking forward to welcoming Jane Measday from 23 July as our new Co-ordinator of the General Practice Liaison Officer (GPLO) Program. Many of you will know her work with the West Vic Division and will understand our excitement at the amount of experience she will be able to bring to the position.

GP Health System Integration

Aged Care Homes

Lee: l.stamford@gpdv.com.au

Budget 07

Press releases about the allocation of funds for aged care related services are available at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/budget2007-ageingindex.htm>.

It is expected that the increased funding for MBS item 731 - contribution to care plan and items for GP visits to nursing homes will take effect from 1 November 2007. More detail about the budget will be sent to the aged care panels as it comes to hand. Lee Stamford – l.stamford@gpdv.com.au

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Nurse on Call

The quarterly newsletter for the period January to March 2007 is now available at: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/nurseoncall/>

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AGPN Aged Care / Palliative Care forum - Caring Across the Lifespan

This will be held on the first day of the AGPN conference in Hobart in November. Full details can be found on the AGPN Forum website at: <http://www.gpnetworkforum.com.au/site/index.cfm>

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IM & ICT

Chris: c.hayward@gpdv.com.au

Paul: p.macdonald@gpdv.com.au

Information Management Maturity Framework (IMMF)

DoHA have engaged Valintus Consulting to develop an Information Management Maturity Framework (IMMF) for the Divisions Network. By 30 June the project will deliver the Information Management Maturity Checklist (IMMC), for use by divisions to assess their own information management maturity, and the outline of the Information Management Maturity Toolkit (IMMT).

GP DV has been a key partner in the design and implementation of this work with AGPN and DoHA and it is exciting to see it come to fruition. Four Victorian divisions will participate in the pilot of the IMMC (two urban, two rural). The final version of the IMMC will be made available to all divisions to use to assess their level of IM Maturity with support provided by Chris Hayward and Paul Macdonald.

The implementation strategy for the IMMF will be provided to all divisions as part of the Victorian RHIMO program after 30 June 2007.

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Primary Care Liaison

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Pete: p.marshall@gpdv.com.au

VSRF promotion grants

As of 30 May there are 23 divisions receiving \$1000 grants. If your division hasn't yet returned the letter of offer and sent us an invoice it is not too late to do so. A package of information including a draft article for division newsletters and VSRF templates in various software products has been sent out.

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Diabetes self management – guidelines for providing services to people newly diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes

Link to section: [Chronic Disease Management](#)

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/communityhealth/publications/diabetes.htm>

These guidelines are aimed at all PCPs, CHSs and divisions of general of general practice as part of the Integrated Chronic Disease Management (ICDM) work across the state. In particular, these guidelines are to support implementation of new diabetes self management funding to CHSs (or Rural Health Services where applicable) that are not in receipt of Early Intervention in Chronic Disease (EliCD) funding. There is also \$15,000 non-recurrent allocation to PCPs that have a CHS funded for diabetes self management in their catchment.

A deliverable for this funding is that the:

“PCP will work with the local DGP to develop a work plan that builds on existing GP liaison activity to ensure that referral pathways between GPs, the CHS and other relevant services are in place to support the diabetes self-management initiative. The non-recurrent funding should support PCP activity on ICDM. The delivery of the work plan should be negotiated between the PCP and DGP and could include funds allocation to the DGP to support delivery of some or all of the outcomes against the work plan. The work plan should include effective strategies for:

- informing GPs and their staff about the diabetes services and programs delivered by the CHS
- encouraging GPs to systematically refer patients with newly diagnosed diabetes
- sharing patient information between the general practice and CHS, and effectively communicating with GPs
- developing care plans aligned with MBS guidelines, with appropriate participation of the CHS and other relevant agencies, with GPs and, potentially, private allied health services, in care plans aligned with MBS guidelines.” (page 16)

Please don't hesitate to contact Sonya to discuss local workplan development – 9341 5205.

