

THE PAN ROOM:

VOLUME 2: ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2008

- Especially for MDGP Nurses
- MDGP Future Programs and workshops.
- Nurses... Can't be without them.
- Networking and support.. Be involved.

From Melanie Jamieson – MDGP Practice Nurse Facilitator.

Well hello all and welcome to 2008!!

I look forward to a very busy and exciting year for MDGP Practice Nurses as I have lots of ideas and education events in the pipeline.

I may be contacted at MDGP on ph: 5023 8633 or email: projectnurse@malleedgp.com.au

MDGP Nursing News In the Pan Room:

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MDGP new revamped website is now operational, although still a work in progress. But I have put a good amount of information on the website in the NiGP section for you to check out, and as always feedback is most welcome. Let me know anything you would like to see added.

I am also responsible for the Immunisation Program section which needs my attention desperately so be patient with that one.

But check it out and there's even a NiGP CPD Calendar which you can RSVP to via the website. www.malleedgp.com.au

GOOD Idea from NSW Ambulance Service

If we were to suffer a car accident or emergency we all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers, BUT would anyone else know which one is OUR contact person in case of an emergency? Well... the NSW Ambulance Service has come up with 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. The idea was thought up by a Paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but the Emergency personnel didn't know who to call. He thought a nationally recognized name to have in everyone's mobile for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel or hospital Staff would then be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialling the number you have stored as 'ICE'.

All you need to do is store the number of your contact person or persons who should be contacted for you during an emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency) in your mobile.

2007/8 Diabetes Management Guidelines:

MDGP has plenty of copies of the Diabetes Management In General Practice booklet that is published each year by Diabetes Australia in conjunction with RACGP.

For your FREE copy just contact Melanie at the Division.

Congratulations to:

Anyone done anything worth acknowledging, let me know

Farewells:

Any movement that your happy to share let the PN Network know here

New Nurses in General Practice:

Tristar Medical Group are lucky to have **Jo and Simone** as their 2 Practice Nurses, who are very new to the world of PN so make them welcome.

One of our PN veterans **Bev Bysouth** formerly of Langtree Medical Clinic now resides at Deakin Medical Clinic, pleased we will still be seeing you around Bev!

MDGP PN Education, Seminars & Upcoming Events:

FUTURE PROJECTS IN PLANNING FOR 2008:

- THIS WILL BE LARGELY DETERMINED BY RESPONSES TO THE MDGP ANNUAL PN SURVEY -

DHS/NIP: For 2008, education session and in clinic tutorials for CC Management and Vaccine Storage Guidelines as requested.

Wound Mx: MDGP has been lucky enough to contract Jan Rice from the Wound Foundation to present 7 separate wound education sessions and certificates in conjunction with LaTrobe Uni for 2008.

LOCAL WORKSHOP EDUCATION CALENDAR:

DATE:	SESSION / EVENT:
31st January	1) MBH P.A.C.E Forum — CPR: Mock Arrest 1430hrs at MBH Conference Room 2) MDGP: SOMA Health Burns Workshop for NiGP *Swan Hill* Venue Details TBC—Contact Teresa for further information
6th February	MDGP: A Team Asthma Education Program Presented by NAC 6:30pm Registrations at Hotel Mildura—EJ Faulkner Conference Room
29th Feb & 1st March	MDGP—Benchmarque: Accredited Ear Irrigation and Plaster Casting Nationally Accredited 2 Day Course. APNA endorsed with RCNA—CNE points, cost of \$128.50pp. MDGP needs a <u>minimum number of 12 registrations</u> before we can confirm booking and currently have eight. Pre-course reading required and must register with MDGP ASAP!.
6th & 7th March	MARJEN: Infection Control Workshops X3 (Introduction, Aged Care, OH&S) Small registration fee will be required. Flyer sent next month. GP and OH&S Sessions to be held at Mildura Golf Club.
6th March	MBH P.A.C.E Forum — RESPIRATORY: A &P 1430 at MBH Conference Room
10th March	COMTEL: Regional Health Conference & Trade Exhibition Many topics including wound mx, diabetes, aged care, pressure ulcer

NETWORK MEETINGS:

13 February 08 — Remote Practices Network Meeting – Manangatang. -TBC-
20 February 08 — Practice Nurses Network Meeting – Mildura.



DOHA CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

The Department of Health and Ageing have not yet released their events calendar for 2008, this will be updated as soon as possible.

Pregnancy Lifescripts Kit

As part of the Smoking and Pregnancy Budget Measure, a consortium led by the Australian General

Practice Network (AGPN) has developed a Pregnancy Lifescripts Kit to assist women to have healthy

pregnancies and healthy babies. The Kit focuses on smoking, alcohol consumption and nutrition, and is

intended for use by General Practitioners, Practice nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers.

Hard copies of the Kit can be ordered from National Mail and Marketing by phone: 02 6269 1000 or

email: nmm@nationalmailing.com.au. Electronic copies can be accessed from the AGPN website at

www.agpn.com.au under Current programs, resource library.

