



Headline News

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Divisions Nursing in General Practice Forum 2007

The National Divisions Nursing in General Practice Forum will be held at the Pacific Bay Resort, Coffs Harbour on the 28th and 29th August 2007. For information on the venue visit www.pacificbayresort.com.au

The forum will showcase nationally relevant NiGP initiatives and models as well as offering opportunities to build expertise and support networks amongst division NiGP program officers.

Funding will be provided to cover the travel and accommodation for one delegate from each division and SBO. Divisions are welcome to send more than one delegate at their own cost.

To be eligible for supported travel and accommodation, delegates are required to book prior to 30th April 2007.

The registration form and travel rules are available on the AGPN website at <http://www.agpn.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=24347>.

A draft program is also available on the AGPN Website.

For further information contact Toni Rice on trice@agpn.com.au or Mandy Bruce on mbruce@agpn.com.au

Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) [GCNGP] National Moderator

AGPN has appointed Dr Kris Malko-Nyhan as the National Moderator for the Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice)

Kris has been involved with the Graduate Certificate since the development of the course, working closely with the Sunshine Coast Division of General Practice. Kris has been instrumental in developing and reviewing the course content.

Kris is a registered nurse with over 20 years experience as a university academic-primarily teaching RNs who are upgrading their qualifications in the distance education mode. Most of her teaching and clinical experiences have been gained in rural universities and health care agencies

Almost all of her own studies have been completed by the distance education mode giving her a really good understanding of the problems of isolation and studying on your own while also working and having family responsibilities.

Kris has a particular understanding of rural concerns. She was one of the founding members of the Association for Australian Rural Nurses (and Midwives) and has worked extensively in the area of rural nursing issues.

Kris will be providing support and assistance to divisional tutors and she will oversee and administer the quality framework within which the participating Divisions and State Based Officer agree to deliver the courses.

Nursing in General Practice Recruitment and Orientation Resource

AGPN are working with members of the NiGP SBO network to develop an orientation program and information sessions, including Power Point presentations, based on the Nursing in General Practice Recruitment and Orientation Resource.

Programs currently being developed include:

- A workshop for Nurses interested in general practice
- A workshop for Nurses new to general practice
- An information session for General Practitioners interested in employing a practice nurse

The programs can be adapted to suit local needs.

For further information contact Toni Rice at AGPN on trice@agpn.com.au

Medicare Items for Nurses in General Practice

AGPN is a member of an Advisory Committee convened by the RCNA to develop and trial an education and training package for nurses who will be involved in assisting a general practitioner in the provision of antenatal services under Item 16400. The project is funded by the Department of Health and Ageing. It is anticipated that the training program will be available towards the end of this year.

AGPN along with other key stakeholders has been approached by DoHA to provide advice and comment on the development of the proposed new Medicare item for practice nurses to provide chronic disease care on behalf of a general practitioner. This item is scheduled for release in mid 2007 and will be available to all practices that access Medicare payments.

Further updates on these Medicare issues will be provided as work progresses.

Other News

RCNA 5th General Practice Nurse Conference

The RCNA 5th General Practice Nurse Conference will be held from 11-13 October 2007 at Wrest Point in Hobart, Tasmania.

Further information, including a call for abstracts will be posted shortly on the RCNA Website.

Influenza-is it worth the risk?

With thanks AGPN News March 2007

All health care workers and people in 'at risk' groups should be vaccinated against influenza according to the National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS), to help prevent the 1,500 deaths from influenza complications in Australia each year - a figure which equals the national road toll.

The National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS) is Australia's national agency for closing gaps between evidence and practice in health care. NICS has launched their 2007

<http://www.fightflu.com.au/asp/index.asp> campaign and website to provide information about the real risk of influenza and encourage vaccinations amongst health care providers, carers and people of all ages at risk of developing complications such as pneumonia.

"We know that vaccination is the single most effective preventive measure against influenza, but only 42 per cent of those 'at risk' are being vaccinated. People with a single chronic condition such as heart disease have a 40 times increased risk of death from influenza. If they have both heart and lung disease their risk increases 800 times, so vaccination is vital," she added.

National Prescribing Service 2007 National Awareness Campaigns

The National Prescribing Service Limited (NPS) works with health professionals and consumers to implement quality use of medicines. The NPS are conducting three information and education campaigns targeting consumers and health professionals throughout 2007.

The three campaigns currently being developed include:

- Consumer antibiotic program –Common Colds Need Common Sense
- Get to Know Your Medicines
- Generic Medicines

Activities are at a state/territory and local level and will support mass media strategies.

For further information on the NPS visit the NPS Website <http://www.nps.org.au/>

Calendar of Events

Month of April: The Great Australian Bite – Nationwide-Diabetes Australia, www.greataustralianbite.com.au

1-7 April: Arthritis Awareness Week-Nationwide-Arthritis Australia, <http://www.arthritisaustralia.com.au/Awareness%20Week>

7 April: World Health Day, Worldwide, World Health Organisation, <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2007/en/index.html>

Contact the Editor

Information in this newsletter is for the use and benefit of all members of SBOs and Divisions, so please pass it on, and recycle the whole, or parts, of this publication to your members with due acknowledgements to AGPN.

If SBOs, Divisions and other readers have information for, or comments on, AGPN Nursing News please contact Toni Rice on 02 62280850 or email trice@agpn.com.au