

Practice Connect

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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.

Renewal of the National Cervical Screening Program

The Cervical Screening Online Training Modules aim to prepare healthcare providers for the changes to the National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP) and, are now available through NPS MedicineWise at:

<https://learn.nps.org.au/mod/page/view.php?id=7804>.

This comprehensive set of online training modules have been developed to provide training to all healthcare providers in the following areas:

- Changes to the NCSP
- Changes to practice and the cervical screening clinical pathway
- Communicating the importance of screening and test results to patients.

All six interactive online modules are accredited for CPD points with RACGP, ACRRM, ACN, ACM and APNA.

The modules cover:

- Cervical cancer
- Changes to the NCSP
- Communicating the importance of screening
- Screening in practice
- Understanding the screening pathway
- Communicating test results and patient management

The Cervical Screening Online Training Modules are based on the National Cervical Screening Program: Guidelines for the Management of Screen-Detected Abnormalities, Screening in Specific Populations and Investigation of Abnormal Vaginal Bleeding (2016 Guidelines). These can be found at:

http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Guidelines:Cervical_cancer/Screening.

The following website provides real life scenarios aimed at healthcare providers to assist them to understand the 2016 Guidelines:

http://wiki.cancer.org.au/australia/Guidelines:Cervical_cancer/Screening/E-learning.

Immunisation Update

The Immunise Australia Program have launched their “Get the facts – Immunisation Saves Lives” campaign. For excellent clinic resources and patient information please visit the following link:

<https://campaigns.health.gov.au/immunisationfacts>. For your practice's latest overdue immunisation information please contact your WAPHA Primary Health Liaison.



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HealthPathways WA 308 Live Pathways

HealthPathways Update

Visiting Medical Practitioners (VMPs)

Several non-tertiary metropolitan hospitals have private specialists with regular public procedural lists. In some cases, a referral to one of these private specialists, known as VMPs can result in care closer to home with a shorter wait time for both the initial appointment and the procedure.

Information on which hospitals have VMPs, and how GPs can refer to them directly, is now available on HealthPathways. VMP availability has been incorporated onto the non-acute request pages for the following specialties: Cardiology, ENT, Gastroenterology, Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Respiratory and Urology.

To access HealthPathways please follow the link below:

URL: <https://wa.healthpathways.org.au/>

Username: connected

Password: healthcare

As more specialty request pages are localised, VMP information will be incorporated onto those pages. Where VMPs are available at a hospital, a full list of their VMPs is also published on the hospital's website.

NPS MedicineWise Update

Osteoarthritis: practical tools for diagnosis and management

NPS MedicineWise are now taking bookings for their next free, CPD topic: *Osteoarthritis: practical tools for diagnosis and management*, available to be delivered at GP practices from November 2017.

The topic looks at the latest practical advice and resources that can help improve the quality of life for patients with osteoarthritis. This topic includes physical tests to assist with diagnosing osteoarthritis of the knee and hip, plus patient resources with information on exercises and weight management.

NPS MedicineWise educational visits are free and available as:

- One-on-one tailored discussion for GPs (30 minutes)
- Small group meetings for up to 10 health professionals – GPs, practice nurses and pharmacists (1 hour).

NPS MedicineWise educational visits are accredited for CPD points and recognised by the Practice Incentives Program Quality Prescribing Incentive (PIP QPI). For further information on NPS MedicineWise CPD please visit the NPS website at: <https://www.nps.org.au/cpd>.

Dementia Clinical Practice Guidelines

The Clinical Practice Guidelines and Principles of Care for People with Dementia (The Guidelines) provide health professionals and care workers with evidence-based recommendations about the care of people living with dementia and those being investigated for the possibility of dementia.

The Guidelines were developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council's Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre. A consumer companion guide has also been developed to complement the clinical guidelines to help consumers to be informed when being investigated or treated for dementia.

Please see the following links for the health professional and consumer guides which are available to download from the University of Sydney website.

