

Practice Connect

Issue 26: 15 August

Keeping General Practice informed in the changing primary health landscape.

INSIDE:

- [HealthPathways Update](#)
- [Immunisation Update](#)
- [NPS Medicinewise Update](#)
- [New Drug to cure hepatitis C](#)
- [Link to GPs key to new alcohol risk screening project](#)
- [Australian Association of Practice Management \(AAPM\) Scholarships](#)
- [Education and Training](#)
- [Health Promotion Events in August](#)

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

HealthPathways Update

Dental Health Pathways

The HealthPathways team has recently engaged with the Office of the Chief Dental Officer to localise several Dental Pathways.

Evidence about the connection between oral health and systemic diseases has increased in the last 10 years. This evidence particularly addresses the interactions between gum disease and chronic, non-communicable diseases (diabetes, coronary heart disease, arteriosclerosis and, dementia). Given this, collaboration between GPs and dentists is crucial to provide therapeutic and preventive patient care.

With patients often presenting to the GP with oral health problems including pain, infection and abscess, it is important for GPs to remember that a prescription for antibiotics is not sufficient and referral to an oral health professional is also required.

Patients (children and adults) can visit their private dentist or locate one using the HealthPathways link at: <https://wa.healthpathways.org.au/25709.htm>. Public dentists can also be found within the above HealthPathways Dental Pathways link. However, eligibility criteria does apply. For further details please visit the HealthPathways website at: <https://wa.healthpathways.org.au/index.htm>.

The Commonwealth's Child Dental Benefit Schedule (CDBS) provides Family Tax Benefit to children aged 2–17 years, \$1000 of general dental care over 2 years. This can be used in either the public or private dental system. Further information about the CDBS is available on the Department of Human Services website at: <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare/child-dental-benefits-schedule>.

Within WA, the State Government funds free general dental care for school aged children aged 5–16 years. The State Government also funds subsidised general dental care for eligible adults (those with a Health Care or Pensioner Concession card). Eligible adults are required to make co-payments towards their dental bill (50 per cent for Health Care cardholders and 25 per cent for Pensioner Concession cardholders).

For further information please visit the HealthPathways Dental pathways at: <https://wa.healthpathways.org.au/25709.htm>.



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HealthPathways WA 302 Live Pathways

Immunisation Update

Meningococcal ACWY Statewide Vaccination Program Update

Meningococcal comes on suddenly and progresses quickly. WA Health advise there has been a small increase recently in particularly dangerous meningococcal types. Adolescents aged 15-19 years have high carry rates and can transmit the disease to those at risk of serious disease including children. Transmission can be from close contact with someone who may be carrying the bacteria without knowing it, for example living in same house, attending a party, visiting a nightclub and kissing. If caught early, antibiotics can help provide a full recovery.

WA Health advise the vaccination program provides vaccination to adolescents aged 15-19 years and will be delivered in three phases.

- **Phase 1:** Commences school term 2, 2017.
School vaccination in some secondary schools for year 10, 11 and 12 students and Aboriginal Medical Services (AMSs).
- **Phase 2:** Commences school term 3, 2017.
School vaccination across WA for year 10, 11 and 12 students.
Metropolitan on-campus university medical centre vaccination for adolescents aged 15-19 years.
- **Phase 3:** Commences school term 4, 2017.
General practitioner (GP) surgery vaccination (subject to vaccine availability) for:
 - years 10, 11 and 12 students who missed their school vaccination in terms 2 or 3 and
 - adolescents aged 15-19 years who missed their university vaccination in terms 2 or 3 or are not at school or university can get vaccinated at a GP surgery.

Adolescents aged 15-19 years who are not at school can receive the immunisation from community immunisation providers. In 2018 and 2019 only students in year 10 will be eligible, regardless of age.

For further provider information please visit the following website:

http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/J_M/Meningococcal-ACWY-Statewide-vaccination-program

For further patient information please visit the following websites:

- http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/J_M/Meningococcal-vaccine
- http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/J_M/Meningococcal-disease

WA Immunisation Schedule Updated

The Western Australian Immunisation Schedule table has been redesigned and updated as of 1 July, 2017.

To see the new design on the WA Health website for National Immunisation Program vaccines including school age and adults please visit the website at: http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/F_I/Immunisation-schedule-and-catch-up-immunisations.

The Australian Immunisation Handbook Updated

The Australian Immunisation Handbook 10th Edition has been updated and is now live. It can be viewed at the following link: <http://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook10-home>. Specific updates are listed within the online table of contents.

NPS MedicineWise Update

Quality Prescribing Incentive (QPI)

NPS MedicineWise are helping GP practices qualify for Quality Prescribing Incentive (QPI) payments. The QPI is one of the GP practice incentives in the Australian Government's Practice Incentives Program (PIP). It encourages practices to keep up to date on the quality use of medicines and medical tests. Practices that participate can earn approximately \$1000 in incentive payments, per full time GP, per year.

NPS MedicineWise educational visits are free, earn RACGP/ACRRM points and, contribute toward the PIP QPI.

