

GP NSW Closing the Gap Update – April 2011

NEWS FLASH!

RACGP Cultural Awareness Training

The online activity is going through its very final stages and the plan is for it to be available via the RACGP gplearning (for members) and ClinEd (for PIP participants) websites from Monday April 4th.

RACGP will be making the educational criteria available on Thursday 7 April, and they will become operational in 1 July. So external providers have until then to prepare for the new criteria.

GP NSW has asked RACGP to advise as soon as the online training is “live” and also for access for Division staff.

Funding Opportunity

The Local Community Campaigns to Promote Better Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

As some people have missed this advice previously it is reproduced here.

Grants are now available for Healthy Community Days and also for Local Community Campaigns to promote better Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. This is a measure within the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package.

Proposals are being sought from organisations to host Healthy Community Days in collaboration with other community organisations in their areas. The Healthy Community Days are a great opportunity for community members to acknowledge the chronic diseases that directly affect them and their community, and look at ways of addressing and preventing them. Communities will have the opportunity to develop and run the healthy community day, with Cox Inall Ridgeway (contracted by Department of Health and Ageing for this project) providing support and resources where required. Examples of what can be provided by this funding are food, transport for attendees, shade, hats, pedometers, water bottles, aprons and calico bags. These funds are available now.

Proposals are also being sought from organisations to run Local Community Campaigns to promote better Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. The funders are looking for projects that show partnerships between service providers, that address the key messages around giving up smoking, healthy eating, doing physical exercise and having regular health checks, and that are sustainable. Grants are for between \$5,000 and \$50,000, and proposals only need to be about ½ a page long and talk about the audience, the message and the cost. The applications for the first round close on 29th April, the 2nd round opens in early June.

Program guidelines and fact sheets can be found at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ctg/publishing.nsf/Content/local-indigenous-community-campaigns-to-promote-better-health>

For more information please don't hesitate to contact: Sharon at Cox Inall Ridgeway, Ph: 8204 3777

General News

GP NSW CtG Training Day and State Workshop

Thank you to those who were able to attend the Closing the Gap workshop last week. Please take to the time to complete the evaluation; your feedback is invaluable in putting together a program for the next workshop. This link will take you to the evaluation. <http://survey.gpnsw.com.au:8080/survey/entry.jsp?id=1301283526811>

We have had approval from the presenters for most of the presentations to go on the GP NSW website. The presentations have been sent to our web expert to load. We also have Olivia working furiously typing up the notes from the various round table sessions. These will also be posted to the GP NSW website.

As part of the DoHA Contract for Closing the Gap; Better Access to Primary Care GP NSW is required to hold two workshops per year, the tentative date for the next workshop is **23, 24, 25 August 2011**. Put them in your diary!

Care Coordination and Supplementary Services Program

GP NSW has developed a frequently asked questions and answers and general information sheet on CCSS in NSW. To access this please click here

http://www.gpnsw.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/3321/110302_res_CCSS-information-bulletin-1.pdf

This information sheet will be updated on a regular basis to keep you abreast of the latest updates, emerging issues and how and where to access useful resources, templates and training and skills development opportunities for Care Coordinators.

For information on the CCSS program guidelines see the Department of Health and Ageing Program Guidelines or contact the GP NSW team.

Congratulations to Indigenous Health Awards Finalists!

The 2nd Annual Excellence in Indigenous Health Awards, held on 29 March 2011 in Darwin, recognised the inspirational work from service providers, communities and individuals who are making a difference in health disadvantage. Award Categories include outstanding delivery in child & maternal health, environmental health initiatives, and improving access to primary health care.

This year, Central Coast Division of General Practice and NSW Outback Division of General Practice were named as finalists for the awards! Central Coast Division's work in chronic disease management was acknowledged for improving access to primary care and NSW Outback Division's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in General Practice (GP) strategy was recognised for excellence in the category of environmental health.

While neither Division won their category it was an achievement to be among the finalists.

For more information, see: <http://www.indigenoushealthawards.com/>

Health Workers and National Registration and Accreditation

On 1 July 2012, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners will join the national registration and accreditation scheme (the national scheme). The national scheme commenced on the 1 July 2010 when the first 10 health professions moved from state and territory based registration. This scheme is governed by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act (the national law) and is administered by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) together with the 10 existing national boards.