- For health professionals – Clinical Practice Guidelines and Principles of Care for People with Dementia: http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/cdpc/documents/resources/CDPC-Dementia-Recommendations_WEB.pdf
- For consumers – Diagnosis, treatment and care for people with dementia: A consumer companion guide to the Clinical Practice Guidelines and Principles of Care for People with Dementia: <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/cdpc/documents/resources/Alzheimer%20Guideline%20Guide%202017%20WEB.pdf>

2018 Cervical Screening Scholarships for WA nurses and midwives

The WA Cervical Cancer Prevention Program are providing scholarships to nurses and midwives working in both the private and publicly funded sectors that are committed to delivering cervical screening services. The scholarships will cover the cost (theory and clinical practicum components) of attending the Sexual Health Quarters (SHQ) Cervical Screening for Nurses course. The theory component of this course will be delivered from the 12 – 15 February, 2018 in Perth with the clinical component to be confirmed by SHQ.

Applications for the 2018 Cervical Screening Scholarships close 4pm Friday, 22 September 2017.

For more information please visit the WA Health website at: http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/U_Z/WA-Cervical-Screening-Provider-Scholarships or email cervicalscreening@health.wa.gov.au.

Dose Administration Aid (DAA) Funding

There have been some recent changes to the DAA Program under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA) with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. From 1 July 2017, community pharmacies participating in the program will receive a fee of \$6 per patient per week as a contribution towards the cost of providing the service to eligible patients. To view these changes please visit the 6CPA website at: <http://6cpa.com.au/2017/06/important-6cpa-program-changes-from-1-july-2017/>.

To be eligible for a DAA Service funded under the 6CPA, a patient must satisfy the following mandatory eligibility criteria:

- Is a Medicare and/or Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) cardholder or a person who is eligible for a Medicare card;
- Is living at home in a community setting;
- Is a current government issued concession card holder; and
 - has difficulties managing their medications due to literacy or language issues, physical disability or cognitive difficulties; or
 - is taking five or more prescription medicines and is experiencing difficulties with medication management.

DAA's funded under this program are not available to patients receiving DAA's funded under other Federal or State and Territory government programs. Claims cannot be made for DAA's provided as part of the DVA DAA Program or the 6CPA QUMAX Program. The new Program Rules are available on the 6CPA website at: <http://6cpa.com.au/2017/06/important-6cpa-program-changes-from-1-july-2017/>.

These changes affect organisations who have been commissioned to provide the ITC program. Under the ITC guidelines, Supplementary Services should be used to fund medical aids that are not otherwise available in a clinically acceptable timeframe for ITC clients, and are not available through other funding sources.

Organisations commissioned to provide ITC services should consider the new arrangements of the 6CPA and the QUMAX program when allocating Supplementary Services funding for DAA's.

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/>.

headspace Early Youth Psychosis Program – 6 September

Professor Patrick McGorry, Executive Director of Orygen, Professor of Youth Mental Health at the University of Melbourne, and a Director of the Board of the National Youth Mental Health Foundation (headspace) will deliver a session focusing on Early Psychosis Services for young people.

Date: Wednesday, 6 September

Time: 9:30am – 11:30am

Venue: Churchlands Senior High School Concert Hall, 20 Lucca Street Churchlands, WA 6018

Cost: Free

Register: RSVP by Wednesday, 30 August to RegisterhYEPP@blackswanhealth.com.au. For more information please view the attached flyer: <http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Early-psychosis-event-invite.pdf>.

Spirometry Refresher Course – 16 September

WAPHA invites you to attend an upcoming Spirometry refresher training to help you understand the role of spirometry in your practice. These workshops aim to refresh Practice Nurses when diagnosing respiratory conditions in patients presenting at their practices. We kindly request participants to bring their spirometers where possible.

Date: Saturday, 16 September

Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

Venue: WAPHA, 2-5, 7 Tanunda Drive, Rivervale

Cost: Free

Register: Registrations are essential as places are limited. To register please go to: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/WAPrimaryHealthAlliance/SpirometryRefresherFullDayCourseTraining>. For more information please see the attached flyer: http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/170821_SpirometryRefresherCourses.pdf.

Spirometry Training Course – 14 October

The Spirometry Training Course provides comprehensive training in the application, measurement and interpretation of expiratory spirometry for nurses in general practice. The interactive workshop includes hands-on components to allow participants to apply their new knowledge in a practical setting. Participants will be required to complete pre-reading and we kindly request participants to bring their spirometers where possible.

Date: Saturday, 14 October

Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Venue: Secret Harbour Surf Life Saving Club, Secret Harbour Boulevard, Secret Harbour

Cost: Free

Register: Registrations are essential as places are limited. To register please go to: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/WAPrimaryHealthAlliance/SpirometryRefresherFullDayCourseTraining>. For more information please see the attached flyer: http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/171014_Invite_NACFullCourse.pdf.