GP practices who would like to qualify for the PIP QPI may want to view the QPI planner on the NPS MedicineWise website. It lists all the free, PIP eligible activities offered by NPS for the coming year (including online activities), to help practices plan ahead to qualify for incentive payments.

For further information please view the attached flyer: http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/NPS_QPI_Planner_2017_2018.pdf

To view the QPI planner please visit the website at: <https://www.nps.org.au/the-quality-prescribing-incentive> .

New drug to cure Hepatitis C – PBS Listed

Each year, around 800 Australians will die from hepatitis C infection and more than 200,000 Australians are currently living with this virus. From 1 August, 2017, the new drug known as Epclusa® will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). This will make it simpler for doctors to prescribe this breakthrough treatment and will boost uptake rates, particularly for rural and regional patients. Patients will only pay a maximum of \$38.80 per month for the medications, with concession patients paying just \$6.30.

Epclusa® is the first of the new direct acting antivirals, a combination of sofosbuvir and velpatasvir, that can be used to treat people with any of the six genotypes of hepatitis C. By listing Epclusa® on the PBS, the Turnbull Government has taken another significant step to working towards eliminating hepatitis C in Australia by 2030.

For more information on Epclusa® please visit the NPS MedicineWise website at: <https://www.nps.org.au/medical-info/medicine-finder/epclusa-tablets> .

Link to GPs - key to new alcohol risk screening project in Fiona Stanley Emergency Department

From September 2017, the Fiona Stanley Hospital Emergency Department will implement a trial pathway for alcohol intake risk screening, targeting patients seen in the Emergency Short Stay Unit (ESSU). Those assessed as moderate or high risk using the AUDIT-C tool will receive a brief intervention and their nominated GP will be notified of the results. Those at high risk will also be seen by the Inpatient Alcohol Team for follow up and possible referral for treatment.

There is a research component to the project evaluating the feasibility of the pathway and patient impact. Opportunities for GP upskilling and education about managing this patient group in the community will be made available through WAPHA, the National Drug Research Institute and Edith Cowan University, and supported by relevant and localised HealthPathways.

To support the project and assist GPs in management of patients with alcohol and drug problems, WAPHA is developing a dedicated Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) GP Resource Pack, which will be distributed to practices in the South Metropolitan Health Service.

Interactive skills based training is also available through the Treating Alcohol and Drugs in Primary Care GP education project. For further information please contact SIRCH@ecu.edu.au.

For more information regarding the project please contact Imogen Davies, SMHS Health Planner at imogen.davies@health.wa.gov.au.

For more information regarding the GP Resource Pack please contact Krystyna Cieslawski, Regional Coordinator at WAPHA at krystyna.cieslawski@wapha.org.au.

Australian Association of Practice Management (AAPM) Scholarships

Applications for the Avant AAPM Scholarship Program, Colleen Sullivan Scholarship and AAPM Aboriginal Health Service Scholarship opened to AAPM members on Monday, 7 August.

Avant AAPM Scholarship Program

Avant has partnered with AAPM once again to sponsor five scholarships for practice management courses at UNE Partnerships through the Avant AAPM Scholarship Program. The purpose of the scholarships program is to continue to promote professional development for AAPM members.

Each scholarship pays for enrolment (up to \$4,000) in one of the following University of New England (UNE) Partnerships courses:

- Certificate IV in Business for Health Practice Managers
- Certificate IV in Leadership and Management for Health Practice Managers
- Diploma of Professional Practice Leadership

- Advanced Diploma of Leadership and Management

Applications for this scholarship close on Saturday, 30 September 2017.

For more information and to apply please visit the website at: <http://www.aapm.org.au/avant-scholarships> .

Colleen Sullivan Scholarship

The Colleen Sullivan Scholarship is suitable for experienced Practice Managers, who are members of AAPM, with a wide range of business responsibilities in the practice environment. The scholarship provides enrolment in the UNE Partnerships Diploma of Professional Practice Leadership with AAPM paying for courses fees for the successful applicant. Applications for this scholarship close on Saturday, 30 September 2017.

For more information and to apply please visit the website at: <http://www.aapm.org.au/Education-Events/Colleen-Sullivan-Scholarship> .

AAPM Aboriginal Health Service Scholarship

Medical Director has partnered with AAPM to offer the AAPM Aboriginal Health Service Scholarship, providing enrolment in the UNE partnerships Diploma of Professional Practice Leadership. This scholarship is offered in conjunction with the AAPM Walking Alongside Program which was developed with Indigenous healthcare leaders. This program provides successful applicants with mentoring, enabling them to approach Practice Management with a link to quality and understanding of culture. Applications for this scholarship close on Saturday, 30 September 2017.

For more information and to apply please visit the website at: <http://www.aapm.org.au/Education-Events/AAPM-Aboriginal-Health-Service-Scholarship> .

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/> .

The ones who can't complain webinar – 23 August

Dementia Training Australia in conjunction with Christine Kovach, are hosting a webinar to help health professionals recognise and alleviate pain in those living with dementia.