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Advance notice: Workshop on inter-agency care planning – 18 July

GPDV is co-hosting with DHS a workshop for divisions, PCPs and state funded primary care agencies on inter-agency care planning. We will hear from the divisions funded for Collaborative Care Planning with community health services and about other experiences around the state. More details coming soon.

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Improved Population Health through systematic general practice

Aboriginal Health

Lesley: l.czulowski@gpdv.com.au

Batchelor hosts two major forums in Alice Springs in July

In July 2007, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education will host two major education forums: the 3rd national Cultural Collaborations Forum will take place on 9-10 July and the 9th Indigenous Researchers' Forum from 11-13 July. For more information go to: www.indigenousresearchers.net.au

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7th International Conference on Diabetes and Indigenous Peoples

The National Aboriginal Diabetics Association will host the 7th International Conference on Diabetes and Indigenous Peoples in Ottawa, Canada from 29 August to 1 September 2007. The Theme will be 'Learning from the Past to Restore Balance'. For more information go to: www.nada.ca

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Lancet comments on Aboriginal Health

In this week's Lancet (vol 369, issue 9570, April 21-27 2007), there is an editorial on '[Australia: the politics of fear and neglect](#)'. On Aboriginal health, it comments: 'The current health minister, Tony Abbott, recently insulted Aboriginal peoples by claiming that those who spoke up for Indigenous health were simply "establishing politically and morally correct credentials".'

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Make your voice heard

There are a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advocacy opportunities available on the web as we commemorate the 40th anniversary of the 1967 referendum. Please find below two web sites offering you a means of making your voice heard on this matter.

- <http://www.oxfam.org.au/campaigns/indigenous/health.php>
- <http://www.antar.org.au/>

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Publications:

Ernest Hunter (2007) Disadvantage and discontent: A review of issues relevant to the mental health of rural and remote Indigenous Australians. *Australian Journal of Rural Health* 15 (2), 8–93.

Healthy Country, Healthy People:

Study supports links between healthy landscapes and healthy people

A three-year Northern Territory study has seen improvements in the health of Aboriginal people who are employed to look after land.

Indigenous health experts are now urging all state and territory governments to expand natural and cultural resource programs in remote Indigenous communities.

To view the Menzies School of Health Research media release on this study, click onto [http://appserv.menzies.edu.au/pls/portal30/docs/FOLDER/ABOUT_US/NEWS/NEWS2007/MRHEALTHYOUNTRYFINAL+\(2\).PDF](http://appserv.menzies.edu.au/pls/portal30/docs/FOLDER/ABOUT_US/NEWS/NEWS2007/MRHEALTHYOUNTRYFINAL+(2).PDF)

For more information contact Julie Carmichael on (08) 8922 6759 or email Julie.carmichael@menzies.edu.au

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Chronic Disease Management

Helen: h.threlfall@gpdv.com.au

CONFERENCE - Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, The University of Melbourne
The Way Forward: Chronic Disease Self Management in Australia

Date:	26-27 July 2007
Venue:	Sofitel, Melbourne
Website:	www.mcmconferences.com/crd
Cost:	Early bird deadline: Monday 11 June
Further information:	Melbourne Conference Management tel. (03) 8344 6107 or email crd2007@union.unimelb.edu.au

The Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, The University of Melbourne is hosting a national conference and workshops – The Way Forward: Chronic Disease Self Management in Australia - to exchange information and initiatives relating to the operationalisation of chronic disease self-management programs across the healthcare sector.

Program

- Thursday 26 July 2007 – 8 half day workshops

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- Friday 27 July 2007 – Full day plenary session headed Professor Anne Rogers, who led the evaluation of the £30 million UK Expert Patients Programme – “a centre piece of primary healthcare reform” will present results and implications of implementing chronic disease self-management initiatives across the healthcare continuum.
- Highlights
 - Exposure to Australia’s leading researchers, program developers and innovators in chronic disease management
 - Insight into policy and program initiatives in chronic disease self-management from leading state government policy makers
 - Engaging debate with Dr Norman Swan (ABC Health Report) on how best to operationalise chronic disease self-management within the Australian health care system

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Collaboratives

Catuscia: c.biuso@gpdv.com.au

Australian Government Funding Announcement

In recognition of the achievements of the Collaboratives Program, the Australian Government has committed \$34.6 million over the next four years. This means that an additional 800 general practices will be given the opportunity to be supported in implementing effective systems of care and achieving improved outcomes for patients with chronic disease.

