

Practice Connect

Issue 25: 1 August

Keeping General Practice informed in the changing primary health landscape.

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Welcome to Practice Connect, a fortnightly update for practice managers, nurses and practice administration staff on relevant issues, upcoming events and education.

HealthPathways Update

300 Live Pathways

Congratulations to the HealthPathways team! The team has been working tirelessly to reach 300 live pathways by 1 August and have achieved this milestone just in time. The new pathways published include:

- IV Iron Infusion Providers
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Non-acute Asthma in Children
- Acute Asthma in Children
- Persistent Cough in Children



Login details:

Username: connected

Password: healthcare

Seeing a patient of refugee background resource

Health Pathways have developed a guide for GP's when they are seeing a patient of refugee background for the first time. The aim of this document is to guide GPs in the assessments and services they should consider and, offers advice on how to make appointments appropriate for the patient.

The GP guide can be found here http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/170725_WAPHA_GP-Tip-Sheet.pdf

Immunisation Update

Meningococcal statewide immunisation program

This program is in response to a concerning increase in the number of meningococcal W cases in WA and other States and Territories. The incidence of the W strain has been rising in WA since 2013 but increased from four in 2015 to 14 in 2016. This compares with just three cases of meningococcal W in WA during the four-year period to 2014. Research shows vaccinating 15-19 year old's is the most effective way to prevent the spread of meningococcal disease.



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HealthPathways WA 300 Live Pathways

The WA Department of Health is funding meningococcal ACWY vaccine to adolescents aged 15-19 years old in 2017 and to year 10 students in 2018 and 2019 through the school based immunisation program. Vaccines will be administered in schools to students in years 10, 11 and 12 in term 3. Vaccinations will also be available at community health clinics to capture 18-19 year old's and other age-eligible persons not attending high school. The Central Immunisation Clinic (phone 9321 1312) can provide the location of the various community health clinics. From term 4, depending on vaccine availability, GPs will be able to order vaccines and will be advised through *Vaccine Updates* when vaccines are available to order.

Patients may attend your practice requesting advice on reducing their risk for meningococcal disease. Meningococcal ACWY Vaccine (4vMenCV) which can be given from 2 months of age and Meningococcal B Vaccine (MenBV) which can be given from 6 weeks of age and are both available through private prescription. Meningococcal C vaccine (MenCCV) is recommended and funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) from 12 months of age.

The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) has produced a helpful resource for providers, *Meningococcal vaccine for Australians: Information for providers*. It provides up to date epidemiology of meningococcal disease in Australia, and recommended immunisation schedules. This needs to be used as your primary resource as the Australian Immunisation Handbook, both the hard copy and online version is not up to date on this particular issue.

This resource can be found at: <http://www.ncirs.edu.au/provider-resources/ncirs-fact-sheets> .

Further information can also be found at: http://www2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/J_M/Meningococcal-ACWY-Statewide-vaccination-program or by contacting your regional population health unit or the Metropolitan Communicable Disease Control (MCDC) team on 9222 8588.

National Immunisation Program (NIP) Expansion from 1 July – CDCD Update to Immunisation Providers

The NIP is now offering free access to vaccines recommended for:

- All individuals aged 10-19 years (including refugees and humanitarian entrants)
- All refugees or humanitarian entrants aged 20 years or over

For details on eligible vaccines, please visit the Immunise Australia website at:

<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/news-20171107> .

Vaccine ordering:

Please order catch up vaccines as per standard vaccine ordering processes.

Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) requirements:

It is highly recommended that you check the individual's immunisation history in AIR to determine which vaccines they need. Please ensure that all vaccines administered are recorded in AIR.

Catch up schedules

You can contact your Regional Immunisation Coordinator or MCDC for assistance in developing catch up schedules at:

http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Contact-details-for-population-public-health-units .

Please see the following provider fact sheets for information on 10-19 year old's and refugee and humanitarian entrants.

