



Enhanced Primary Care (EPC) Package

***New MBS Items
GP Education, Support and Community
Linkages Program***

Update Number 3

June 2000

1. EPC Project workers

EPC Project workers have been identified and our EPC address should be OK. If it's not than I'm sure this message will come back to me and I will make the necessary changes. I have learned something about databases in this process! I just hope that Teri doesn't receive this in multiple copies again. If you are not on the list and should be or conversely if your on it and shouldn't be than please let me know.

We can use this address in coordinating and sharing information and hopefully to draw on the lessons already learnt in this diverse program.

I'm happy to say that Graham Clark has started working in the EPC program at GPDV this week. Graham is the new administrative officer for the program as well as to maintain the GP Registry database. Graham will be working on our monthly newsletter, and Website page, which will include relevant links and resources.

2. Constituents

Please find a list of constituents of this list and relevant contact addresses attached.

[\(Refer to current EPC Contacts list\)](#)

3. MBS New Items Review

GP Branch has asked ADGP to consult through SBO Coordinators for input regarding the development of the items. The items will as I understand be updated for the new Medicare benefits schedule book due to come out in November.

The issues that the Department has identified to date are as follows:

- The operation of the items in residential aged care facilities and the difficulties associated with the distinction between nursing homes and hostels
- Issues related to the health assessment items particularly in relation to the ordering of diagnostic imaging and pathology tests and issues relating to the use of third parties for information collection.
- The emergence of agencies specialising in prodding health assessments and the conflict this may cause with the patients usual GP
- Whether the current fee structure and relativities between the items are appropriate and
- The difficulties of operation in rural and remote areas

If you have any other issues please do your best to give me your feedback by Friday 30th June.

4. Statistics

A list of New MBS items uptake statistics by Divisions is available for November to April. Some of you may already have this. If you haven't and would like it please email Graham Clark who will fax you a copy.

5. Question and Answers Link

The link to some frequently asked questions and answers Commonwealth site is as follows:

<http://www.health.gov.au/hsdd/primcare/enhancpr/mbsqa/gp.htm>

A list of questions raised on the train the trainer day has been sent to Canberra for a response. I have attached a copy for your records. The Commonwealth site did not provide adequate answers to all of the questions raised on the day. These questions have been sent to Martin Mullane at Medicare Branch. I will forward completed responses to you as soon as they are available.

(Refer to Monash Train the Trainer)

There was extensive debate on Saturday regarding use of the items. We believe that this is because GPs are sourcing different government departments in getting a response to their questions eg. PIP 1800, HIC state or Cmmth, Medicare Branch, GP Branch. Bill has taken this up with the EPC task force. It is critical that we have one reliable source for getting information and that the information is both accessible and consistent.

6. Whitehorse Division forms

Divisions have requested access to health assessment forms developed by Whitehorse division. Marianne Shearer is happy to make this form available and for divisions to include their own logo etc. The forms will be posted on the Whitehorse Website within the next week. Please contact Marianne if you would like to arrange to have the forms. The Whitehorse web address is www.wdgp.com.au. Thank you to Whitehorse Division for making this available. Has anyone developed any formats for Care planning and case conferencing?

7. Orders for manuals

If you would like additional train the trainer manuals please email Graham Clark with your order.