

September 2008

CDGP Workshops:

Immunisation update: for GPs and PNs

Venue: Association for the Blind

Date: Wednesday 24th September 2008

Time: 7pm to 9pm

(Light dinner at 6.30pm)

CPR Update: for GPs and PNs

Venue: Canning Division of General Practice

Date: 1 October 2008

Time: 7pm to 9pm

(Light dinner at 6.30pm)

WAPNA Education evening: A further expansion on Tuberculosis.

Date: Monday 15 September 08 at 7pm

Venue: Clinipath Pathology, 647 Murray Street, West Perth Entrance rear of building Courier entrance
Please reply to 0449 256 648

Recent Developments in Heart Disease Management.

Date: Saturday 11 October 2008

Time: 12noon -5pm

Venue: F.J.CLARKE LECTURE THEATRE, BLOCK P, SCGH, NEDLANDS WA 6009

Enquiries: Rosemarie Winsor Ph 0449 256 648

Development and Delivery of an e-Learning Training Package to Support Medicare Item 10997

AGPN are entering the final phase of content development for the e-Learning training package, and the piloting of the modules will begin in November 2009. Expressions of interest to participate in the pilot will be sought from Practice Nurses in South Australia and Western Australia.

MBS Healthy Kids Check

The Healthy Kids Check was released on 1 July 2008. MBS Items 709 and 711 will support medical practitioners and practice nurses to undertake Healthy Kids Checks to ensure every four year old child in Australia has a basic health check to see if they are healthy, fit and ready to learn when they start school.

The Examinations and assessments which are mandatory include height and weight, eyesight, hearing, oral health, toileting and allergies. The Get Set4 Life book must be given and it is important to note whether or not the four year old immunisation has been given and to provide the immunisation if required. The items 709/711 may not be claimed unless the 4year old immunisations have been done. In the case of having done the four year old health check and immunisation the item numbers which maybe claimed are those of 23, 10990 (if eligible for bulk billing), 709, 10990, 10993 and 10990.

The Get Set 4 Life books maybe ordered from DoHA publications at 02 6269 1080/ 1800 198 008 or 08 9346 5111.



Details are provided on Department of Health and Aging website at

http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Healthy_Kids_Check

For the eyesight check the Lea children's eye chart or even the Kay chart though it is not listed in the MBS description maybe used. It is available through medical suppliers. (AMA cost \$21.75)

The hearing check requires an ear examination and seeking parental concerns. Refer to an Audiologist if a full hearing assessment is required. No specific resources listed as being required by Medicare.

A potential tool for use in the oral check is the 'Lift the Lip' guide on how to look for early signs of tooth decay, and advice for parents on keeping children's teeth healthy.

AGPN Nursing in General Practice Website is now available at

<http://www.generalpracticenursing.com.au>

2008 Australian Government Practice Nurse Scholarship scheme – Now Open

Applications are now open for the 2008 Practice Nurse Scholarship scheme. These scholarships are available to all Australian practice nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers currently working in general practice.

Full details about these scholarships are available from the APNA website or free call 1300 303 184.

RCNA Conference 25 -27 November 2008

- registrations now open. The preliminary program and registration brochure maybe downloaded from <http://www.rcna.org.au/site/conferences.php>

Recruiting participants for a survey on Education and Career Pathways in Primary Care Nursing

Over 60 practice nurses have registered to participate in this project and receive a gift voucher. Don't miss your chance, register now!

Dr Rhian Parker and Professor Helen Keleher of Monash University are conducting a pilot project on education and career pathways for primary care nurses. The project will seek the views of primary care nurses about what education and career pathways would be attractive to them to encourage them to stay in the primary care setting

If you are a nurse working in general practice or primary care, are you willing to spend 30 minutes completing an anonymous survey?

Would you like to be one of 100 nurses who complete the survey to receive a \$20 gift voucher?

If you are willing to complete the survey please contact Rhian Parker on rhian.parker@med.monash.edu.au

AGPN is provides support for this exciting project.

Practice Nurse Research Priorities Study

Significant descriptive research has now been conducted to describe the roles of practice nurses in Australia, their educational and training needs and consume perceptions. Preliminary work has also been conducted to explore the potential of expanding practice nurse roles in areas such as chronic disease management. In spite of its contribution to the body of knowledge, research conducted to date has been driven by researcher interest and funding availability rather than strategic and clinical priorities areas. Discussion at the recent national general practice nurse conference highlighted a desire by practice nurses to be involved in the planning of future research. An understanding of clinicians' research priorities is essential to ensure that clinically focussed; strategic research is undertaken that meets the needs of clinicians, policymakers and politicians.

This study seeks to identify the research priorities of Australian general practice nurses. In this context, a research priority refers to the practice nurses perceptions of the most pressing nursing research problems that necessitate exploration to improve clinical practice and patient care. These data will facilitate the development of recommendations for strategic future research policy and priorities in terms of their clinical relevance. Additionally, the results will potentially facilitate the allocation of limited human and financial resources to clinically relevant research programs that will facilitate improved clinical practice and patient care outcomes. To participate in the survey click here:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=A5XD_2buSld_2fnAksRi86vstg_3d_3d

A University recognised Dementia program for registered nurses

This practical program offers registered nurses a framework for the assessment and care of clients with dementia, delirium and depression.

Practice nurses are in an ideal position to be pro-active in the care of these people, possibly reducing hospital re-admissions or delaying residential admissions.

The program is live on the internet.

Presenters include: Prof. Davis Ames – Alzheimer's, Geri Hall – Banner Alzheimer's Inst USA and Dr Rosalie Hudson – Palliative care. For full details please contact Age Concern Pty Ltd on 1800 722 236, email: info@ageconcern.com.au

Chronic Disease Management Medicare Items

Details of the CDM items including an overview fact sheet and example scenarios are available at

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pcd-programs-epc-chronicdisease>

Quick reference guides are available from

<http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/business/education/index.jsp>

Free immunisation activities for practice nurses

The Australian Practice Nurse Association (APNA), together with *gplearning*, has released six updated immunisation activities designed especially for practice nurses and other practice team members.

The activities refer to the NHMRC *Australian immunisation handbook* (9th edition) and are funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Practice Nurse Continuing Professional Development Project administered by APNA. Some activities have been approved for RACGP QA&CPD Category 2 points as well as APNA CPD points. All practice nurses can access these immunisation activities for free. Visit www.apna.asn.au to find out more. *gplearning* users can access the activities at www.gplearning.com.au.