

Network News



Australian General Practice Network

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Inside AGPN

Forum update

Preparations for this year's Australian General Practice Network Forum are well under way. Get in quick and take advantage of early bird trade exhibition stand specials which are closing on 30 June. For more details on the Forum visit

<http://www.gpnetworkforum.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=9157>

Immunisation

Update on the HPV Vaccine Program

With the HPV school program as part of the National HPV Vaccination Program already well underway, divisions and GPs are now preparing for the roll out of the HPV vaccine through general practice. **From July 2007**, GPs will be able to provide free HPV vaccinations to all girls and women aged 18 to 26 plus those over 12 who are no longer at school or have missed their age group vaccination for some other reason. The GP program will only continue until June 2009. After this date there will be no funded vaccine available for the older age groups. To receive the free vaccines, women must complete the full course of 3 shots before they turn 27 and before 1 July 2009. The HPV program will continue as a funded vaccine for girls in their first year of secondary school only as a school based program. The vaccine is not funded for boys. GPs will still be able to provide the vaccine privately.

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.

It is important to note both of the listed vaccines, Rotateq (CSL) and Rotarix (GSK) are **oral vaccines**. It is important for providers to note the differences between the vaccines as one requires 2 doses (Rotarix) and the other 3 doses (Rotateq) for maximum protection. The vaccines also must be administered by the providers according to the guidelines (all doses received before 24 weeks for Rotarix and 32 weeks for Rotateq).

National Divisions Immunisation Workshop 2007

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

Lifescrpts

The network has illustrated it's strong interest and commitment to lifestyle risk factor management with 30 expressions of interest submitted from Divisions and their consortium partners across Australia to undertake a Lifescrpts Demonstration Division project. Eols are currently being assessed by the Department, who have indicated that they would like to be able to offer contracts to the successful Divisions before the end of June so as activity can commence at the beginning of July.

Currently Lifescrpts resources for indigenous and CALD populations are being developed, as are interoperable electronic Lifescrpts tools. That is the e-Lifescrpts resources are being designed to interface with a number of medical software programs, not just Medical Director. AGPN will continue to keep the network informed of these developments.

AGPN is also looking to fill the position of Lifescrpts and Chronic Disease Coordinator. Please see the positions vacant section of this edition of Network News for further information.

Pregnancy Lifescripts

The Pregnancy Lifescripts initiative aims to support practitioners in providing woman who are considering pregnancy, pregnant or breastfeeding with consistent, structured lifestyle advice in the areas of smoking, alcohol and nutrition.

Following the launch of smoking resources in December 2006, alcohol and nutrition resources have recently been completed and approved by Christopher Pyne the then Assistant Minister of Health and Ageing having recently been promoted as Minister of Ageing. The resources will soon be launched by the Minister, before an evaluation phase commences. During the evaluation, 30 practices in South Australia, Queensland and Victoria will provide feedback on their experiences of using the resources with pregnant women.

A final report including recommendations for implementation of the resources is expected to be completed by late September 2007.

AGPN has also developed a web page (www.agpn.com.au/pregnancy) to provide information and resources on the pregnancy Lifescripts program. It provides GPs and practice nurses with the clinical information used in the development of the resources and patients with consumer-friendly information. Divisions and practices may also access the Resource Library from the Pregnancy Lifescripts website, which provides resources such as an academic detailing card and PowerPoint presentation as well as PDF copies of all the resources.

Information management

An Information Management (IM) Maturity Framework for use by the Australian Divisions Network is currently being developed by Valintus Consulting. This project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