Expanding the Program by an additional 800 practices will bring the total to 1300, which is almost 17% of Australian general practice and close to the required 20% ‘tipping point’ to achieve effective system change.

GPDV is delighted that the Program will continue to support more practices in setting up systems to facilitate implementation of best practice care for patients with chronic disease. We look forward to the details of how the next phase of the Program will be rolled out and will communicate this information to Divisions as soon as it becomes available.

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Disease Prevention

Helen: h.threlfall@gpdv.com.au

Bowel Cancer

National Bowel Cancer Screening Program – DHS funding announcement for divisions

CEOs have been advised by GPDV that DHS has agreed to provide a small grant to Victorian divisions (\$4,100 for each rural division and \$3,900 for each urban division) to help with the rollout of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP). This will assist divisions to be a local resource point for the Program through a small range of communication and education activities. Divisions may choose to pool the funds within a region to better undertake local communication strategies and CPD activities for General Practices.

Detailed information about the grants will be provided to divisions through CEOs soon. For more information, please email Hari Kakouris, Program Consultant at GPDV at h.kakouris@gpdv.com.au

DoHA communication initiatives

The Department of Health and Ageing will undertake a number of initiatives to keep divisions informed about the rollout of the NBCSP. Initiatives include:

- a quarterly bulletin for divisions with information including new resources (e.g. electronic reporting and electronic templates), key statistics and data, FAQs, and news items
- a letter to all GPs at the end of May 2007 to provide practices with a program update, including the launch date for electronic reporting.

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For further information, please contact Michelle Norris on (02) 6289 5851 or michelle.norris@health.gov.au.

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Cervical Screening

PapScreen assists more health professionals to achieve best practice in cervical screening

The following information has been provided by PapScreen Victoria and will be of interest to your GP members. Please forward as appropriate.

PapScreen Victoria is delighted that over 200 GPs and Pap test providers from over 100 services are currently participating in this triennium's Clinical Audit.

Registration for the Clinical audit this triennium has now closed. The clinical audit is assisting registered GPs and Pap test providers to become familiar with the new NHMRC Cervical Screening Management Guidelines, to review current cervical screening rates and to develop strategies to improve practice systems. In addition, the audit is also assisting practices to capitalise on the Cervical Screening Service Incentive Payment.

PapScreen Victoria would like to remind all GPs and Pap test providers registered for the audit, that to complete the audit process, they are required to return all completed worksheets by the end of November 2007.

The audit attracts 30 Category 1 CPD points or 20 (Mandatory) ACRRM PDP points, with an additional 12 Category 2 CPD or 6 CME Points for the Practice meetings, but completing and submitting all worksheets is essential.

The PapScreen Clinical Audit remains as a proven success story, with now over 680 Victorian GPs and Pap test providers taking part in the past 8 years, a boost for cervical screening in Victoria.

For more information on what is required to complete the audit, please contact the Audit Administrator, on (03) 9635 5049 or email papscreen@cancervic.org.au

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Cancer

New general practice resource to fight cancer

To support GPs and their staff in the fight against cancer, The Cancer Council Victoria has developed eight *Cancer in General Practice* small group learning modules.

The modules are available free of charge and can be used for either RACGP Category 1 or Category 2 CPD options, or ACRRM Peer Review Group or CME options. They use case studies, reflective practice activities, journal articles and evidence-based guidelines to stimulate discussion.

Topics include:

- 'What general practice can do about cancer'
- 'Prevention and screening'
- 'Familial cancers and family history'
- 'Bowel cancer' (including the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program)
- 'Prostate cancer' (including the risks and benefits of screening for prostate cancer)
- 'Cervical cancer' (detailing changes to the National guidelines)
- 'A whole-of-practice approach to cancer care' and
- 'Understanding local cancer services'.

