



Victorian Divisions' Practice Nurses Update #3

Ok everyone I'll keep this brief, as there are lots of newsletters and updates coming through (which is great).

New ADGP Principal Policy Adviser on Nursing in General Practice

Ms Julie Porritt has commenced work at ADGP, and GPDV has welcomed her to her role on behalf of Victorian divisions. She will attend the National Steering Committee on Nursing in General Practice meetings as an observer and facilitate communication through to all divisions via a newsletter and through the ADGP website. She can be contacted at ADGP on 02 6251 3380.

Nurse Registration and the Practice Manager/Receptionist

A reminder on this issue that keeps cropping up... it's common practice that both registered nurses and nurses not holding current registration are employed as practice managers and/or receptionists in medical clinics. Regulations made by the Nurses Board of Victoria make it unacceptable for a practice staff member who is not currently registered as a nurse with the Board to carry out nursing procedures.

From the Board:

"Registered nurses have a duty of care to clients. Practice managers/unregistered nurses performing nursing procedures should be aware of the public expectation that such procedures would be undertaken by a registered nurse. Also, an unregistered nurse who holds her or himself out to be a registered nurse or an employer who does so, would be in breach of *Nurses Act 1993* and may be subject to prosecution"

For more information about nurse registration and standards, see [http://www.nbv.org.au/nbv/nbvonlinev1.nsf/attachment/PolicyManagerReg/\\$File/PracticeManagerStatementOctober2000.pdf](http://www.nbv.org.au/nbv/nbvonlinev1.nsf/attachment/PolicyManagerReg/$File/PracticeManagerStatementOctober2000.pdf)

Practice Nursing Conference

A national practice nursing conference will be held in Bunbury WA in November 2003. The Practice Nursing Association of WA and the Royal College of Nursing Australia have been jointly planning this event, and it is understood that they will be keen for practice nurses to make submissions and present papers at the conference. No further information is available at this stage though an announcement is imminent.

Representation to the VACGP

The Victorian Advisory Committee on General Practice provides advice to the Commonwealth and Victorian governments on issues affecting general practice in Victoria, and seeks to strengthen linkages between governments and the general practice sector. GPDV were invited to participate in a VACGP meeting on nurses in general practice on September 11th. In response, and after consultation with a couple of divisions experiencing severe workforce shortages, we wrote and presented an issues paper. The paper canvassed:

- The potential for PNs to work in partnership with GPs to respond to high demand for primary care services, particularly in outer urban fringe and rural areas;
- Solutions to the supervision of RN Div 2 nurses issue (South Australia is now granting authorisation for their ENs in practices to work under the supervision of their employers); and
- National workforce planning strategies for the nursing sector.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to make recommendations to governments, and I will be circulating the paper and the Committee's responses for divisions' comments shortly.

GPDV Nursing Website

Over the last three months, GPDV has developed and updated its nursing web-site. The site is accessible through www.gpdv.com.au, then 'Programs' and 'Nurses in General Practice'.

Recently added:

- Presentations from the July 25 GPDV Nurses in General Practice workshop;
- Links to relevant government sites.

Soon to be added:

- Information about PN training around chronic disease areas;
- Potential speakers for divisional PN network meetings.

Other Updates/Newsletters

(a) ADGP Nursing News, Edition 1: September 2002

All divisions should have received this from the ADGP. Please contact Julie Porritt, or me, for a copy if you haven't. The newsletter canvasses what's happening nationally, and reports PIP statistics on participation in the nursing PIP incentive. Julie has asked that the newsletter be disseminated to as many nurses as possible.

(b) APNA News, Issue 2 – August 2002

The APNA newsletter is available to members, or associate members, of APNA, and is geared principally towards practice nurses.



Nurses in General Practice: Education & Training Supplement

GPDV is beginning to collate training resources for divisions. The events listed below are not intended to be a comprehensive list of training available, it is merely what we've heard of so far. Note that APNA is doing a lot of work in this area as well and we're working in tandem on this issue.

Also, the Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA) is planning a range of practice nursing education seminars to be held on weekends, though no specific announcements have been made. They aim to cover topics such as nurses' scope of practice, legal issues, diabetes/asthma updates, infection control and sterilisation, immunisation, health assessments, mental health etc. GPDV has also asked that nursing triage and IT skilling be considered, and we've encouraged the College to contact local divisions about local training needs, in order to avoid duplication and to fill any gaps.

