



Australia's general practice immunisation newsletter

Contents

- [National Divisions Immunisation Workshop](#)
- [Update on the HPV Vaccine Program](#)
- [A Second HPV Vaccine now Available](#)
- [The HPV Register](#)
- [Update on the Rotavirus Vaccine Program](#)
- [MD update to include HPV and rotavirus vaccines](#)
- [Influenza season](#)
- [Vaccine Management and Purpose Built Refrigerators](#)
- [NCIRS Fact Sheets](#)
- [Australian General Practice Network Forum](#)

National Divisions Immunisation Workshop 2007

Unleashing the Power of Divisions

Wednesday 29th (evening) and Thursday 30th August 2007

Novotel Pacific Resort

Coffs Harbour NSW

Unleashing the Power of Divisions is the theme for the National Divisions Immunisation Workshop for 2007. This is an annual event designed to bring the immunisation network together to discuss ideas, upgrade knowledge and share resources. We have some exciting guest speakers this year including Dr Ray Seidler as our breakfast speaker.

The Immunisation Workshop, held at Pacific Bay Resort in Coffs Harbour, will begin on Wednesday evening 29th August with an informal networking dinner and presentations from divisions. The main meeting will start on Thursday 30th August at 7.30 am with a breakfast session and continue until 2.30 pm. The early start and early finish is designed to allow delegates to catch flights out of Coffs Harbour to make other connections in Sydney.

Non-divisional persons are more than welcome to attend. A registration fee of \$75 (GST incl) per person is charged to cover costs. To register, complete the regular registration form and AGPN will invoice you for the amount.

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Information contained within this newsletter is intended to inform you on immunisation issues with a national perspective. As such, it is possible that some references will require adjustment to be made specifically accurate for service providers in each individual State or Territory jurisdiction. For further clarification, contact your SBO Immunisation Coordinator or jurisdiction Health Department.

AGPN is funded by the Department of Health and Ageing

For more details and registration forms go to: <http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=24698>

Please note: Although accommodation can be booked through NiGP, **registration for the NDIW is separate to the Nursing in General Practice forum.**

Update on the HPV Vaccine Program

With the school-based vaccination program now well underway, free HPV vaccine will soon be available for women up to 26 years of age from GPs and other immunisation providers.

In most areas, GPs will be able to stock the vaccine from mid to late July. Timeframes do vary between different States and Territories. Immunisation providers can contact their Division or local immunisation jurisdiction to find out when the vaccine will be available locally and how to order it.

Many GPs are reporting that there has been substantial interest in the vaccine from their young women patients. Some practices are planning to hold dedicated vaccination clinics for HPV; others are mailing information about the vaccine to patients in the target cohort. Public interest is likely to increase when the next wave of print and radio advertising begins on 1st July.

HPV vaccination resources for GPs and their patients can be ordered directly from the Department of Health and Ageing via National Mail and Marketing. Some of these have already been sent to GPs.

- The **Immunisation Provider Guidelines** for the HPV vaccination programs, which were posted directly to general practitioners and health clinics in the last week of May.
- A one page **Summary for General Practice ('cheat sheet')**, has been distributed to division immunisation coordinators for distribution to immunisation providers.
- **Protecting Yourself Against Cervical Cancer** brochures for young women aged 26 and under
- **Posters for display** in your clinic or surgery

Many Divisions and practices have been sent insufficient numbers of these resources and have asked for more. Don't hesitate to contact National Mail and Marketing or contact the HPV campaign office to get more copies! Details are below.

To order materials, free of charge, contact National Mail and Marketing via:

Telephone: 02 6269 1060 or email: nmm@nationalmailing.com.au To order, you'll need to provide:

- The title(s) of the publications you want to order
- Your delivery address
- Your contact telephone number
- The exact number of copies of each publication you want to order

Materials and information can also be accessed on the program website www.australia.gov.au/cervicalcancer or by the campaign number: **1800 671 811**

A Second HPV Vaccine now Available

A second HPV vaccine, Cervarix, has recently been registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). This vaccine has been registered for females aged 10-45 years. Its manufacturer, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), has applied to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) to have Cervarix listed free on the National Immunisation program. The application will be considered sometime in July this year. In the meantime, GSK plans to make the vaccine available in the private market in coming weeks.

The HPV Register

A specific register will be set up to capture the data on HPV vaccinations from all providers and will be operational later this year. From July GPs will be asked to record all relevant information concerning the provision of HPV vaccines to all girls who are under 18 years of age and not at school. They will be asked to load this information onto the proposed HPV Register when it is in operation. GPs will be entitled to a \$6.00 payment for lodging the data on the register for each of the vaccines given.