The modules are designed so that even individuals with little experience can facilitate group discussion effectively. In some circumstances, the Cancer Council can provide a facilitator free of charge.

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Every GP in Victoria will have received a flyer promoting the *Cancer in General Practice* small group learning modules during May. A registration form for groups to order modules was included.

For more information please contact Angie Deegan at the Cancer Council on (03) 9635 5049 or general.practice@cancervic.org.au.

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Multilingual cancer information on the Internet

Did you know you can access patient information about cancer in 17 different languages on The Cancer Council Victoria's website?

The information is provided as easy to read factsheets that can be downloaded free of charge. Topics vary from diagnosis and support, to early detection messages, and information on different cancer types. English versions of all factsheets are also available.

Look out for a card promoting the multilingual website that is being sent to all GPs in June.

Visit the website at www.cancervic.org.au/multilingual to download this information for your patients and your practice.

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Men's Health

Andrology Australia has a Men's Health online ALM (active learning module) available to all GPs. Fully accredited for ACRRM/RACGP points (30 Category 1 points).

- Case study 1: Brandon is a 22 year old male and presents distressed with his "man boobs"
- Case study 2: Dylan - a case study on the management of a testicular lump **Available now!*

The series of four interactive case studies comprise the ALM (active learning module) on *Young men's health* that are being released to provide updates on male reproductive health: Male physical examination; Androgen deficiency; Klinefelter's syndrome; Male infertility; Testicular cancer; Prostatitis; Premature ejaculation; and erectile dysfunction.

For more information contact Taletha Groves, Education Liaison Officer, Andrology Australia on 9594 7162 or email on Taletha.Groves@med.monash.edu.au or visit the website at <http://www.andrologyaustralia.org/dbOnLineEd.asp?pageCode=ONLINEEDUCATION>

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Smoking

World No Tobacco Day: Patients more receptive to smoking cessation messages

World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is recognised around the world on the 31 May. This year, the theme for WNTD is the provision of smoke-free environments to protect people from exposure to second-hand smoke. This is very relevant to all Victorian communities, with smokefree pubs and clubs coming in on July 2nd. Your patients may use this as an opportunity to quit so it will be a good time to discuss their smoking habits.

Using the 5As approach to cessation and a referral to Quitline (when appropriate) is an effective way of helping patients to give up smoking without taking additional time from the standard consultation.

Quit Victoria has developed a training package for GPs, which includes the 5As DVD "Just say A-A-A-A" and information booklet. This is being offered at a WNTD discounted rate of \$20. If you would like a copy, please email your request to QuitHP@cancervic.org.au.

For further information about quitting and the resources available for general practice, visit Quit Victoria's website www.quit.org.au.

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HIV, Viral Hepatitis & STI Education

Michelle: m.wills@gpdv.com.au

Face to Face Short Course in HIV Medicine

A flyer was sent out last week to all Victorian divisions seeking expressions of interest in attending this course, run by GPDV in partnership with the Alfred Hospital and the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM). It is intended for GPs, allied health professionals and practice nurses with an interest in the field of HIV.

The Short Course for HIV Medicine is an 8 module course that gives participants knowledge and understanding of the science of HIV, current pharmacology, monitoring and treatment, as well as the complicating factors surrounding HIV management. The course is accredited by RACGP and participants can earn QA&CPD points. ACRRM and CNE points have been applied for.

Registrations are limited and there are currently only 10 places left for this event.

Please contact Michelle Wills 9341 5226, m.wills@gpdv.com.au or Linda McKenzie 9341 5224, l.mckenzie@gpdv.com.au to obtain a registration form.