- NIP expansion: 10-19 year olds <http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/NIP-expansion-Provider-Factsheet-10-to-19-year-olds.pdf>
- NIP expansion: Refugees and humanitarian entrants <http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/NIP-expansion-Provider-Factsheet-Refugees-and-humanitarian-entrants.pdf>

National Bowel Cancer Screening Program for nurses – new resource

The Australian Primary Health Care Nurse Association (APNA), in partnership with Cancer Council WA and funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, has developed the *National Bowel Cancer Screening Program – Guide for nurses working in general practice* resource. The new resources are now available on APNA's website at:

- National Bowel Cancer Screening Program – Guide for nurses working general practice: <https://www.apna.asn.au/files/DAM/1%20Education/Bowel%20Cancer/NBCSP-Guide-for-Nurses.pdf> .
- How to complete an iFOBT: <https://www.apna.asn.au/files/DAM/1%20Education/Bowel%20Cancer/NBCSP-How-to-iFOBT.pdf> .

In addition, APNA held a webinar for nurses working in general practice which can be viewed through the following website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXbbrRU--KE> .

WA Cervical Screening ‘Business as Usual’ until 1 December 2017

The West Australian newspaper recently reported some women are ignoring reminder letters for cervical screening. This may be due to confusion about whether they should wait for the new test to become available at the end of the year, and/or a perception that the new test is somehow better or simpler.

Regular screening is still the best way to prevent cervical cancer and delaying a pap smear puts women at risk. It is therefore vital that GPs continue to encourage women who have ever been sexually active, aged between 18 – 69 years, to have a cervical screen or attend for follow-up when due. They should not be delayed until the new test becomes available.

This includes continuing to send recall and reminder letters to women in your practice according to current protocols. The WA Cervical Screening Registry will continue to send reminder letters to women and providers where applicable.

New LiveLighter Campaign – Grabbable Gut

LiveLighter is a state-wide campaign aiming to help West Australians eat well, move more and achieve a healthy weight.

The new campaign, Grabbable Gut, targets 35 – 64 year old men and encourages them to assess their risk of obesity and make small changes to their lifestyle. Radio, digital, social media and outdoor advertising will encourage men to grab their guts, assess their risk and make lifestyle changes to improve their health.

The Grabbable Gut toolbox includes meal plans, educational videos, junk food and BMI calculators and, tips to help make long term lifestyle changes. For further information and to access the toolbox please visit:

<https://livelighter.com.au/The-Facts/Am-I-at-Risk> .



painHEALTH website – Mobile friendly update

The painHEALTH website now includes an improved interface for use on smart devices and, a function which allows content relevant to the user to be ‘pulled forward’ as they interact with the system. Launched in 2013 as Australia’s first website dedicated to musculoskeletal pain, the painHEALTH website has recorded more than 8.1 million hits – around 620,000 visitors, from more than 150 countries, have accessed the site, that is around 410 visitors each day.

The painHEALTH website offers practical, evidence-based ‘whole person’ pain management strategies for people with conditions such as osteoarthritis, lower back and neck pain and rheumatoid arthritis. The painHEALTH website update flyer can be found here http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/170714_IMG_PainHealthAccessibleFlyer.pdf

For more details on pain management, visit the website at: <https://painhealth.csse.uwa.edu.au/> .

Education and Training

To keep our e-news to a manageable size events will only be advertised once. To view previously advertised training please visit our website - <http://www.wapha.org.au/education-events/> .

2017 My Health Record Roadshow

WAPHA and the Australian Digital Health Agency are hosting several My Health Record events to give health providers an insight into the benefits of this unique system, your rights and responsibilities as a health provider, and how your practice can be involved.

Date: Wednesday 16 August & Thursday 17 August

Cost: Free

Register: For more details and to register please visit the WAPHA website at:
<http://www.wapha.org.au/health-professionals/digitalhealth/myhealth-record/2017-my-health-record-roadshow/>

Online options are available for some events for those in regional and remote areas. Contact your local Primary Health Liaison or email digitalhealth@wapha.org.au for more information.

