



Practice Connect



Practice Assist
Strengthening general practice in WA

10 October 2017

Latest news and updates

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Key dates:

- 31 October: ePIP quarter closes.

Free State-wide Service to Support General Practice

Rural Health West and WAPHA have partnered to deliver a new state-wide general practice support service, Practice Assist.

The service, free of charge for WA general practices, builds on the existing practice support functions offered by both organisations.

Practice Assist offers the same high quality support as before but with a new level of choice of online, telephone and face-to-face services, all available from a single source.

Rural Health West and WAPHA came together over their shared aim to provide general practices with up-to-date, easy-to-access, effective practice and business support.

By joining forces to develop Practice Assist, general practices can conveniently access in one place the support they need to help them operate effectively and efficiently, and provide quality care.

Practices can access the latest information and updates on the Medicare Benefits Schedule, Practice Incentives Program, General Practice Accreditation and other support via the Practice Assist Help Desk 1800 2 277 478 (toll free) or email support@practiceassist.com.au.

Practices can continue to receive face-to-face support through Primary Health Liaison officers by contacting the Help Desk.

Support provided by Practice Assist includes;

- Medicare Benefits Schedule
- Practice Incentives Program
- Chronic disease care planning
- Practice manager networking opportunities
- Digital health including the My Health Record and telehealth
- Fact sheets and training on new initiatives
- Continuing professional development of non-clinical staff
- Government incentives
- Using practice data for continuous quality improvement

For more information about Practice Assist visit www.practiceassist.com.au.

1800 2 ASSIST (1800 2 277 478) | support@practiceassist.com.au | www.practiceassist.com.au



WA Primary Health Alliance is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the PHN Program.

Rural Health West is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and the WA Country Health Service.

HealthPathways Update

HealthPathways WA have now reached **317** live pathways. The most recently published pathways are:

- Acute Rheumatic Fever
- Exercise Physiology Requests
- Physical Health Check for Mental Health Patients
- Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases

Diabetes Telehealth Endocrinology Service

The new Diabetes Telehealth Endocrinology Service information has been added to HealthPathways for each Country WA region. This service is a partnership between Diabetes WA, WA Country Health Service, and WAPHA. This service aims to reduce the gap of endocrinology services in regional and remote WA, and allows patients to attend specialist appointments while remaining in their community. For health professionals, the request information links to telehealth Medicare MBS items that can be claimed if they are required to attend the appointment with the patient.

This information can be found on the Non-acute Diabetes Assessment page:

<https://wa.healthpathways.org.au/70269.htm>.

Digital Health Update

Central Referral Service now on HealthLink

The Central Referral Service (CRS) run by WA Health is now able to accept referrals via secure messaging provider HealthLink.

GPs can therefore now send referrals electronically using the HealthLink ID 'crefserv' directly from their clinical software (where compatible) without the need to print and fax forms.

If you are unsure if your practice and GPs are set up to use HealthLink you can contact the HealthLink team on 1800 125 036, complete an application online and return by fax.

The online application form can be found here:

<https://register.healthlink.net/ServiceApplicationForm/saf1.jsp?countryId=1&state=8>.

HealthLink also maintains a directory to ensure that messages are received by the right practice, so it is also important to keep your practice's information up to date, especially if any GPs have joined or left your practice. To update your practice's information, contact the HealthLink team as above.

ePIP Reminder

The current ePIP quarter closes on 31 October.

Last quarter saw a drop in Shared Health Summary uploads across WA and WAPHA are aware that several practices did not meet their upload targets. All practices must remember that the ePIP applies to uploads of Shared Health Summaries only (not event summaries or patient registrations) and that your upload target is just 0.5% of your SWPE.

Your Primary Health Liaison can assist your practice if required, including helping to calculate your target and checking your upload progress with the activity data provided by the Australian Digital Health Agency.

WA Child Ear Health Strategy 2017-2021 Released

Most children will, by the time they reach school age, have had at least one episode of Acute Otitis Media (AOM). While the vast majority of cases of AOM will resolve spontaneously, there are high-risk population groups who are vulnerable to recurrent and persistent otitis media. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, in remote areas of Australia, have one of the highest prevalence of chronic suppurative otitis media (CSOM) in the world. The long-term effects of conductive hearing loss on language, literacy, cognitive and social development in children with chronic ear disease should not be underestimated.

