



Insert division logo

Insert division name Nursing in General Practice News

The e-learning training package to support Medicare item 10997

Medicare Item 10997 came into effect on 1 July 2007 and applies to the provision of monitoring and support to people with a chronic disease care plan by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker on behalf of a general practitioner.

It has been designed to ensure appropriate and enhanced uptake of Medicare Item 10997 and facilitate an associated work practice change. This will assist GPs to ensure that PNs and registered Aboriginal Health Workers are appropriately qualified and trained to provide monitoring and support for patients with chronic disease care plan (721), allowing GPs to focus on more complex cases

This is free until the end of August 09 and the access cost from September will be approximately \$145.

Do endeavour to complete this while it is free.

The Facilitators Guide / Information Pack which is a resource to encourage PNs to take up the e-learning training package, is hosted on the Royal College of Nursing Australia website, <http://www.3lp.rcna.org.au/10997>. The guide is also available on AGPN's website under the Nursing in General Practice webpage (see e-learning webpage) <http://www.generalpracticenursing.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=38550>

The Department of Human Services has released an online course entitled 'Health Professionals Working Together to Keep Children Safe'. This resource is designed for medical, nursing and allied health staff who work with children - and adults whose children may be at risk.

It is a first introduction or refresher. A certificate of completion can be printed as a record for participants. The resource complements the existing Vulnerable babies, children and young people at risk of harm: Best Practice framework for acute health service: www.health.vic.gov.au/childrenatrisk

Online course

Programme Title:

Health Professionals Working Together to Keep Children Safe

Organisation:

Department of Human Services

Length:

3 modules (45 minutes)

Course Contact:

www.vfpms.org.au/childrenatrisk



WA General Practice Network State News



National HPV Vaccination Program Register

The National HPV Vaccination Program Register (the Register) is pleased to inform you that Western Australian GPs now have access to the Register secure web site, which will enable them to:

- Search the live national HPV Register data base to view a patient's previous HPV vaccination history
- Access and view Overdue Dose reports . [It is important to note that GPs will only be able to access Overdue Dose reports electronically via the HPV Register secure web site, as hard copies will not be posted out to providers].
- Access and view their notification payment statements and summaries

Letters containing a user name, instructions for logging in and a quick reference guide, will be posted to all Western Australian GPs who have requested on line access. To enhance security, their password will be emailed separately.



New and improved version of *My Healthy Balance* coming soon!

Diabetes WA is re-developing their free, online healthy lifestyle program *My Healthy Balance*. The program is a simple easy-to-use resource to which health professionals can refer their clients.

My Healthy Balance is a session based program covering healthy eating, physical activity, and other relevant topics to encourage behaviour change to achieve or maintain a healthy weight. The program motivates participants to set and achieve goals as they move through the program.

New features include a section for people with IGT/IFG, goal setting with peer interaction, a comprehensive self-monitoring tool plus many new, interactive, personalised tools. The new *My Healthy Balance* is being launched on World Diabetes Day – 14th November 2009.

For further information or to register your interest in receiving a **health professional pack** please contact:

Alexandra Brown on ph: (08) 9325 7699 or via email alexandra.brown@diabeteswa.com.au

My Healthy Balance is an initiative of Diabetes WA, proudly supported by the Heart Foundation, The Cancer Council WA, Department of Health WA and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing



Asthma Foundation
of Western Australia

...Helping People Breathe Better...

The Asthma Foundation of WA offers training opportunities for health professionals with an interest or need in the area of asthma. If you or any of your practice contacts work with patients with asthma and would like to update your skills please contact us, details below. Please note that the next Asthma Educators Course is coming up on the 24-27 August for any practice nurses or GP's who would like to implement and conduct asthma programs in their workplace or community.

Course bookings training support office admin.training@asthmawa.org.au 9289 3602

Further information education and training manager etm@asthmawa.org.au 9289 3649

Website: <http://www.asthmawa.org.au/training.php>



Australian General Practice Network National News

CareSearch

CareSearch is an Australian online resource that promotes the evidence-based practice of palliative care, and provides good quality, practical, up-to-date information and resources.

CareSearch provides information to help in the management of palliative care patients in the community. These pages have recently been updated and revised, and now include information on:

- patients needing palliative care
- making it work in your practice
- following up the bereaved
- managing symptoms
- the dying patient
- professional development

There are also pages written especially for consumers; patients, their carers, family, friends and the wider community. Information can be found on 'about palliative care', 'living with illness', 'how to care', 'at the end' and 'bereavement, grief and loss'.