GPs are encouraged to record the data concerning women between the ages of 18 and 26. This will provide a good record to enable recalls for the subsequent 2 vaccinations and eventually provide the women with long term information about their immunisation status. There will be no payment for submitting this data but GPs are encouraged to add this data to the register if at all possible.

It is hoped that this HPV register will become part of the proposed Whole of Life Register and will provide both the patient and GP with an excellent ongoing record of the vaccinations received at a particular time.

Update on the Rotavirus Vaccine Program

Every year in Australia, rotavirus infections result in approximately 20,000 Emergency Department visits, 10,000 hospital admissions and more than 100,000 GP visits. In an attempt to minimise the impact of this infection, Rotavirus vaccines have been listed on the National Immunisation Program. **From July 2007** all babies born from May 1 2007 will be able to receive the free Rotavirus vaccine from their GP or local health service.

There are 2 main points to remember with the rotavirus vaccines –

- **Rotavirus vaccines are ORAL vaccines, and**
- **have a limited administration time frame**

Below is a table of some important differences between the two available Rotavirus vaccines.

	Rotateq ®	Rotarix ®
Produced by	CSL/Merck	GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)
Method	Oral	Oral
No of Doses	Three (3) oral doses	Two (2) oral doses
Age for routine administration	2 month 4 months 6 months	2 months 4 months
Minimal interval between doses	4 weeks	4 weeks
Age limits for dosing	1 st dose by 12 weeks 3 rd dose by 32 weeks	1 st dose by 14 weeks 2 nd dose by 28 weeks

MD update to include HPV and rotavirus vaccines

Medical Director is planning to release a Drug Update on 1 July 2007 and they hope to include a new grid with both HPV and Rotavirus vaccines. These will include the relevant administration routines and other information practices will need for these vaccines. If all jurisdictions have finished their tender processes and have announced the results before the publication date, the particular vaccines for each state and territory will also be included in the Drug Update.

Influenza

Here is another reminder about influenza vaccinations for this year. The main focus this year's "fight flu campaign" is to aim at vaccinating ALL health care workers. People working in the health care area have a duty of care to protect those they are looking after as well as themselves.

Remember, influenza is not a cold. It is a highly contagious disease and vaccination is the most effective protection.

For all information about influenza, visit this site: <http://www.fightflu.com.au>

The National Institute for Clinical Studies (NICS) has developed this website to provide the facts about influenza dispel the myths and provide some tools to help fight flu.

Vaccine Management and Purpose Built Refrigerators.

Vaccine fridges are becoming more common across the country as providers become more aware of the need for good vaccine management. With the increase in numbers of practices wanting to purchase vaccine fridges there is an increase in need for information, feedback on types and designs of fridges and the major concern of maintenance and support from the suppliers. Queensland Divisions of General Practice (QDGP) and the Queensland Department of Health have recently teamed up to produce an excellent and comprehensive resource for vaccine management which includes a good section on choosing a purpose built fridge.

The complete resource for vaccine management can be found at this site and is well worth a visit. The specific vaccine fridge site is also listed below.

http://www.qdgp.org.au/page/Vaccine_Management/

http://www.qdgp.org.au/content/Document/Vaccine%20Management%20single%20page/6_Choosing_a_Purpose_-_Built_Vaccine_Refrigerator_April_07.doc

NCIRS Fact Sheets

To update your knowledge, don't forget that the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) provides expert and relevant information concerning immunisation and vaccine preventable diseases. The centre produces Fact Sheets which are an excellent resource.

Fact sheets relevant to the recent vaccine roll outs include an excellent coverage of the HPV and Rotavirus vaccines: http://www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au/facts/f-fact_sheets.html

The NCIRS website can be found at <http://www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au/> for other information.

Australian General Practice Network Forum – Program now available!

The 9th Annual General Practice Forum will be held in Hobart from **15-18 November 2007**. This Forum will host a range of keynote speakers, guaranteed to challenge and inspire delegates. There are two focal themes, firstly, 'Doing Division Business Better' and secondly the 'Future Focus and Profile of the Network'. The focus on divisional work will include; sustainability of team-based care, building strategic relationships, making best practice easy practice and the overall future direction of the Network.

For the program, registration forms and other information about the forum visit the website at: <http://www.gpnetworkforum.com.au/site/index.cfm>