(a) Asthma education / training

1. Lung Health Promotion Centre (www.lunghealth.org and go to "Courses")

All course fees are GST inclusive and tax deductible.

- Introductory Course in Asthma Education (\$495), 30 Oct – 1 Nov
- Preparing and Presenting an Education Program (\$132), 2 Nov
- Evening Seminar: Update on Management of Asthma in Adults and Children (\$49.50), 27 November

Contact: Lung Health Promotion Centre at the Alfred Hospital (03) 9276 2382.

2. Asthma Victoria (www.asthma.org.au and go to "Programs")

- Emergency Management Course (\$275 for up to 15 people, if conducted by Asthma Victoria)

Contact to arrange a date: Andrew Ford, aford@asthma.org.au or (03) 9326 7055

(b) Diabetes education / training

1. International Diabetes Institute (www.diabetes.com.au)

Training: http://www.diabetes.com.au/news_events/courseguide.htm

- 1 day courses for PNs were held in 2002; 2003 dates will be 5 March and 10 September, brochures not yet available
- 2 day education courses – able to travel regionally - on demand (contact Peter Larter, GPDV, for more information)
- "Win First Place in Diabetes Management" 2-day course for health professionals (\$395), 3-4 November

2. Diabetes Australia – Victoria (www.dav.org.au)

- 1-2 hour, 3-4 hour, 1 day or 2 day training programs for practice nurses can be arranged on demand if DAV is given one to two months notice
- Costs: \$120 an hour for 1-2 hour session; \$99 an hour for 3-4 hour session; \$770 for a full day (8 hours); cost of travel to be added if more than 20 kilometres out of Melbourne, Wangaratta or Sunshine
- Note: costs are negotiable depending on divisions' needs, and the type of presentation required

Contact: Cath Harmer, Education Manager on (03) 9667 1737 or CHarmer@dav.org.au

3. DHS Metropolitan Health and Aged Care Division / Victorian Quality Council – Quality Improvement Funding Program Workshops (<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/qualfund>)

- Improving Diabetes Care Across the Continuum Workshop (free), 5 Dec, Victoria University, 12/300 Flinders St, Melbourne

To register interest in attending, contact Karen McNamara on (03) 9616 7778 or qif.workshops@dhs.vic.gov.au

4. Mayfield Education Centre (www.mayfield.edu.au)

- Diabetes Educators Certificate Courses (accredited by the Australian Diabetes Educators Association)

5. Deakin University

(http://www.deakin.edu.au/handbook/pg_courseguide/coursework/nursing.htm#3)

- Graduate Certificate of Diabetes Education (also accredited), two or three semesters of part-time study - (03) 9251 7777, Email: hbs.info@deakin.edu.au

(c) Cervical Screening education / training

1. Family Planning Victoria

- Comprehensive Independent Pap Test Provider course for nurses – Enquiries: (03) 9257 0133 or registra@fpv.org.au

2. Watch this space for the possible development of a less intensive course that will enable practice nurses to perform pap tests under the clinical supervision of a GP.

(d) Wound management education / training

1. DHS Metropolitan Health and Aged Care Division / Victorian Quality Council – Quality Improvement Funding Program Workshops
(<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/qualfund>)

- Pressure Wound Prevention and Management Workshop (free), 26 Nov, Victoria University, 12/300 Flinders St, Melbourne

To register interest in attending, contact Karen McNamara on (03) 9616 7778 or qif.workshops@dhs.vic.gov.au

(e) Other education / training

1. Arthritis Victoria / Australian Practice Nurses Association / Osteoporosis Victoria

- Self Management Approaches for People with Chronic Conditions, \$130, 9 Nov, 263-4 Kooyong Rd, Elsternwick

For further details and a registration form, contact the Australian Practice Nurse Association on 1300 303 184

2. DHS Metropolitan Health and Aged Care Division / Victorian Quality Council – Quality Improvement Funding Program Workshops
(<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/qualfund>)

- Infection Control and Prevention Workshop (free), 29 April 2003, Victoria University, 12/300 Flinders St, Melbourne

To register interest in attending, contact Karen McNamara on (03) 9616 7778 or qif.workshops@dhs.vic.gov.au