

Tuesday 20 December 2011 - Issue 24-11/12

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS FOR EHEALTH, THE HEALTHCARE IDENTIFIERS SERVICE AND PCEHR

The National eHealth Transition Authority (NeHTA) and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) have a number of resources available to promote eHealth, the Healthcare Identifiers (HI) Service, and the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR). These include:

- Healthcare Identifier Service Brochure A4 (for healthcare professionals): <http://www.ehealthinfo.gov.au/assets/HI%20Brochure.pdf>
- HealthBeyond Brochure: What is eHealth?: <http://www.nehta.gov.au/images/flipbooks/big-picture/index.html>
- HI Service video which is available on DVD: <http://www.ehealthinfo.gov.au/healthcare-identifiers>
- PCEHR video which is available on DVD: <http://www.ehealthinfo.gov.au/personally-controlled-electronic-health-records/bringing-the-pcehr-system-to-life>

For more information on eHealth, the Healthcare Identifiers Service and the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record please contact Judith Murray or Brenda Fehring at MPDGP.

SPECIALIST GENERAL PRACTITIONER' STATUS

GPs are at risk of missing out on certain MBS items if they fail to register their specialist status, according to the AMA. Following AHPRA's decision to grant vocationally registered GPs' specialist general practitioner' status, GPs are being urged to check that all their specialties are listed on the register.

In an e-mail to all their members, AMA President Dr Steve Hambleton says doctors should have received a letter from AHPRA telling them to check their details on the Specialist Register. He warns that it is not clear in the letter that all specialties need to be included on the Specialist Register as they are linked to the eligibility for Medicare. GP should have 'specialist general practitioner' under the heading 'specialties' on the Register, he says, otherwise they will not be able to access the A1 consultations items on the MBS. Those who have specialist palliative medicine qualifications will need to have the specialty recorded on the Register to access MBS items 3005 - 3093. Doctors can check their specialty details on the AHPRA website and if their specialty information is incorrect or incomplete, they can contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495 or email: specialistsregister@ahpra.gov.au. "In the meantime, the AMA is working with Medicare to ensure that there are sound arrangements in place to ensure that no practitioner inadvertently becomes ineligible for MBS items because of this process", Dr Hambleton says.



A partnership promoting eye health and vision care

THE VISION INITIATIVE – COMMON EYE CONDITIONS

Preventing vision loss by early detection and management are the focus of the online education created by the Vision Initiative in Victoria in conjunction with *ThinkGP*. The use of case studies and clinical images provides accredited interactive learning for GPs. To access the education and other resources, visit: www.visioninitiative.org.au

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NEW ONLINE TRAINING SUPPORTS GPs DEALING WITH COMPLEX IMMUNISATION CONSULTATIONS

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has released a new online learning activity for general practitioners (GPs) and other immunisation providers to assist them when dealing with a complex immunisation consultation.

The new *gplearning* activity 'Dealing with a complex immunisation consultation' explores such complexities, including catch-up vaccinations, variations required because of underlying illness and questions regarding effects and benefits of vaccination. The online learning activity aims to enhance immunisation providers' skills in completing a vaccine encounter more efficiently.

The latest *gplearning* module is suitable for general practitioners and practice nurses in their key management role in immunisations. This activity should take one hour to complete and has been approved by the RACGP QI&CPD Program for 2 Category 2 points in the 2011–2013 triennium. To enrol, or for more information, please visit www.gplearning.com.au.

USE GOOGLE TO TRANSLATE MEDICAL TERMS

Practice nurses may find [Google Translate](#) a useful tool for communicating medical terms when working with multicultural patients. Simply type in the English medical term and select any of 60 languages for the translation.

NEW ONLINE VERSION OF *FORUM*—REGISTER NOW!

Medical practitioners can now receive all the latest *Forum* news from Medicare in the new online *Health Professional News*.

Forum, Medicare's quarterly news publication for medical practitioners, has been redesigned with improved functionality, extra features and conveniently segmented headings—General Practice, Specialist Areas and Allied Health—so you can get the information that's relevant to you.

The new online site features a range of interactive and tailored news items, making it easier to find and share important Medicare updates relevant to your profession.

You need to register for *Forum* online to receive every edition straight to your inbox. Register at medicare.gov.au then **For health professionals**. Registration is quick, easy and free.

The new *Forum* online lets you:

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- click convenient links to more information, forms and guidelines in articles
- print individual articles so you can share them with colleagues or send them via email
- share articles on social media like Twitter or Facebook
- give us feedback or ask questions with an easy online form
- view important dates
- find important contact information easily.



*Our office will be closed from 5pm Thursday, 22nd December, 2011
and we will reopen at*

9am Monday, 9th January, 2012.

'Merry Christmas'