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Immunisation

Kim: k.riley@gpdv.com.au

February 2007 Quarter GPII recalculation Coverage Rates Victoria

A huge congratulations to a great effort from all Victorian Divisions for another quarter. Victoria continues leading the way, again achieving a coverage rate of >90%

The February 2007 re-calculation for the General Practice Immunisation Incentives (GPII) scheme has been completed. Payments have been made and feedback statements will be distributed within the next few days. Please see the [GPDV Statistics Package](#) for the February 2007 quarterly re-calculation statistics for your information. The national rankings, and postcode data have been emailed to immunisation coordinators.

West Vic division continues to lead the way for both the State and National ranking with an overall coverage rate of 95%.

Dandenong, Eastern Ranges, Southcity and Melbourne Divisions all continue to just fall short of the illustrious 90% but are holding steady due to their continued efforts.

Now the real challenge is ON.

Can we be the first state to have every division achieve a coverage rate of 90% or greater?

Lets all continue to work together and help one another to achieve not only our own local goals, but the goals for the state as a whole and the Health of the Nation.

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New HPV vaccine Cervarix® now registered

Cervarix has now been approved by the TGA for women 10 to 45 years of age however there has been no indication yet as to when it will join Gardasil® on the funded list.

CERVARIX is indicated in females from 10 to 45 years of age for the prevention of cervical cancer by protecting against incident and persistent infections, cytological abnormalities including atypical squamous cells of uncertain significance (ASC-US) and cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN), CIN 1 and precancerous lesions (CIN 2 and CIN 3) caused by human papillomavirus types 16 and 18. Immunogenicity studies have been conducted in females aged 10 to 14 years and 26 to 45 years to link efficacy in females aged 15 to 25 years to other populations.

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GARDASIL News Reports

I am sure that everyone is aware of the recent media surrounding the school based HPV immunisation program being run in Victoria. This has been extensively followed up by a number of peak bodies and independent specialists, including those from the Royal Children's Hospital.

In order to assist Local Councils and schools answer questions which may arise from this media coverage, DHS have distributed a letter to all Local Councils and schools which may be of some benefit to GP's also.



Letter to LGAs re
HPV AEFI May2007.d

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HPV Information for GP's

As you would all be aware the immunisation program for HPV is set to commence delivery through general practice in July 2007.

Information including a Summary for General Practice can be obtained via :

- <http://www.australia.gov.au/cervicalcancer>
- <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/hpv-vac-prog>

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Up coming Immunisation meetings

NCIRS is pleased to announce it's 10th Anniversary, which will be celebrated with a 1-day conference titled 'A Decisive Decade in Immunisation'. The conference will be held in conjunction with the 2nd National Immunisation Workshop, which will feature prominent international guest speakers including Professor Scott Halperin from Canada, and Professor Heinz-Josef Schmitt from Germany. More information, including draft programs and the registration form, can be found on the NCIRS website: <http://www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au/newsevents/index.html>

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National Divisions Immunisation Workshop

Unleashing the Power of Divisions is the theme for the National Divisions Immunisation Workshop for 2007. The Immunisation Workshop will begin in Coffs Harbour on Wednesday evening 29 August with an informal networking dinner and divisional presentations with the main meeting to start with a breakfast session on Thursday 30 August.

For more information and to access the registration form, visit the [NDIW 2007 page](#).

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Victorian shortage of MMR vaccine in Victoria

DHS wish to advise that the Victorian Immunisation Program has a critical shortage of the measles, mumps and rubella (Priorix) vaccine.

A combination of issues including vaccine over-ordering and vaccine lost to cold chain management issues has lead to this Priorix vaccine shortage in DHS stock. (Please note - there is no problem with GSK's Priorix vaccine stock this issue relates to DHS Victoria only). DHS is funded by the Australian Government to provide Priorix (MMR) vaccine to children aged 12 months and 4 years of age. To ensure there is sufficient stock to meet the needs of Victorian children can you please keep orders of Priorix (MMR) vaccine to only those required for these age groups. Vaccine orders will be reviewed upon submission and adjusted where necessary.

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Lifescrpts

David: d.overton@gpdv.com.au

Lifescrpt Expressions of Interest

AGPN have advised that a total of 30 EOI's were received.