Under the national law, health professionals can move around the country and work in other states and territories more easily, red tape is reduced, greater safeguards are provided for the public and the health workforce is more flexible, responsive and sustainable. For example, the new scheme maintains a public national register for each health profession to ensure that a registered practitioner who has been banned from practising in one place is unable to practise elsewhere in Australia.

The term Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner refers to a new registered workforce and the people most likely to fill this workforce will be appropriately qualified and skilled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers. It should be noted that not all people employed as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers are likely to be required to be registered and may prefer to stay as unregistered health workers.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia are expected to be appointed by Australian Health Ministers by July 2011. Further information at <http://nras2012.ahpra.gov.au/>

RACGP Accreditation Update

The development of the fourth edition of the RACGP *Standards for general practices* now asks practices to demonstrate that they routinely record Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status in their active patient health records. Practices being accredited against the fourth edition of the *Standards* must be able to satisfy this requirement to achieve practice accreditation.

Box 2. Identification indicator

Standard 1.7 of the RACGP *Standards for general practices*, 4th edn, includes Criterion 1.7.1: Patient health records (Indicator E):

Our practice can demonstrate that we routinely record Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status in our active patient health records.

To fully implement the AIHW best practice guidelines, practices will need to:

- adopt the standard ABS question pertaining to Aboriginality or Torres Strait Islander origin and record categories on their data collection forms and information systems
- improve procedures for identifying and recording Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status information in health by training the practice team about how and why to ask the question on a patient's Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status and to raise staff awareness about its importance
- develop and implement initiatives to raise the awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients about the importance of identifying as Indigenous Australians when accessing services.

Cancer Council Australia Cervical Cancer Website

The Cancer Council Australia has launched a new website for cervical cancer. This website contains Australian specific information and resources about HPV vaccination for girls, parents, schools and health professionals. This website can further support other useful resources and materials for cervical cancer. To look through the website please visit <http://www.cervicalcancervaccine.org.au/> or call 13 11 20 for more information on HPV vaccine.

The Asthma Spacer Ordering System (ASOS)

The ASOS program provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services with access to low cost asthma spacers and face masks for their community. ASOS is an arrangement between the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and the Asthma Foundations of Australia. The Asthma Foundation coordinates the Asthma Spacer Ordering System through the Victorian office, this is a great opportunity to access low cost asthma spacers and face masks. To order please find order form attached or for further information contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on Toll Free: 1800 645 130.

Reports and Press Releases of Interest

The community guide to the UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous peoples

This guide is designed to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to learn about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (referred to in this guide as 'the Declaration'). It will help you to become familiar with the Declaration and to discover how the rights outlined in it can be used in everyday life. http://www.humanrights.gov.au/declaration_indigenous/downloads/declaration_guide2010.pdf

Indigenous women's expectations of clinical care during treatment for a gynaecological cancer: rural and remote differences in expectations

Willis EM, Dwyer J, Owada K, Couzner L, King D, Wainer J (2011) Indigenous women's expectations of clinical care during treatment for a gynaecological cancer: rural and remote differences in expectations *Australian Health Review*; 35: (99-103) This paper alerts practitioners to the fact that although Indigenous patients share many cultural similarities, clinicians should not make assumptions about what is appropriate culturally safe care. <http://www.publish.csiro.au/?paper=AH09800>

From the Closing the Gap Clearing House

Anti-tobacco programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people explain the impact of tobacco use in widening the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, as well as outlining the interventions that have been proven to control tobacco use. It was written by Dr Rowena Ivers, a general practitioner at the Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service and Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Wollongong. http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/documents/resource_sheets/ctgc-rs04.pdf

Closing the school completion gap for Indigenous students examines how school completion rates can be improved among Indigenous students. It was written by Sue Helme and Professor Stephen Lamb from the Centre for Research on Education Systems at the University of Melbourne. http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/documents/resource_sheets/ctgc-rs06.pdf

Teacher and school leader quality and sustainability explores methods to achieve sustainable teacher and school leader quality. It was written by Emeritus Professor Bill Mulford from the Faculty of Education at the University of Tasmania. http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/documents/resource_sheets/ctgc-rs05.pdf

An education intervention for childhood asthma by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers: a randomised controlled trial http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/192_10_170510/val11325_fm.html

Closing the Gap Resources for General Practice

RACGP releases position statement: Identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Australian general practice

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is committed to improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities. Consistent with findings in Australia and overseas, the College recognises that general practices play a key role in improving life expectancy and health for Indigenous people.