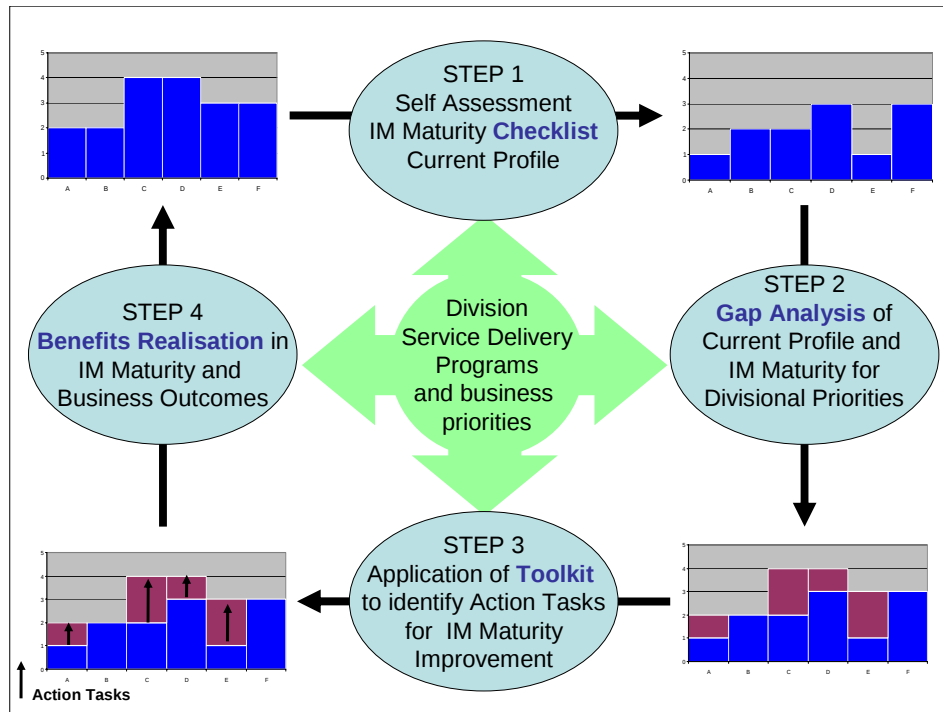
The IM Maturity Framework will support a process of change and improvement in Division's information management capacity. A Pilot program is planned for 9 Divisions in June 2007. Divisions will begin using the framework in FY 2007-08. The RHIMO in their respective region will provide support and assistance in this process as required.

- The adoption of the framework by Divisions is voluntary
- The framework is a tool for internal use within Divisions, to help create IM Plans for continuous improvement in capacity linked to individual Division's program service delivery priorities and business opportunities
- The information derived from using the framework is confidential to each Division
- The framework imposes a common terminology and approach to continuous improvement in IM capacity within Divisions
- The framework focuses on the organisation not the individual.

IM Maturity Framework:

- Step 1 - Self Assessment using the IM Maturity **Checklist**

- Step 2 – **Gap Analysis** to identify and prioritise improvements
- Step 3 - Application of **Toolkit** to identify Action Tasks for IM Maturity Improvement
- Step 4 - **Benefits Realisation** in IM Maturity and Business Outcomes.



For further information please contact Jan McRobie at AGPN on 02 6228 0839 or jmcribie@agpn.com.au

Mental Health

Primary Mental Health Care Network

The Mental Health Care Planning education and training module developed by AGPN with support from Eli Lilly Australia is now being rolled out through divisions. Meetings have been booked in Sydney and Hobart for late May with others in Queensland and NSW setting aside dates for early June. The education module gives a brief introduction to the Better Access initiative and by using a case study approach, participants are informed of the requirements of an assessment, asked to make a provisional diagnosis, draw up a mental health plan and discuss appropriate treatment and referral options. The use of an outcomes measurement tool is discussed along with best practice referral methods, the role and therapy options used by psychologists and mental health professionals and best practice reporting to the referring GP. The module is designed for a multi-disciplined audience and Eli Lilly can provide support to divisions wishing to deliver the education module. It provides a great opportunity for divisions to establish and enhance relationship building and networking between GPs and local mental health professionals. For

further information please contact Jane Westley at AGPN. Phone 02 6228 0844 or email jwestley@agpn.com.au

On 27 June, AGPN together with the Department of Health and Ageing will host a forum for CEOs / senior managers to discuss the impact and integration of existing and upcoming COAG mental health measures on divisions. The forum will provide opportunity for divisions to share models and strategic plans for service integration and capacity building. A number of senior staff from a range of Branches of the Department will be in attendance. Invitations and a draft agenda are expected to be issued through the CEO / SBO network and the National Primary Mental Health Network by 25 May.