Victorian Divisions submitted 9 EOI's either as stand alone Divisions or in Partnerships with other Divisions and / or providers. This is 30% of the total received which is higher than the percentage of Victorian Divisions to All Divisions, 25%. So once again Victorian Division are "Batting above the average".

The EOI's submitted by Victorian Divisions represent a participation rate, in the EOI process, of just under 40% by Victorian Lifescrpts Divisions.

Well done to all concerned.

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Lymphoedema

Hari: h.kakouris@gpdv.com.au

Guide for diagnosis and management in general practice

A simple guide to the diagnosis and management of lymphoedema in general practice has been developed by GPDV, and will be available in July 2007. The guide includes a step-by-step algorithm to assist GPs in identifying patients with the condition who present in general practice, as well as advice on general management principles and referral options.

GPDV are keen to discuss dissemination strategies for this resource with each Division in order to maximise its reach in general practice in Victoria. If you would like further information about this resource, please contact Hari Kakouris at h.kakouris@gpdv.com.au.

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Update on CPD education sessions

The latest CPD education sessions on lymphoedema in Ballarat and Otway Divisions were well attended and well received with a total of 70 participants. Thanks to all the staff from both Divisions for their work in ensuring the success of these meetings (and to Monash Division who ran our first session earlier this year).

Currently we are booking CPD sessions for GPs and PNs for the second half of the year. If you are interested in running an event in your division please contact Hari Kakouris at h.kakouris@gpdv.com.au

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Medication Management

Lee: l.stamford@gpdv.com.au

Home Medicines Review Facilitators

The Pharmacy Guild (Victoria) is holding the state forum on June 12 and 13. For details contact Alan Freedman at alan.freedman@vic.guild.org.au

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Budget 07

Under the title; Better Access to Pharmaceutical Products and Services the government announced a range of changes to listings and services. Details at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/budget2007-healthindex.htm#pbs>

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Nurses in GP

Lesley: l.czulowski@gpdv.com.au

GPDV NEWS

Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice)

GPDV will be offering to support the new 'Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice)' developed by Sunshine Course and coordinated through AGPN to all Victorian Practice Nurses starting July (second semester) 2007.

GPDV will coordinate the roll out in Victoria and will provide access to tutorial support for the students. (If any division staff member would like to be a tutor please let me know)

What, as a division, you need to do:

- Advertise the course to your nurses through your newsletters and network meetings
- Get the interested nurses to fill in the enrolment form (contact Warren if you don't have one)
- Enrolment for second semester will close 15th June 2007.
- Please collect all enrolment forms through your division and send them to Warren at GPDV by 15th June 2007 (would be good to send them in a division job lot)

GPDV will then contact the nurses directly and enrol them through the University.

Course cost: the first 3 modules is \$130.00 per module. The fourth module will be a full fee paying module through the university.

Depending on numbers of enrolments GPDV run a face to face orientation for all new students after the school holidays 16 July.

If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact Lesley at GPDV on 9341 5221 or email l.czulowski@gpdv.com.au.

This is a very exciting opportunity for the practice nurses to be able access a post graduate qualification so inexpensively

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Coming up – new MBS Items

New CDM Practice nurse Item number due out 1 July - for more information check out the MBS online (<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/Medicare-Benefits-Schedule-MBS-1>) on 1 July.

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RCNA News

RCNA Call for Comment: New Antenatal Item Number Competency Standards

Competency standards for registered nurses in general practice providing an antenatal service to patients for, and on behalf of, the general practitioner at, or from, an eligible practice location in rural or remote areas

For further information and a copy of the Draft Competencies:

<http://www.rcna.org.au/pages/whatsnew.php>

Comments must be received by Friday 8 June 2007

These draft competencies on the RNCA web page will be open for comment for one month; from this consultation an educational training program will be developed and available in the near future.

