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RELIEF FOR FLOOD-AFFECTED GENERAL PRACTICES

Important Notice from AGPAL

In recognition that the coming year will be an extremely challenging time, AGPAL is able to assist flood affected general practices undergoing accreditation over the next year via its Exceptional Circumstances Policy, supported by the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA).

This policy applies to general practices that have been required to relocate to other premises or those which have been affected in any way by the flooding.

Under this DoHA supported policy, AGPAL is able to provide 'deemed accreditation' – which will enable the practice to retain access to Medicare's Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) scheme – while also allowing the practice to defer their survey visit for a period up to 12 months. (A general practice is required to have an on-site survey visit which involves two surveyors visiting the practice once every accreditation cycle which is a three year period).

For more detailed information, please contact AGPAL directly once they are up-and-running again following their own flood woes.

For more information see: <http://www.gip.com.au/news.asp?j=272>

HEALTH REFORM UPDATE

Medicare Locals

The Commonwealth has now reached agreement with six States and Territories on the boundaries for Medicare Locals. The Commonwealth has extended the time for the resolution of the ML and LHN boundaries with the new Victorian Government until the end of January. To date WA is still not participating. The boundaries maps for Medicare Local are available at: <http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/>

Divisions of General Practice have been invited apply to become Medicare Locals and workshops are currently being planned to support Divisions to prepare applications. The workshops will be an opportunity for participants to review the criteria and application process to ensure there is a full understanding of what is required.



Divisions are encouraged to cut and paste relevant articles from this newsletter for their practice newsletters, acknowledging the original source. (There is no need to acknowledge the 10 Minute Update.)



Local Health Networks

NSW Local Health Networks formally commenced on 1 January 2011 and will transition to full operation over the next six months. Information about each LHN, including boundary maps, structure, functions, CEO and Governing Council members, and contact details can be found at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/lhn/>.

The latest LHN Chief Executive to be announced late last year is Terry Clout for South Eastern Sydney. Two Executives members remain in acting roles.

Lead implementation eHealth sites

Applications for the second round of lead implementation eHealth sites which include testing personally controlled electronic health records are now closed. Over 90 applications were lodged to implement the second wave. Tenders represented healthcare organisations, medical professional groups as well as national and regional industry. Three first-round lead implementation sites in North Brisbane, the eastern suburbs of Melbourne and the Hunter urban health area are already planning to deploy and test eHealth infrastructure and standards in real-life healthcare settings based around general practice. The second-waves eHealth sites aim to expand upon existing work and cover situations for health consumers, general practitioners, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, pharmacies, hospitals and aged-care homes. The federal health minister will announce the number and location of selected sites early this year.

POLICY

Caring for older Australians report

At 30 June 2010, over 160 000 Australians received permanent residential care, with the majority receiving high level care. The Draft Report into the Caring for Older Australians inquiry was released on Friday 21 January. Among the recommendations is a call for a new independent regulatory commission to transparently recommend to the Government the price for care services, be responsible for quality accreditation, and address complaints.

The report is available from the Commission's website at <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/aged-care/draft>.

Nicotine replacement therapy available for concession card holders

From 1 February 2011, concession card holders will be able to access nicotine patches on the PBS.

See: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr202.htm>

Medicare provider enquiry line

The options on the Medicare Provider Enquiry Line have changed. The changes will make it easier for health professionals to directly access staff that can deal with complex enquiries such as the interpretation of Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item numbers. There now is a dedicated option for MBS item interpretation in response to feedback.

Medicare Provider Enquiry Line: 132 150,

See: www.medicareaustralia.gov.au or email medicare.prov@medicareaustralia.gov.au.



National Women's Health Policy 2010: New directions for improving women's health

This new National Policy prioritises preventing chronic disease among women and focuses on maintaining and developing health services and prevention programs.

See: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/national%20womens%20health-1>

PROGRAMS

Beat It: Physical Activity and Lifestyle Program

Australian Diabetes Council's Beat It: Physical Activity and Lifestyle Program provides GP's and other health professionals with a suitable physical activity option for patients who might have or be at risk of chronic diseases. It is low cost and easy to refer to. It can also be delivered in conjunction with existing patient support programs such as LMP's, enhanced primary care plans and Type 2 Group education programs. Currently there are 12 regions across Australia which have been funded however further regions will be announced in April 2011.

Visit the Beat It webpage at www.beat-it.com.au or call our Customer care line on 1300 DIABETES (1300 342 238).