'Can Do': managing mental health and substance use

To raise awareness for 'Can Do' during Drug Action Week (18-22 June) Lynne Magor-Blatch Clinical Director Client Services with the Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT) parachuted into the Canberra to an eagerly awaiting audience.



'Can Do' mental health and substance use training is currently being rolled out across more than 60 divisions of general practice nationwide. Divisions are coordinating the training which aims to improve pathways of care for patients with mental health and substance use problems and brings together GPs with their colleagues in mental health, drug and alcohol, community pharmacy and other local services.

'Can Do' for Veterans is now in development. This training will be based on the current resources and add supplementary information and case studies designed for GPs working with the veteran community. Training will be delivered between July 2007 and March 2008 in up to 18 targeted locations, known to be situated in areas with high catchments of the veteran population.

'Can Do' for Youth is also underway. Resources will be developed to complement the current *Teams of Two* training package and assist GPs in developing appropriate pathways of care for young people with mental health and drug health problems. Training will be designed to expand the multidisciplinary team approach to include health, community and social services that work with young people at the local level.

A 'Can Do' web based discussion forum has been developed and will be live from early June. The forum will provide a place for discussion about 'Can Do' and allow divisions to share information about successful ways to deliver training. Information on how to join the discussion forum will be posted on the 'Can Do' web pages on the www.agpn.com.au website.

Nursing in General Practice

National Mentoring Pilot

AGPN is pleased to advise that we have been successful in our application to the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) to conduct a twelve month pilot, to provide structured mentoring as a support function for nurses in general practice.

Registrations Are Now Open for Division Practice Nurse Program Officers and general practice nurses to be involved in the supported national mentoring pilot.

Opportunities exist for involvement in formal 1:1 mentoring, mentoring groups and mentoring circles. Free training workshops will be provided for both mentors and mentees involved in the 1:1 mentoring program. Mentoring groups and mentoring cycle participants will be supported with an on-line tutorial and information packages. Participants in the Pilot will receive ongoing support for the duration of the study. Don't delay-registration for the formal 1:1 mentoring program closes 27 June 2007, and registration for mentoring groups and mentoring circles closes 13 July 2007.

Detailed information about the Pilot and registration forms is now available at <http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=25158>

National Practice Nurse Workforce Survey

AGPN has been requested by DoHA to repeat the National Practice Nurse Workforce Survey in 2007. This survey provides important information to support and inform the Australian Government's Nursing in General Practice Initiative. It is the only comprehensive report of the nature and characteristics of the practice nurse workforce.

In order to streamline the collection process the survey will be made available electronically. We plan to collect the data with the assistance of the divisions network during July and August 2007.

We greatly value your support and assistance in promoting the survey to your practices and practice nurses, and urge you to be involved in this important work.

Further information will be provided in the near future.

Further information on Nursing in General Practice can be found in the latest issue of Nursing News at http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?PageMode=indiv&module=NEWS&page_id=24900&leca=71

Rural Palliative Care

Rural Palliative Care (RPC) Resource Kit

The RPC Resource Kit will be web-based and is designed to provide a diverse range of information on palliative care. The aim of the Resource Kit is to provide the foundation for anyone wanting information that can be applied to their sector: a division; general practice; carer; and / or community.

The purpose of the resource kit is to provide information that can be adapted to assist in the establishment or enhancement of rural palliative care services across Australia. The Resource Kit is expected to go live mid June. For more information contact Trisha Wong at twong@agpn.com.au.

AGPN gratefully acknowledges the funding support from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing for this program.

Engaging communities

The AGPN-SBO Coalition, through negotiations with the Department of Health and Ageing, have provided funding via the 2006 Performance and Development funding pool to enable the implementation of a **Divisional Network Training Program** with the focus on engaging with local communities and consumers. This will be completed via an internationally acknowledged professional development training and skills enhancement program, developed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) <http://www.iap2.org/>. IAP2 will form the basis of the training and research materials which have been adapted for the needs of Divisional personnel.