Date: Wednesday, 23 August 2017

Time: 9:00 - 9:30am

Register: To register please visit: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2730892598343802369> .

Anti-inflammatory foods for arthritis webinar – 24 August

Arthritis and Osteoporosis New South Wales (AONSW) in conjunction with guest speaker, Alicia Thackray, are hosting a webinar exploring foods that can reduce or increase inflammation in the body. The webinar will also look at the Mediterranean diet, herbal remedies for inflammation and dietary supplements suggested to reduce inflammation.

Date: Thursday, 24 August 2017

Time: 4:00 – 6:00pm

Cost: \$15 FOR AONSW member, \$25 for non-AONSW members

Register: To register visit: https://arthritisnsw.org.au/webinars/anti-inflammatory-foods-for-arthritis/?mc_cid=24002989e4&mc_eid=4063344f58 . Registrations close Thursday, 24 August 2pm.

GP Education Event– 2 September

WAPHA and Royal Perth Hospital invite you to attend this RACGP accredited event with presentations from various specialists with an aim to update GPs on the latest assessment and management of a range of common conditions and new referral pathways for Royal Perth Hospital.

Date: Saturday, 2 September 2017

Time: 8:15am – 3:30pm

Venue: Royal Perth Hospital, Bruce Hunt Lecture Theatre
Cost: Free
Register: For further information and to register please see the attached flyer: http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/170809_updated-GP-education-flyer.pdf

13th Annual Women's Day – 2 September

This year's Women's Health Day for General Practitioners and Practice Nurses is a morning event, and will cover a range of women's health topics including polycystic ovarian syndrome, perimenopause and menopause, a contraception update and breaking bad news.

Date: Saturday 2 September 2017
Time: 8:30am – 1:00pm
Venue: The Bendat Parent & Community Centre, 36 Dodd Street, Wembley
Cost: \$20.00
Register: For further information and to register please see the attached flyer: <http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017-07-17-WHD-Flyer-Final-1.pdf> Registrations close Wednesday 30 August.

Immunisation Education Sessions

The Immunisation Education Sessions will be presented by the Metropolitan Communicable Disease Control and WAPHA. These sessions will cover recalls and catch-ups, interpretation of AIR reports, cold chain management and utilising HealthPathways for up to date immunisation information.

Date: 5 September, 7 September, 13 September, 14 September, 19 September, 20 September, 26 September & 27 September
Time: 12:00 – 2:00pm
Cost: Free
Register: For more details and to register please see the attached invites
Perth North: http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/1709_Northinvite_ImmunisationSessions.pdf
Perth South: http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/1709_Southinvite_ImmunisationSessions.pdf

Statins: Optimising therapy, addressing intolerance – 6 September

NPS MedicineWise Clinical Services Specialist, Saloni Shah, *BPharm (Hons), MPS, Accredited Consultant Pharmacist AACPA*, is planning to deliver a RACGP & ACRRM accredited group educational event.

Date: Wednesday, 6 September
Time: 6:30 – 7:30pm
Venue: Room 7, WAPHA, 2-5, 7 Tanunda Drive, Rivervale, WA, 6103
Cost: Free
Register: For more details and to register please see the attached flyer: <http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Statins-event-6-Sept-2017-1.pdf>

Diabetes update for health professionals – 26 October

Diabetes WA is offering a diabetes update for health professionals working within a hospital, medical practice, community health or aged care setting. The training will provide participants with increased confidence when working with patients with diabetes, a greater understanding of the condition and the services available to their patients

Date: Friday, 26 October
Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm

Venue: The Boulevard, Floreat

Register: To register please visit: <https://diabeteswa.com.au/professionals/training/training-for-health-professionals/diabetes-update-for-health-professionals/>.

NPS MedicineWise

NPS MedicineWise offer free, unbiased, RACGP/ACRRM accredited educational visits for GPs, practice nurses and pharmacists. The current topic on offer is Statins: optimising therapy, addressing intolerance - an independent round up of the latest evidence and guidelines, plus access to a new tool that facilitates a systematic and effective approach to managing suspected statin intolerance. NPS are also taking bookings for their next topic: Osteoarthritis: practical tools for diagnosis and management, available from November 2017.

If you would like to book an educational visit, please see the event flyer for more information:

http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/NPS_EV_Invite_Statins_Osteo_CSS.pdf

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.

Be MedicineWise Week – 21 – 27 August

Be MedicineWise Week is an NPS MedicineWise initiative aimed to help Australians make wise choices when using prescription, over-the-counter and complementary medicines. It encourages people to talk with their GPs about the medicines they've been prescribed and to follow the right advice to get the most out of their medicines. For further information please see the attached flyer: <http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Be-Medicinewise-Week-2017-Poster.pdf>

Website: <https://www.nps.org.au/medical-info/clinical-topics/news/be-medicinewise-week#downloads>

Daffodil Day – Friday, 25 August

Cancer Council's 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, 31st 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/>