The WA Child Ear Health Strategy responds with the aim of addressing key issues and gaps in the State's ear health sector. While not excluding other children vulnerable to persistent and chronic ear conditions, the strategy recognises the importance of a primary focus on Aboriginal children aged 0-10 years and the appropriate programs and services designed to respond to Aboriginal community needs. Aboriginal children can experience their first onset within weeks of birth.

The 2017-2021 strategy has seven Strategic Priorities considered critical to address the needs and gaps. Working groups have also been put in place to address each of the below priorities:

- Enhanced Prevention
- Standardised Surveillance
- Consistent Treatment
- Workforce Development
- Program Evaluation
- Coordination and Partnerships
- Comprehensive Evidence

To view the WA Child Ear Health Strategy 2017-2021 please visit the following weblink:

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/75d7f49b-f774-411e-952c-2b9102c9c75d>.

Help Available for GPs to Support Drug Seeking Patients

WAPHA has recently been alerted to drug seeking behaviour in the Perth South PHN. People experience problems with all types of drugs including over the counter and prescription medications for pain relief. GPs are often a point of contact for individuals and their families who may need help and support with drug use.

It is illegal to prescribe S8 medications to a registered drug user. Prior to prescribing an S8 or controlled medicine to a patient who is not previously known to the GP or practice it is recommended that practitioners:

- Record the patient's identity and where possible verify against an official source of photo identification (e.g. driver's licence).
- Contact the **S8 Prescriber Information Service on (08) 9222 4424** for a prescription history and regulatory advice.

Note: This information is provided under the authority of the Medicines and Poisons Act 2014. Information will only be provided to an authorised health professional and only relating to a patient under the care of that practitioner. Any information provided may not be used for any other purpose than for assisting with the management of the patient.

For further information, and to find out how what GPs can do to support their patients please view the following attachment: <http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/170824-GP-S8-Referral.docx>

Find Cancer Early for General Practitioners

Cancer Council WA has launched 'Find Cancer Early: A Guide for General Practitioners.' This tool is designed to assist WA GPs in the early diagnosis of patients with colorectal, lung, prostate and breast cancer. The guide utilises an evidence-based approach to recognise cancer symptoms earlier. The guide incorporates risk assessment tools (positive predictive value tables) developed from the CAPER studies by Professor William Hamilton and colleagues at Cancer Research UK.

The guide accompanies a short video for GPs explaining how to incorporate the guide into clinical practice, and a WA Cancer Referral Directory. The WA Cancer Referral Directory provides regional and metropolitan referral contacts of cancer specialists, multidisciplinary assessment clinics and services.

To access the guide and referral directory please visit the weblink below via the Find Cancer Early: GP Education Page: <https://www.cancerwa.asn.au/gp/fce>.

Education and Training

My Health Record Secondary Use of Data Framework Webinars – October & November

The My Health Record system allows you to share your important health information securely online with registered healthcare providers – from anywhere, at any time. It can include information from Medicare, prescription data, and test results. The Australian Government is consulting with the public about how data in the My Health Record system may be used in future. A public consultation process is currently underway to gather feedback and questions regarding this use of data including the following webinars.

Date: Thursday, 12 October or Thursday 16 November,
Time: 7:30am – 9:00am or 9:30am – 10:30am
Cost: Free
Register: To register for the October webinar please visit:
http://www.webcasts.com.au/healthconsult_121117/.
To register for the November webinar, please visit:
<https://chf.org.au/events/webinar-secondary-use-my-health-record-data>.

Advances in Skeletal & Mineral Medicine – 21 October

This clinical meeting is for medical practitioners who wish to update their knowledge in the common issues of bone and mineral disorders, presenting as growth disorders and fracture in childhood, and as fractures, bone pain and deformity in adults.

Date: Saturday, 21 October
Time: 8:15am – 4:00pm
Venue: Hyatt Regency, Perth WA
Cost: Free
Register: For further information, and to register please visit:
<http://www.arthritiswa.org.au/events/details/id/646/>.

Benchmark Courses – Otitis Media Management Program – October & November

This course is designed to develop the knowledge and skills required for health professionals working in Indigenous health to safely assess the aural health of individuals and implement best practice guidelines.