Go online and have a look. Refer colleagues, patients and their families to information that can be downloaded and read later, given out to initiate discussion, or used directly for clinical practice. There are a variety of information pieces available for the palliative care community including brochures, fact sheets and bookmarks.

The resources are available at; www.caresearch.com.au

The Home Medicines Review (HMR) is a consumer-focused, structured and collaborative health care service provided in the community setting to optimise consumer understanding and quality use of medicines. It involves the consumer, their general practitioner, their pharmacy, and other relevant members of the health care team. There are a number of myths about this service that may lead to some patients not being referred when there is a definite need.

Must be on 5 or more medications or 12 or more doses daily – This is not necessarily true.

Any patient who is experiencing compliance issues, has a drug with a low therapeutic index or their doctor is concerned about any aspect of their health/medication then that person may be referred for an HMR. If a patient has more than 1 GP or has recently seen a specialist then an HMR can also be requested.

Only elderly people qualify for an HMR. This is not the case as there are many children, teenagers and other age groups who would benefit from an HMR.

Only 1 HMR can be done every year. This is also not the case. While, many times this may be all that is required, there are plenty of times when more than 1 can be done. For example, if a patient has recently been discharged from hospital on new medications then the GP can ask for another HMR. If the patient is becoming confused about their regime or the GP feels that there are issues within the home that need addressing then an HMR can be called for. If a patient is on a drug such as warfarin and there are dosage issues or other drugs have been introduced then another HMR can be requested.

For more information on HMRs go to www.guild.org.au/mmr

or contact your local Division/Network HMR facilitator.





Hot Tips and Tricks for Nurses in General Practice

APNA - Eye Health learning module added to APNA online learning

<http://www.learningseat.com/servlet/ShopFrontPage?companyId=APNA>

This program aims to provide practice nurses with an understanding of the anatomy and function of the eye, the five main eye conditions, assessing a patient and appropriate referral pathways. At the completion of the course, you will be presented with a brief online assessment that will test your underpinning knowledge

APNA—Best Practice Awards 2009

Nominations for the 2009 APNA Best Practice Awards are now open. The awards aim to recognise and reward extraordinary nurses working in general practice under the following categories.

1. Innovation to Nursing in General Practice
2. Chronic Disease Management
3. Immunisation
4. Women's Health
5. Quality Improvement

Prizes of \$5,000 to use in enhancing the winners continuing professional development. For details regarding nominations go to www.apna.asn.au or call (03) 9614 7777.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Health Checks

Identification of eligible patients:

By routinely asking patients "Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent", the practice will be able to identify patients eligible for a Health Check.

MBS items available for ATSI patients:

[NB: Please refer to MBS for detailed description of items]

Item No	Eligible Population	Rebate
704 & 706	Aged Health check > 55 years	\$175.10 \$247.60
708	Child Health check 0 - 14 years	\$175.10
710	Adult Health Check 15 - 54 years	\$208.70
10987	Follow up service after ATSI Health Check by PN/ AHW	\$22.80

Resources available to assist with these items:

- AGPN (www.agpn.com.au) - *ATSI Lifescrpts*
- RACGP (www.racgp.org.au) - *National guide to a preventive health assessment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.*
- Proforma available www.health.gov.au/epc

Medicare Australia Item 73805

Item 73805 "Microscopy of urine, whether stained or not, or catalase test"

Billing requirements:

Item 73805 is a prescribed pathology service included in Group P9 of the *Pathology Services Table*. Group P9 pathology tests can be performed by a medical practitioner in his or her own practice on his or her patients.

Item 73805 can be used if microscopy is performed or if a catalase test is done. A catalase test involves combining the urine sample with a reagent and observing whether a reaction occurs.

Medical practitioners may use dipstick testing for nitrites and leucocytes (leucocyte esterase reactions) rather than a catalase test in some situations, for example, for patients presenting with possible urinary tract infection, for an antenatal visit assessment, or as part of a health assessment.

Important: If you use a **dipstick test for urine**, the service should be claimed as part of the attendance item only, and **not billed as Item 73805**.

For more information go to www.mbsonline.gov.au, call **132 150** or email medicare.prov@medicareaustralia.gov.au

Useful Websites:

Medicare Australia www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

Medicare Online—Search the MBS www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm

Department of Health & Ageing (EPC and Health Assessments etc.) www.health.gov.au/epc