RCNA membership cash back offer – refer a friend

In addition to the many advantages of being a member of RCNA, members can now benefit further with our cash back offer. By letting your friends and colleagues know about

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RCNA they too can share in the rewards of membership. Further information or contact the Membership Department on toll free 1800 061 660 or email membership@rcna.org.au

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UK Practice Nurse Program

Interested in what is happening in the UK with their Practice Nurse program? To gain a free subscription, just log onto the Working in Partnership Programme web site www.wipp.nhs.uk.

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APNA News

National Set of Arthritis Information Sheets Project

APNA has been invited to join the advisory group among other industry representatives to contribute to the development of a national set of arthritis information sheets directed towards the general public. APNA aims to contribute the perspective of nurses in general practice - if you feel you have any contributions please contact khalil.sukkar@apna.asn.au

APNA Member Rewards

Did you know that APNA members are entitled to a growing number of rewards and special offers? For more details visit the APNA website where a complete list of member benefits will be published shortly.

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Clinical News

RACGP infection control and pandemic planning workshops

The RACGP infection control and pandemic planning workshops will be held in Hobart (12 & 13 May), Traralgon (26 May), Warrnambool (2 June), Wodonga (16 June), Townsville (23 June), Swan Hill (30 June) and Perth (7 July). This interactive workshop for GPs, nurses, practice management and administration staff, and division and other general practice allied health professionals, will include case studies, epidemiology of pandemic influenza, correct use of personal protective equipment and drafting your own influenza action plan. Comments from GPs who attended our previous workshops include: 'Excellent workshop – all GPs should attend', 'A thought provoking workshop with good resources'. RACGP QA&CPD (30 Category 1 points), AAPM (1 point per hour), ACRRM (8 PDP points) and APNA points have been approved for this workshop. For information or to register for workshops in other locations visit www.racgp.org.au/events/icppworkshop or contact Rachel Pow on 03 8699 0524 or by email at standards@racgp.org.au.

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Refugee Health

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Refugee Health Assessment

Resources

The newly revised and updated refugee health handbook, *Promoting Refugee Health*, prepared by the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture, will be available online in June at www.foundationhouse.org.au. This handbook has been developed for doctors and other healthcare providers who care for people from refugee backgrounds. Any enquiries about this resource can be directed to Louise Crowe (03) 9389 8909 or crowel@foundationhouse.org.au

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Events

Information about the GPDV refugee health assessment tool continues to be disseminated at workshops and small group learning sessions involving GPs, Practice Nurses and Refugee Health Nurses. In June, these events will include:

- Whitehorse Division
Thursday 14 June

The DHS has funded a three-hour forum entitled 'Refugee health assessments CPD for GPs and Practice Nurses'. The aim of this event is to provide an overview of the refugee experience and the items, tools, services and other resources which are available to support GPs in providing general practice services to this population. The format will allow participants to discuss their questions and issues with key agencies relevant to the region. This will provide an opportunity to increase GP and PN understanding of the issues that affect the refugee population, generate further interest and increased uptake of the refugee health assessment item.

- Dandenong Division
Wednesday 20 June

To commemorate World Refugee Day, Dandenong Hospital will host a two hour forum entitled 'Refugee Health Forum - making the links'. A refugee clinic was recently opened at Dandenong Hospital to provide Infectious Diseases, Paediatric and Psychiatric services to the refugees in the Dandenong area, via GP referral. The greater Dandenong area has a large percentage of Victoria's refugees. The focus of this forum will be to look at service links and partnerships to ensure the flexibility and success of the service.

- Western Melbourne Division
End June (Date TBC)

A small group learning session for GPs to explore future directions in refugee health is being planned for the end of the month.

If your division has any opportunities for disseminating information about the GPDV refugee health assessment tool, please contact Annette on a.dupont@gpdv.com.au

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Information contained within this publication is for the use and benefit of all members of SBOs and Divisions, please feel free to extract whole or parts of this newsletter to benefit other interested parties with information sharing. If SBOs, Divisions and other readers have information for, or comments regarding the Primary Care Updates Program please contact Vanessa Collinson (details above).

To unsubscribe from receiving this publication please contact GPDV (details above).

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