Date: Tuesday, 24 October or Saturday, 11 November
Time: 8:45am – 4:30pm
Venue: Trinity on Hampden, 230 Hampden Road, Crawley WA 6009 or St John Ambulance Centre: Esperance Sub Centre 54 Windich Street Esperance, WA 6450
Cost: Free
Register: For further information, and to register please see the following flyers
Crawley: <http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/OM-Crawley-24-October-2017.pdf>
Esperance: <http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/OM-Esperance-11-November-2017.pdf>

NPS MedicineWise Update – 25 October

NPS MedicineWise invites GPs, Practice Managers and Practice Nurses to learn about the benefits of using data for quality improvement strategies in general practice. The evening will provide an opportunity to see how a clinical data analysis tool can help your practice target patients who most need care. This activity has been submitted for accreditation by the RACGP for 4 (Category 2) points and by the ACRRM for 2 Core points.

Date: Wednesday, 25 October

Time: 6pm – 8pm
Venue: 2-5, 7 Tanunda Drive, Rivervale, WA 6103
Cost: Free
Register: Please register your interest by emailing Nicole Humphry at Nicole.humphry@wapha.org.au or calling 08 6272 4921.

Benchmark Course – Aural (Ear) Health – 27 October

This course provides students with the ability to apply a board knowledge of management strategies, client centred education and related physical functions to health promotion, and provision of basic care and advice in relation to aural health.

Date: Friday, 27 October
Time: 8:45am – 4:30pm
Venue: Vincent Room, Rendezvous Hotel Perth, 148 The Esplanade Scarborough, WA 6019
Cost: \$475.00
Register: For further information, and to register please visit: <https://www.benchmarkeq.com.au/login?next=/course-enrolment/512629>.

CPD Event – Building Collaborative Care Forum – 1 November

WAPHA and Armadale Health Service invite GPs and Practice Nurses to attend the 'Building Collaborative Care Forum'. The forum will include presentations about HealthPathways, My Health Record, and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Date: Wednesday, 1 November 2017
Time: 5:30pm – 8:30pm
Venue: Champion Lakes Christian Church, 30 Brant Road, Kelmscott WA 6111
Cost: Free
Register: For more information, and to register please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/building-collaborative-care-forum-tickets-36995844567>.

My Health Record Secondary Use of Data Framework Live Workshop – 7 November

A public consultation process is currently underway to gather feedback and questions regarding the use of My Health Record data through a live workshop. An online survey will also be made available as well as a Public Consultation Paper. Written submissions can be made by either email or post. For more information visit the public consultation website:

<http://www.myhealthrecorddata.healthconsult.com.au/public-consultations/>.

Date: Tuesday, 7 November
Time: 10:30am – 12:00pm
Venue: Novotel Perth Langley, 221 Adelaide Terrace Perth WA 6000
Cost: Free
Register: For further information, and to register please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/my-health-record-secondary-use-workshop-8-perth-wa-tickets-38373815114>.

Benchmark Course – Nutrition Support Program – 7 November

This course is designed to provide skills and knowledge for a range of health professionals and others working within Indigenous Health to provide detailed information and advice in relation to nutrition and dietary management.

Date: Tuesday, 7 November

Time: 8:45am – 4:30pm
Venue: WAPHA Kalgoorlie, 3/47 Egan Street Kalgoorlie, WA 6430
Cost: Free
Register: For further information, and to register please see visit:
<https://www.benchmarkeq.com.au/login?next=/course-enrolment/513306>.

Benchmark Course – Foot Health Assessment Program - November

This course is designed to provide skills and knowledge for a range of health professionals and others working within Indigenous Health to provide detailed information and advice in relation to foot health management.

Date: Wednesday, 8 November or Friday, 10 November
Time: 8:45am – 4:30pm
Venue: WAPHA Kalgoorlie, 3/47 Egan Street Kalgoorlie, WA 6340 or Bay of Isles Community Outreach 4-6/56 The Esplanade Esperance, WA 6450
Cost: Free
Register: For further information, and to register please see the following flyers
Kalgoorlie: <http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/FOOT-HEALTH-Kalgoorlie-8-November-2017.pdf>
Esperance: <http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/FOOT-HEALTH-Esperance-10-November-2017.pdf>

Benchmark Course – Wound Closure and Suturing – 9 & 10 November

This course is designed to provide the skills and knowledge to determine the best wound closure technique for a wound to achieve durability, simplicity, excellent cosmetic outcomes, and overall patient satisfaction.