SMOKING CESSATION INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

The recently published *Smoking cessation pharmacotherapy: an update for health professionals* is now available at www.racgp.org.au/guidelines/smokingcessation

The publication precedes the PBS listing of Varenicline on 1 January 2008. Varenicline has recently received some publicity regarding possible mental health effects, and the online version of the update includes the college's current position on this.

HEALTHY KIDS 4 YEAR OLD HEALTH CHECK *Stay tuned.....!*

The information below is from the ALP policy document and is likely to be introduced in 2008.

The Healthy Kids Check will be a basic check-up – including things like height, body mass index, eyesight, and hearing checks.

The Healthy Kids Check and information session will be offered with each child's four year immunisation,

connecting families with the primary health care system. Parents will receive the Healthy Habits for Life Guide at the same time.

The Healthy Kids Check will be delivered:

- ◆ By GPs or practice nurses through a new Medicare item, claimable in conjunction with the four year immunisation approximately 70 per cent of children have their immunisations at the GP); and
- ◆ By local councils and community health centres which run immunisation clinics, for the 30 per cent of children who receive their immunisation from these services.

Federal Labour will monitor the need for follow up services, particularly any services not available under existing referral arrangements"

Cash Bonus For Practice Nurses:

Doctors' groups have welcomed the Federal government's offer of cash bonuses to lure more nurses back into the hospital system but say the plan should be extended to practice nurses. Health minister Nicola Roxon said former nurses would be offered incentives of \$6,000 if they return to hospital work and stay for at least 18 months. The payments are part of an \$87 million plan aimed at boosting nurse numbers by 8,000 over the next five years. A similar scheme is planned to encourage nurses to return to work in residential aged care facilities. But the scheme should also be expanded to include general practice nursing according to the Australian General Practice Network. Boosting the number of practice nurses would relieve the GP workforce crisis in rural Australia and suburban areas, said AGPN chair Dr Tony Hobbs "A general practice that employs a practice nurse is, on average, able to see around 800 more patients a year. This makes a significant difference to local communities. "We know there is pressure in our hospitals for more nurses. However we also know that many families across Australia are finding it difficult to see their local GP," Dr Hobbs said. Divisions were reporting a high level of interest in a general practice nursing refresher program, he added. "Our Divisions Network has a local presence across the country and would be able to provide the specialised training to help qualified nurses not currently in the health system wanting to work in general practice," Dr Hobbs said.

(6minutes.com.au: Wednesday 16th January)

Other Organisations News:

MEDICARE ITEM NUMBERS UPDATE:

Summary of Practice Nurse MBS Item Numbers About Practice Nurse MBS Item Numbers (#10993 - #19999)

Medicare rebates are now available where practice nurses provide specific types of services on behalf of a GP. As at 30 August 2007, these items are for

- Immunisation services
- Wound management services
- Pap smear services and preventive health checks, and
- Provision of monitoring and support for a person with a chronic disease on a GP Management Plan, Team Care Arrangements, or MBS Multidisciplinary Care Plan.

All vocationally and non-vocationally registered GPs are eligible to claim the practice nurse MBS items. This includes GPs working in Aboriginal Medical Services that have Medicare claiming arrangements, and GPs working privately in community health centres.

A summary of the MBS Items from Schedule 8 of the Medicare Benefits Schedule is provided below. As with all MBS items, health professionals intending to use these should refer to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) book for more comprehensive information, including the MBS requirements for each item. Alternatively, they can search for specific items at www9.health.gov.au/mbs or telephone Medicare Australia on 03 9605 7964 or contact the local Division of General Practice.

ANMC—Publications:

Hard copies of the Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct can no longer be purchased from the ANMC. However, these documents can be downloaded from this website. The updated Codes for Nurses and newly developed Codes for Midwives will be available from early 2008. Hard copies of other ANMC publications have almost sold out. Most can be downloaded free of charge for individual use from this website. Multiple copies may be subject to copyright restrictions. Please check with the ANMC Business Manager, Kay Posthuma on 02 6273 9106 for more information.

- [Codes of Ethics and Professional Conduct](#)
- [National Competency Standards](#)
- [Principles of Assessment for National Competency Standards](#)

Need Information on post grad studies, scholarships or professional development?:

Visit: www.Nurseinfor.com.au

NurseInfo is an exciting new website providing a directory of all information you could possibly need on nursing and midwifery in Australia. NurseInfo provides information on professional development, postgraduate courses, different areas of speciality scholarships, registration, working and pay condition, rural and remote nursing and many other areas of interest.

Developed by RCNA and funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.



RCNA—Move Over eCampus:

RCNA eCampus is currently being redeveloped and will be replaced with a new enhanced website to be known as 3LP. 3LP will be available to RCNA members in January 2008. 3LP will contain a range of valuable free and fee paying courses, a professional portfolio for you to record your continuing nurse education (CNE) points, communication forums and online resources including access to over 1100 full text nursing, medical and health care journals. 3LP subscription will be available to non members for an annual fee. 3LP will also provide a number of new features, navigation tools and courses.



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MDGP would like to acknowledge all information provided in this newsletter was sourced through approved departments.

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GPDV RCNA RCNA ACIR