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I have only recently had the privilege of taking on the task of Principal Advisor for Immunisation at the Australian Divisions of General Practice. I am looking forward to working with all the very dedicated people in this area towards better health outcomes through efficient and safe delivery of vaccines and an increased level of coverage across the country. I would like to thank Stephen Mann for his wonderful efforts over the last six months.

**Gaps in the Cold Chain**

At the recent SCOIC Network Meeting, various possible breaks in the Cold Chain were raised. In particular, the transporting of vaccines from the Pharmacy to the GP Surgery was presented as a high risk practice. There are some issues concerning responsibility and duty of care with respect to maintenance of the vaccine temperature. Both GPs and Pharmacists are encouraged to stress the importance of the Cold Chain to their patients. In response to questions from ADGP as to firstly, the responsibility or duty of care issues and secondly, the publicising of this possible break in the Chain, the Department of Health and Ageing have said that in the light of the recent release of the Strive for 5 campaign, they will look into the issue.

**ACIR clarification on forms**

ACIR provided the following information concerning online forms:

The data formats developed by the ACIR for use with the Online Claiming (formerly HIC Online), allowed for mandatory and optional field requirements. Some software vendors have interpreted Address Line 1 (optional field as information that the ACIR didn't want, as opposed to information the ACIR would like sent if it was recorded on the doctors system. This has resulted in some addresses being overwritten without sufficient address (missing line1) information to allow an immunisation history statement to be sent.

The ACIR is currently in the process of identifying a system solution, and will begin system work to ensure that where incomplete address information is supplied to the ACIR, it does not overwrite a current complete address. This solution will rectify existing incomplete addresses as well as ongoing information from providers/practices.

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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.

*Australia's general practice immunisation newsletter*

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ACIR is also going to provide clarification to software vendors around the notification of optional fields in particular address line 1.

## Practice Nurses

A great way to increase the immunisation levels and take extra time stress off GPs is to have more trained and competent immunisation nurses. There is a need to develop affordable, generic courses to cover the differences between the states and territories needs.

Your thoughts and contributions on this issue would be appreciated. Send them to your SBOIC for discussion at the next Network meeting.

## National Immunisation Committee

This committee (NIC) was established in 1993 and is the peak body responsible for overseeing the development, implementation and delivery of the National Immunisation Program (NIP). NIC has 11 meetings annually both face to face and teleconferences. If you have issues you feel need addressing by this body, you can contact your SBOIC.

## National Immunisation Kit

Use the Kit to help you, your division or your practice. Some are using the resource as a primary source, others as an educational tool. Use it to your advantage.

## Pan Flu

Keep up to date by checking sites such as the following for the latest June 2006 information.

[Interim National Pandemic Influenza Clinical Guidelines](#)

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/content/ohp-pandemic-clin-care-gl.htm>

## SBOIC Network Meeting

The Communiqué for the recent June meeting can be found on the ADGP web site:

<http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index.cfm>

Your, State Based Organisation Immunisation Coordinator (SBOIC), can be contacted through the State Based office for the Divisions.

## National Divisions Immunisation Workshop

To be held at Novotel Sydney, Darling Harbour, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August following the PHAA 10<sup>th</sup> National Immunisation Conference.

On-line registrations are now available for the Australian General Practice Network Forum to be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre from 25-28 November: [www.gpnetworkforum.com.au](http://www.gpnetworkforum.com.au)

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