Date: Thursday 9 and Friday 10 November
Time: 8:45am – 4:30pm
Venue: Ellis Room, Trinity on Hampden, 230 Hampden Road, Crawley WA 6009
Cost: \$1245.00
Register: For further information, and to register please visit:
<https://www.benchmarkeq.com.au/login?next=/course-enrolment/517251>.

Hip, Hip, Hoorah: Renewed Hip Osteoarthritis Management for Young & Old – 2 November

GPs, Physiotherapists and Allied Health Professionals are invited to dinner to learn more about recent surgical advancements in the treatment of hip arthritis as they present in General Practice.

Date: Thursday, 2 November
Time: 6:30pm – 9:30pm
Venue: Kailis Bros., 101 Oxford Street Leederville, WA 6007
Cost: Free
Register: For further information, and to register please view the following flyer:
<http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/11-Nov-2-Interactive-Ortho-Hip-Invite-Lachlan-Milne.pdf>

AGPAL Workshops – just a hop, skip and a jump to the RACGP Standards 5th edition – 22 November

These workshops will highlight the changes between the 4th and 5th edition RACGP Standards, outline the new Standards structure and concepts, identify and interpret the new 5th edition indicators and will allow for award of professional development points.

Date: Wednesday, 22 November

Cost: AGPAL client \$180; Non-AGPAL client \$240 & Primary Health Network staff \$180
Register: For further information, and to register please visit:
<https://www.agpal.com.au/hop-skip-jump-racgp-standards-5th-edition/>.

Cervical and bowel cancer screening update – 28 November

This workshop will provide an update for GPs on upcoming changes to the National Cervical Screening Program and the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program, how to prepare for the transition and support improvements in participation.

Date: Tuesday, 28 November 2017
Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Venue: The Bendat Parent & Community Centre, 36 Dodd Street, Wembley
Cost: Free
Register: For further information, and to register please see the attached flyer:
<http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2017-09-21-Cancer-Screening-update-flyer.pdf>

Technology in the Health Arena – 1 December

Hosted by the Australian Association of Practice Management (AAPM), these workshops aim to keep Practice Managers up to date on technology in healthcare, how it will affect them and their team and prepare the practice for potential risks.

Date: Friday, 1 December 2017
Time: 12:00pm – 5:00pm
Venue: Metro Hotel Perth, 61 Canning Highway, South Perth WA 6151
Cost: AAPM Members/Staff \$80 & Non AAPM Members \$130
Register: For further information, and to register please visit:
[http://www.aapm.org.au/Education-Events/Events-Calendar/ctl/Details/Mid/2740/ItemID/342?ContainerSrc=\[G\]Containers/Choices-Tomato/NoTitle](http://www.aapm.org.au/Education-Events/Events-Calendar/ctl/Details/Mid/2740/ItemID/342?ContainerSrc=[G]Containers/Choices-Tomato/NoTitle)

Health Promotion Events in October

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

Breast Cancer Awareness Month - October

Breast Cancer Awareness Month aims to increase breast awareness amongst both health professionals and consumers. This website includes information on breast cancer risk factors, how to be breast aware and, information on breast cancer in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. BreastScreen WA have also launched a support kit with resources and information of how you and your practice can become involved in promotion of breast cancer awareness. To access the support kit please visit the following weblink:

<http://www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au/~media/BSWA/Brochures/BreastScreenWASupporterKit.ashx>.

Website: <https://canceraustralia.gov.au/healthy-living/campaigns-events/breast-cancer-awareness-month>

Mental Health Week – 7 – 14 October

This year's Mental Health Week theme is 'Connect with nature, connect with community, connect with self for mental wellbeing'. This website includes ideas on how to get involved in the national event, resources and information on how to register an event.

Website: <https://mhw.waamh.org.au/>

World Mental Health Day – 10 October

World Mental Health Day aims to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness and encourage people to seek help. This website includes ideas on how to get involved in the national event, way to make a promise or commitment to shed a more positive light on mental health and where to register an event.

Website: <https://1010.org.au/>

Pink Ribbon Day – October

Pink Ribbon Day fundraisers can be held throughout October and contribute to helping further cancer research and improved treatments and prevention to reduce breast and gynaecological cancers in women. This website contains resources, information on how to host and register an event, fundraise and sell Pink Ribbon merchandise.

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