CAMPAIGNS

Cancer Institute NSW new campaign may increase general practice skin check requests

The Cancer Institute NSW will be launching the Wes Bonny Testimonial campaign on Sunday 23 January. The campaign will be broadcast on television, radio and in cinemas throughout NSW through late March. The campaign tells the true story of Wes Bonny, who at the young age of 26 died of melanoma. The campaign features Wes' parents, brothers and friends who recount their experiences of Wes' life, diagnosis and death. The campaign call-to-action focuses on skin cancer prevention and sun protection. It acknowledges that people know how to protect themselves from the sun and challenges them to be more vigilant about their sun protection behaviour. However, the campaign may also encourage people to get their skin checked. Thus, the campaign may increase demand for skin cancer checks over the coming months.

The campaign materials may be previewed on YouTube and posters are available free of charge.

Email prevention@cancerinstitute.org.au or Ph:(02)8374 5600 requests.

ABORIGINAL HEALTH

Remote communities share their stories through video

A selection of videos made in communities identified under the Council of Australian Governments' National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery. Under this agreement, governments have signed up to a concentrated and accelerated approach to tackle deep-seated disadvantage in 29 remote Indigenous locations across Australia, 15 of which are in the Northern Territory. <http://www.indigenous.gov.au/About/Pages/video.aspx>



Naidoc Week 2011 - Change: the Next Step is Ours

Communities across the country are encouraged to get involved in this year's National Aborigines and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) celebrations to be held from 3 to 10 July.

The theme of this year's NAIDOC Celebrations is Change: the next step is ours. The theme reflects the work being done by Indigenous people across the country who are taking responsibility for their own future and shaping the changes they want to see in their communities. The annual NAIDOC awards ceremony will be held in Sydney on 8 July. Nominations for the 10 award categories awards close on 29 April. The annual poster competition which closes on 1 April includes a \$5,000 prize for the winning design which will be displayed across Australia in workplaces, schools and community organisations.

For entry forms and information on NAIDOC Week, visit <http://www.naidoc.org.au/>.

Aboriginal Diabetes Education Tool Feltman

This resource was developed by Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and Diabetes Australia - Victoria to assist Aboriginal Health Workers to explain what happens in the body of someone who has diabetes. Feltman is a teaching resource designed for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community that can be used to discuss diabetes prevention and management. The resource consists of a life sized-felt body that shows the main organs involved in the digestion and metabolism of food, and the main parts of the body affected by diabetes. The Feltman resource package includes flash cards representing risk factors, symptoms, prevention, management and foods relevant to diabetes management and the prevention of type 2 diabetes. Stick-on discs representing glucose, insulin and ketones will assist AHWs to explain and simplify the physiology of diabetes.

For further information contact Colin Mitchell Diabetes Australia- Victoria via email at cmitchell@diabetesvic.org.au.

Aboriginal Health Research Conference- 'Research for a better Future'

This conference will showcase Aboriginal Health Research and promote community, research and policy engagement and exchange in Aboriginal health, to allow communities to describe their health and research priorities and to provide opportunities for sharing information and establishing collaborations among Aboriginal community members, researchers and policy makers. The conference will be held on 5 - 6 May 2011, in Sydney.

Submit abstracts by **31 January 2011**.

Further information contact Julie McGraw at jmcgraw@gemspl.com.au.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Better Futures 2011-2014 funding

Better Futures provides grants to community-based not for profit organisations and local government for projects which support social inclusion strategies. The aim of Better Futures is to improve support and services for children and young people aged 9 to 18 years who are at risk of disengaging from community, school, family or friends.

Closing date is **27 January 2011**.

Guidelines can be found at http://www.communities.nsw.gov.au/betterfutures/bf_funding.asp.



Dementia Community Support Grants

This national program provides funding for local community projects to improve dementia literacy, encourage innovation in the dementia care sector, bridge social gaps and encourage the social participation of people with dementia, their families and carers across Australia. Grants are for up to 12 months in duration with funding of up to \$50,000 per Grant. Applications close at 2pm on **10 February 2011**.

See: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/grantITA1921011>

Diversity and Social Cohesion Program grants

Funding of up to \$50 000 is available to community organisations to develop projects that aim to address issues of cultural, racial or religious intolerance or to develop community capacity-building skills under the Diversity and Social Cohesion Program.

Applications must be lodged by the **31 January 2011** to be considered for the first round of offers. A second round of applications closes on the **31 March 2011**.

See: <http://www.harmony.gov.au/funding/dscp-grants/apply/>

NSW SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS PROGRAMS

Sexual Health Nursing Courses

The College of Nursing, with ASHM, are offering 2 courses in Sexual Health Nursing in 2011; Principles and practices, and Clinical practice. Scholarships are available to NSW nurses.