To assist in addressing these issues, the RACGP has created a position statement, 'Identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Australian general practice', which summarises processes to identify, record and report the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status of patients of health services. <http://www.racgp.org.au/media2011/41740>

PIP Income Estimator

As mentioned at the workshop at one of the Table Top activities at the recent CtG Workshop, Macarthur Division of General Practice has developed a PIP Income Estimator to give an approximate of the potential revenue a practice can generate by utilising available Practice Incentive Programs. This tool can be used for non-accredited practices to encourage accreditation. The tool is available on the Macarthur website, please see link below.

Please note that there are two PIP Estimators because Macarthur region is classified as an area of District of Workforce Shortage and accredited practices in this area are eligible to participate in the Practice Nurse PIP whereas Liverpool/Fairfield are not. There are instructions on how to use it. <http://www.macdivgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=242883>

If any Divisions are interested in having their logo attached to the PIP Income Estimator they can contact one of the Practice Support Officers who developed it. Their names and contact details are:

Jill Karlson
Mobile: 0417473278
Email jill@macdivgp.com.au

Tam Nguyen
Mobile: 0437318121
Email tam@macdivgp.com.au

Conferences

The Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health Conference **RESEARCH FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

Thursday 5 and Friday 6 May 2011

Australia's only conference specifically about Aboriginal health research where we showcase significant new findings from studies conducted in partnership with Aboriginal communities. Under the theme: Research for a Better Future delegates will hear from leading Australian and international speakers and consider the power of meaningful collaboration and its implications for Aboriginal research, policy and practice, and capacity building. This conference is a unique forum for Aboriginal communities to come together with health researchers and policymakers to explore ways for research to improve Aboriginal health. We encourage anyone who is interested in Aboriginal health research to register. <http://www.gemsevents.com.au/criah2011/index.shtml>

CSANZ Indigenous Cardiovascular Health Conference

The second CSANZ Indigenous Cardiovascular Health Conference is looking to combine political, social and medical expertise to address the significant life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Australia and New Zealand.

This conference will have as its focus inequities in cardiovascular health care and outcomes among the Indigenous peoples of Australia and New Zealand. Sessions will include invited presentations, workshops and poster presentations covering a range of issues relevant to Indigenous Cardiovascular Health. Invited presentations will discuss International Perspectives, Determinants of Cardiovascular Disease, Rheumatic Heart Disease, Improving Access to Cardiovascular Health Care, and Acute and Chronic Coronary Disease in Indigenous populations. For further information about the conference please visit the conference website <http://www.ichc2011.org/>

Inaugural AH&MRC Tobacco Resistance and Control (A-TRAC) Symposium

The first AH&MRC Tobacco Resistance and Control (A-TRAC) Symposium is going to be held in Sydney, 21-23 June 2011. The symposium will commence on 21 June with the Smokecheck Training workshop (an all-day event). The following two days of the symposium will include sessions focused on the following; Tobacco and Aboriginal Health Workers, Smoking and youth, using social media, Smoking and Pregnancy and Tackling tobacco. Registration information will be made available in the coming weeks. However if you are interested to attend and would like more information please contact Jasmine Sarin (AH&MRC Snr Senior Tobacco Resistance & Control Officer) email jsarin@ahmrc.org.au or phone (02) 9212 4777.

Australian Indigenous Cancer Survivors Forum

M247consulting is proud to be hosting the Australian Indigenous Cancer Survivors Forum in Sydney NSW this year. The Australian Indigenous Cancer Survivors Forum aims to provide indigenous cancer survivors with the opportunity to share

their journey post treatment. With the success of our 2010 forum held in Brisbane we are keen to continue hosting this event through the support of various organisations working towards supporting Indigenous Cancer patients.

Please visit our website www.m247consulting.com/forum to view information from our 2010 forum.

STIs and Viral Hepatitis: Engaging your Aboriginal Clients

The Australasian Society for HIV Medicine is running a one day course for GPs and nurses in Surry Hill, Sydney on Saturday 14 May entitled STIs and Viral Hepatitis:

Engaging your Aboriginal Clients. This course provides an overview of the epidemiology, testing principles, pathogenesis, natural history and treatment of viral hepatitis and common sexually transmissible infections (STIs) in Aboriginal populations. Register online at www.ashm.org.au/courses or contact Stephanie Joensuu for more information 02 8204 0741.

Contact Us

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