There is evidence which identifies the linkage with better health care and effective community engagement. Under this project, funding has been allocated to provide training opportunities to Division staff to increase their skill development in this core area. The project build's upon existing resources in the Network, and consists of an education and training program, which has been piloted to ensure its relevance to the Divisions Network. The training workshops are currently underway, with only NT workshops to complete. A final Train the Trainer workshop is scheduled for 18 – 20th June in Melbourne.

Policy

The AGPN Policy Team continues to be busy with its ongoing activities such as writing briefs, submissions and responses, speeches and committee work. In addition, we have also been working on a number of key topics including the discussion paper *Funding general-practice based multidisciplinary team care in Australia: improving outcomes and reducing inequality in health*, re-signing our Memorandum of Understanding with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and new tender opportunities.

After consideration of Network feedback on the funding models paper, the AGPN Board has requested that it be further developed into a principles-based position paper. The draft position paper will be developed and circulated to the Network for comment in the near future.

The Policy team also recently provided support to a recent meeting of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN), and the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) in Canberra on 5 June 2007. Whilst not a full meeting of the General Practice Representative Group (GPRG), there was strong support for re-establishment of the entire GPRG, including the Royal Australian College of General Practice (RACGP) and the Australian Medical Association (AMA) by those attending. This is essential for a united voice for general practice, particularly in this election year.

Communications

Media

It has been an excellent month for the Network's Communication Strategy. AGPN have been trialling a media monitoring service and in the last month the amount of media coverage across the country has been outstanding. There have been in excess of 150 Divisions mentions. Well done to NSW with over 50. In addition to media packs topics printed Network members have covered issues such as GP shortages, community health expos, pap smears and Indigenous health.

On a national level AGPN has been involved with Angry Anderson and the Prostate Cancer Foundation to improve awareness of the condition. The launch of the campaign has been a success and received good national coverage. You can expect the community service announcements to air in your region soon.

Next months media packs will tie in with National Diabetes Week commencing on July 8. This will be an excellent opportunity for Network members to showcase the work being done in the local community. The theme for the week is 'Don't Ignore Diabetes'.

For more information please contact Kathryn Conroy at kconroy@agpn.com.au or 02 6228 0819.

Network Resource Centre

Have you visited the Network Resource Centre lately? There continues to be a range of interesting documents uploaded to the site. The Community Engagement Training Manual is available for download – this is a great resource for all in the Network. For those across the Network who have been looking at CRMs, Adelaide Hills have uploaded a presentation on the process they went through before implementing their CRM. Valuable information has also been uploaded under population health.

Below are the five simple steps to access the resource centre. If you need any more assistance, contact Sue Aiesi at AGPN on 02 6228 0822 or email saiesi@agpn.com.au

Accessing the Network Resource Centre

1. Go the AGPN website – www.agpn.com.au
2. Log on –(click on My AGPN) top right hand side
3. Enter your username and password (you will then be in the administration area of the website)
4. Go to the left hand navigation bar (blue) and hover your mouse over Document Library – Network Resource Centre will appear.
5. Click on the words Network Resource Centre and you are there. From here you can search, view and upload documents.

Branding

We are very excited about the number of divisions who have decided to use the new 'look and feel'. There is no doubt that this will raise the profile of the Network and over time ensure that our brand is very easily identified.

If you would like to 'rebrand', AGPN can develop a package for you – there is no cost involved. It is a simple package designed to be used for printing 'in house'. The package includes, letterhead, information sheets, media release, with compliments slips and powerpoint presentations. You can use this package for developing materials to take with you when you visit your local politician or when you write to your politician. If you would like to take advantage of this, email your logo to Sue Aiesi at saiesi@agpn.com.au in jpeg format.

Is your insurance current? Talk to Guild Insurance

As you know, Guild Insurance in consultation with AGPN and the Network, has developed an insurance product specifically designed to meet the needs of divisions of general practice.