For more information go to: http://www.ashm.org.au/default2.asp?active_page_id=134

Evaluation of GP resources

Over the last two-and-a-half years, NSW STIPU has developed resources to be delivered to GPs and Practice Nurses through a variety of means, including clinical guides and educational modules in text, image and audio formats. The multidisciplinary research team will conduct a process and an impact evaluation to look at whether these resources inform clinical practice. The research team will consult with individuals and stakeholders who developed, used, and perhaps did not use the resources to further inform the GP Project. This will be done through online surveys, interviews and focus groups.

Want to learn more about the project or to be involved? Please contact: Professor Jenny Reath - J.Reath@uws.edu.au or Dr Ann Dadich - A.Dadich@uws.edu.au.

RESOURCES

Integrated Chronic Disease Management Online Clearinghouse

The ADMA Integrated Chronic Disease Management Online Clearinghouse stores practical resources and tools relevant to disease management services, plus brief explanations of their development and use, which have been uploaded by their authors where others can then search and access them.

Go to: <http://clearinghouse.adma.org.au/>



Updated Heart Foundation hypertension guidelines now online

Minor amendments have been incorporated into the Guide to management of hypertension 2008 full guideline and quick reference guide and these are now available online. Please follow the links to download the updated versions.

Full guideline:

www.heartfoundation.org.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/A_Hypert_Guidelines2008_2010Update_FINAL.pdf

Quick reference guide:

www.heartfoundation.org.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/A_Hypert_Guidelines2008_QRG_2010Update_FINAL.pdf

New resources from the National Prescribing Service

Tips for overcoming eyesight trouble to safely manage medicines

Many people find their eyesight deteriorates as they get older, which can make it difficult to read the small print on medicine labels. This in turn can make it harder to manage medicines, leading to medicine mix ups and subsequent health problems. The latest issue of MedicinesTalk, includes tips for identifying and storing medicines, and sourcing accurate information to help make life easier for people with eyesight problems.

http://www.nps.org.au/consumers/publications/medicines_talk/medicines_talk_no_35_spring_2010

Independent reviews of new medicines for diabetes, osteoporosis and pain relief

The latest edition of NPS Medicine Update is out now and provides consumers with independent reviews of new medicines including a review of a new pain relief combination available from pharmacies - Paracetamol and Caffeine (brand name Panadol Extra). To read the full reviews, which includes how these medicines differ from existing similar medicines, go to www.nps.org.au/medicineupdate.

New free monthly newsletter

Diabetes Educators Update is a new free monthly newsletter for Australian Diabetes Educators. Launching in February, each issue will include the latest clinical news on the treatment and prevention of diabetes as well as the latest developments in diabetes self-management education and support.

To register for a free subscription go to: <http://reedbusiness.com.au/diabetes/diabetes.asp>.

New health fact sheets for the intellectually disabled

The NSW Council for Intellectual Disability has developed some new health fact sheets. The fact sheets provide information on how to stay healthy and get good health care. Two versions of the Fact Sheets have been developed, one in Easy English aimed at people with an intellectual disability and one in Standard English aimed at families, advocates, disability workers and other professionals who work with people with intellectual disability. Some topics include: Diagnosis and Assessment; Mental Health; Signs of Sickness; Ageing and Health.

Visit www.nswcid.org.au or Ph: 1800 424 065.

Working with and supporting informal carers

The Benevolent Society and the Centre for Health Service Development, University of Wollongong have teamed to produce a Research to Practice Briefing that provides support workers with up-to-date information and a guide to understanding what help they can provide that will really make a difference to carers.

<http://www.bensoc.org.au/uploads/documents/research-to-practice-briefing5-informal-carers.pdf>



RESEARCH

BEACH Study Data

The Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH) program is a continuous cross-sectional national study of general practice activity that began in April 1998. Every year approximately 1,000 randomly selected GPs participate. Each GP records details of 100 consecutive patient encounters on structured paper recording forms.

Visit: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2010/mr20101208.cfm>

Avoiding hospital admissions – what does the research evidence say?

Avoiding emergency hospital admissions is a major concern for governments because of the high and rising costs of emergency presentations and hospital admissions compared with other forms of care, but also because of the disruption it causes to elective surgery. This research reviews the evidence to establish which interventions work in avoiding emergency or unplanned hospital admissions. <http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/document.rm?id=8877>

EDUCATION

Asthma courses

The Asthma Foundation NSW is running practice nurse education in 2011. Some of the courses the Asthma Foundation will be running are Introduction to Spirometry course and an Asthma Update course. All courses will be held at the Asthma Foundation in St Leonards, NSW. However, the Asthma Foundation will hold courses around the State for groups of 8 or more from expression of interest. Contact sovens@asthmafoundation.org.au for booking forms for the courses.



WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES 2011

February	
4	<p>Musculoskeletal Forum John Lowenthal Auditorium, Westmead Hospital Friday 4 February 2011</p> <p>The Forum is targeting health practitioners in public or private settings, researchers, policy makers, consumers and their organisations. Topics will include care of osteoarthritis, fracture prevention models, juvenile rheumatology, MSK education.</p> <p>For more information on this free forum, please contact robyn.speerin@aci.health.nsw.gov.au or go to: http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/gmct/musculoskeletal/index.asp</p>
9	<p>The Great Election Debate: Public Health in NSW NSW Branch of the Public Health Association of Australia University of Sydney 9 February 2011</p> <p>The NSW Branch of the Public Health Association of Australia, in partnership with the Menzies Centre for Health Policy, and the NSW Branch of the Australian Health Promotion Association. The Great Election Debate: Public Health in NSW is designed to enable one candidate from each of the major parties to answer key questions and provide information on party policies on public health ahead of the NSW election on 26 March 2011.</p> <p>http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/email/NSWTheGreatElectionDebateDiaryDate.pdf</p>
March	
5 – 6	<p>Future of General Practice: conference New England Division of General Practice Armidale 5 & 6 March 2011</p> <p>The New England Division of General Practice invites General Practitioners, Practice Managers, Practice Nurses and Practice Staff to attend this conference, which aims to support practices to run the business more efficiently; get more out of the practice; work with staff effectually; plan for the financial sustainability; manage risk better and understand the changing environment of the healthcare sector and its' impact.</p> <p>Registrations close 20 February.</p> <p>To find out more or secure your place go to www.nedgp.org.au or contact Kyra Moss on 02 6771 1146</p>
April	
4 – 6	<p>Communicable Disease Control Conference 2011 Public Health Association of Australia Inc (PHAA) Location: Hotel Realm, Canberra 4 – 6 April 2011</p> <p>Sponsorship and Exhibition packages available upon requests. Please contact Janine Turnbull, marketing@phaa.net.au or 02 62852373.</p>



<p>7 – 9</p>	<p>APNA National Conference 2011 - Roadmap for the Future – Great Expectations APNA Location: Hilton Hotel Sydney – 488 George Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 7 – 9 April 2011</p> <p>After the outstanding success of its first two conferences (<i>The Right Stuff</i> and <i>Golden Opportunities</i>), APNA will be holding a third, inspiring conference in 2011. The conference, 'Roadmap for the Future - Great Expectations' will feature renowned keynote speakers, interactive master classes, extensive opportunities to network with practice nurses from around Australia, and much more. Registrations are now open for the conference.</p> <p>For more information, and to view the full program and submit a registration, please visit www.apna.asn.au/conference.</p> <p>If you have any queries please contact the conference organisers Baldwin Consulting Group on (03) 9645 9858 or liz@baldwinconsulting.com.au.</p>
<p>May</p>	
<p>5 – 6</p>	<p>Aboriginal Health Research Conference-‘Research for a better Future’ 5 - 6 May 2011</p> <p>This conference will showcase Aboriginal Health Research and promote community, research and policy engagement and exchange in Aboriginal health, to allow communities to describe their health and research priorities and to provide opportunities for sharing information and establishing collaborations among Aboriginal community members, researchers and policy makers. The conference will be held on 5 - 6 May 2011, in Sydney.</p> <p>Submit abstracts by 31 January 2011.</p> <p>Further information contact Julie McGraw jmcgraw@gemspl.com.au.</p>
<p>July</p>	
	<p>Naidoc Week 2011 - Change: the Next Step is Ours 3 – 10 July</p> <p>Communities across the country are encouraged to get involved in this year’s National Aborigines and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) celebrations to be held from 3 to 10 July.</p> <p>The theme of this year’s NAIDOC Celebrations is Change: the next step is ours. The theme reflects the work being done by Indigenous people across the country who are taking responsibility for their own future and shaping the changes they want to see in their communities. The annual NAIDOC awards ceremony will be held in Sydney on 8 July. Nominations for the 10 award categories awards close on 29 April. The annual poster competition which closes on 1 April includes a \$5,000 prize for the winning design which will be displayed across Australia in workplaces, schools and community organisations.</p> <p>For entry forms and information on NAIDOC Week, visit http://www.naidoc.org.au/.</p>



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Phone: 02 9239 2900.

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