Practice Managers Networking Sessions – MBS items and Business Development

These sessions will address common Medicare Benefits Schedule queries such as how to address chronic disease care plans, health assessments, follow up items, schedule A1 and A2 rates, bulk bill incentives and, new procedural items. This session will encourage networking amongst your peers, group discussion about utilizing the MBS in your practice and troubleshooting the MBS.

Date: 23 August, 29 August, 30 August, 5 September, 12 September, 14 September, 20 September

Time: 12:00 – 2:00pm

Cost: Free

Register: For more details and to register please see the following invite http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/170710_Invite_MBSITEMS.pdf

Mental Health Professionals' Network (MHPN): Older Persons and Mental Health Interdisciplinary Network – North Perth

MHPN's Perth North Older Persons' Mental Health Network encourages local practitioners to work together, to improve outcomes for older Australians experiencing psychological disorders.

Date: Tuesday 29 August

Time: 6:00 – 8:15pm

Venue: RACGP WA, 34 Harrogate Street, West Leederville WA 6007

Cost: Free

Catering: Refreshments will be provided

Register: For more details and to register please see the following invite:
<https://www.mhpn.org.au/Uploads/Network/V2%20Perth%20North%20Older%20Persons%20MHPN%20-%20Network%20Establishment%20Meeting%20-%20Tuesday,%2029%20August%202017.pdf>

Patient-Centred Care: Putting it into Practice

Patient-centred care is a buzz term, but what is it really and how do you know you're getting it right? Diabetes WA and Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen have partnered to bring you this interactive workshop to enable GPs and practice nurses to explore what patient-centred care looks like and importantly, what it doesn't look like.

Date: Tuesday 5 September

Time: 5:30 – 8:00pm

Cost: Free

Register: For more details and to register please see the following invite http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/170905_DiabetesEvent.pdf

TADPole (The Treating Alcohol and Drugs in Primary Care) project

The TADPole education project offers a series of education activities covering general and specific alcohol and drug topics and skill-based techniques. This event attracts RACGP Category 1 QI & CPD points.

Date: 13 September, 20 September & 27 September

Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm

Cost: Free

Register: For more details and to register please see the following invite <http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017-0714-tadpole-flyer-Activity-1-Joint-flyer.pdf>

University of Sydney – Mental Health Course

The University of Sydney have launched a mental health course covering the basics of recognising and managing mental illness as well as aspects of positive mental health and strategies for prevention and self-management of illness. The course has been designed as a psychoeducation and community education resource, appropriate for both health professionals and consumers.

Time: Five-week course containing over 40 x 10 minute lectures

Cost: Free

Register: For more details and to register please see the following website at: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/positive-psychiatry> .

LiveLighter

Breaking the Silence - Talking to Patients About Weight Loss

Breaking the Silence – Talking to Patients About Weight Loss is an online RACGP 4 CPD and ACRRM 2 CME PD accredited educational course developed for health professionals.

Time: Two hours

Cost: Free

Register: <https://thinkgp.com.au/education/breaking-silence-%E2%80%93-talking-patients-about-weight-loss>

Talking with parents about children's weight

Talking with parents about children's weight is an online training course that has been developed for health and community professionals.

Cost: Free

Register: <http://www.talkingaboutweight.org/register.php>

Health Promotion Events in August

Is your practice looking for a health promotion activity for your practice? Each month we will provide a list of upcoming health promotion activities for the next month along with resources and contact details.

Daffodil Day – Friday 25 August

Cancer Councils' Daffodil Day aims to raise money to fund vital work in cancer research, prevention, support and advocacy. This website includes fundraising tips, resources and ideas on how to celebrate Daffodil Day.

Website: <https://www.daffodilday.com.au/>

International Overdose Awareness Day – Thursday 31 August

International Overdose Awareness Day aims to raise awareness of overdose and to reduce the stigma of drug related death. This website includes tips on how to register and host an event, resources and additional information on overdose.

Website: <https://www.overdoseday.com/>