Since the introduction of the package, AGPN and several Network members have been able to achieve considerable savings on insurance premiums. When combined with Guild's personalised national service, this new insurance package can deliver true value and quality to all Divisions.

When your insurance is due for renewal talk to Guild Insurance.

Guild Insurance can also provide a range of general insurance products for GPs and medical practices, including:

- business Insurance for medical practices
- practice management liability protection (excluding medical malpractice)
- home, contents, valuables and motor vehicle
- workers compensation in the ACT, Tasmania and Western Australia.

Guild's Business Model

Guild Insurance is a wholly Australian owned niche general insurance company and is a leading provider of tailored insurance services to healthcare professionals and healthcare associations. Owned by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Guild Insurance insures a diverse range of practitioners whose disciplines and business requirements are highly specialised, including Pharmacists, Dentists, Physiotherapists, Chiropractors and Optometrists.

Guild's business model focuses on developing successful, enduring relationships while providing products and services* that deliver genuine benefits to its clients. With a national network of regional offices, Guild's service promise and personalised approach is what differentiates it from other insurers. Additionally, Guild is a direct underwriter and clients deal directly with Guild, not brokers or agents. Claims are handled locally in each regional office and Guild's business managers meet with each client personally.

For further information, please call 1800 810 213, or visit www.guildifs.com.au.

Guild Insurance Limited AFSL No. 233791

* Guild's last six Customer Satisfaction Measurement Surveys revealed 97%-99% of Guild Insurance clients who have made a claim would recommend Guild to a colleague.

Product Disclosure Statements for the products mentioned are available from Guild. You should consider the relevant Product Disclosure Statement when deciding whether to acquire or continue to hold the product. Guild Insurance Limited supports the AGPN through the payment of referral fees for certain insurance you take out with them.

Guild Insurance are the sponsors of the Gala Dinner at the Forum. We thank them for their continued support of the Australian General Practice Network Forum

Conference and courses

The University of Queensland is now offering a Masters of Medicine (General Practice)

For more information contact:

THE DISCIPLINE OF GENERAL PRACTICE

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Level 2, Edith Cavell Building

Royal Brisbane Hospital

Herston Qld 4029 Australia

Phone: +61 7 3365 5379

Fax: +61 7 3365 5130

Email: g.vey@uq.edu.au

Web: www.som.edu.au

Web: healthinsitu.uq.edu.au



Based Clinical Practice Workshops

Presented by Australian Centre for Evidence Based Clinical Practice

Introduction to Evidence Based Practice 2 day workshop

9th - 10th July, 2007

Adelaide SA

All Evidence Based Practice workshops receive 24 CPD points by RACGP

Advanced Auditmaker (a follow on course for those who have completed the Introduction to Auditmaker)

for generating Clinical Audit reports 1/2 day workshop

26 July, 2007

Adelaide SA

For further details www.acebcp.org.au

Beyond the Network

Complimentary DVDs available through the Rural Health Education Foundation

The following DVDs and Videos are currently available free from the Rural Health Education Foundation;

Keep Safe – a program on Injury Prevention in Aboriginal communities. To order email keepsafe@rhef.com.au

Chlamydia: Combating the Epidemic – a recent program on Chlamydia and the latest in screening practices. chlamydia@rhef.com.au

Dementia Series 2 – a series set of five recent programs on Dementia dementia@rhef.com.au

Multiple Sclerosis: Update on Diagnosis and Management – broadcast in November 2006
ms@rhef.com.au

These resources are available for a limited time so be quick.

Complimentary copies of the programs listed above are available (one per individual or organisation within Australia) from the Rural Health Education Foundation. Simply send your request to the email address listed above or to rhef@rhef.com.au . Please provide your postal details, contact phone number, email address and preferred format.

Detailed information on the programs can be found by visiting the Foundation website www.rhef.com.au

Contact the Editors:

Sue Aiesi
Communications Manager
saiesi@agpn.com.au

Kathryn Conroy
Media Liaison
kconroy@agpn.com.au