Find Cancer Early Webinar Series for GPs – October

During the month of October, four specialists will present on the early detection and diagnosis of colorectal, lung, breast and, prostate cancers in general practice. These webinars are free and available to metro and regional GPs.

Date: Tuesday, 3 October, Thursday, 12 October, Thursday, 26 October & Tuesday, 31 October

Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Cost: Free

Register: For more details and to register please view the attached flyer: <http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017-08-22-FCE-Webinar-FLYER-print.pdf>.

Know Pain: A practical guide to persistent pain therapy – 18 & 19 November

This two-day workshop is relevant to health professionals who work with people in pain. It uses evidence-based educational methods to explore therapeutic neuroscience education from both clinical and educational perspectives. You will also learn how to apply these teaching skills within your practice setting.

Date: Saturday, 18 & Sunday, 19 November

Venue: Curtin University

Cost: \$495

Register: For more details and to register please contact mike@knowpain.co.uk or view the following flyer at: <http://knowpain.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Know-Pain-Curtin-University.pdf>.

Spirometry Refresher Course – 2 December

WAPHA invites you to attend an upcoming Spirometry refresher training to help you understand the role of spirometry in your practice. These workshops aim to refresh Practice Nurses when diagnosing respiratory conditions in patients presenting at their practices. We kindly request participants to bring their spirometers where possible.

Date: Saturday, 2 December

Time: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Venue: Currambine Community Centre, 64 Delamere Avenue, Currambine

Cost: Free

Register: Registrations are essential as places are limited. To register please go to: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/WAPrimaryHealthAlliance/SpirometryRefresherFullDayCourseTraining>. For more information please see the attached flyer: http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/170821_SpirometryRefresherCourses.pdf.

Advance Project – education opportunity for Practice Nurses

Advance is a free online toolkit of screening and assessment tools and a training package, specifically designed to support nurses in Australian general practices to work with GPs to initiate Advance Care Planning (ACP) and palliative care in everyday general practice.

The Advance Toolkit consists of six screening and assessment tools and a Guide, which indicates how to implement the screening tools in a systematic way in general practice.

For more details and how to register please see the following flyer at:

https://www.caresearch.com.au/Caresearch/Portals/0/Advance/ADV_Opportunity%20for%20Practice%20Nurses_Aug2017.pdf.

Medicare elearning modules

Through the Department of Human Services, Medicare has developed several online modules for health professionals on the Medicare Benefits Schedule, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, Child Dental Benefits Schedule, other Medicare programs and Health Professional Groups.

These free elearning modules can be accessed through the following website:

<http://medicareaust.com/eLearningGateway/Gateway/index.html>.

Curing Hepatitis C: An Update for Primary Care Providers webinar

Dr Claire Italiano, Infectious Diseases Physician at Royal Perth Hospital, presented the Curing Hepatitis C: An Update for Primary Care Providers webinar on 21 May 2017. The session highlights the treatment decision making process through case study discussions.

To learn about new direct acting antivirals (DAAs) that have minimal toxicities and can cure hepatitis C in the majority of people with 12 weeks of treatment for people who are treatment-naïve and have no cirrhosis please visit the following link to view the webinar recording at: <https://vimeo.com/219048160>.

These DAAs have been listed on the General Schedule (S85) and all registered medical practitioners can prescribe them, either in conjunction with a specialist experienced in hepatitis C treatment or independently if they have experience in hepatitis C treatment.

Prevent Liver Cancer: An Update in Hepatitis B for Primary Care Providers webinar

Dr Kaspar Willson, Physician Registrar at WA Country Health Service Kimberley, presented the Prevent Liver Cancer: An Update in Hepatitis B for Primary Care Providers face to face training and webinar in Broome on 13 December 2016.

The session highlights that prevalence rates of hepatitis B (HBV) are higher in Indigenous populations (3-4%) than non-Indigenous Australians born in Australia (<0.5%). Other risk populations include people born overseas in countries with intermediate or high HBV prevalence, such as Asia/Pacific, Africa/Middle East.

To learn how vaccination, early diagnosis, monitoring and appropriate management, including surveillance for hepatocellular carcinoma, can improve patient outcomes please visit the following link to view the webinar recording: <https://vimeo.com/196799001>.

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/>