

Tuesday 26 July 2011 - Issue 4-11/12

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

Thursday 4

Aboriginal Asthma
Education and Spirometry,
Njernda Aboriginal Medical
Centre,
Echuca 9:00am-1:00pm

Wednesday 10

VMPF – Drug and Alcohol
in Young People,
Kerang District Health,
Kerang 7:00pm

Thursday 11

Registrar Dinner Meeting,
Gunbower Hotel,
Gunbower 7:00pm

*If you would like further
details on any of these
events, please do not
hesitate to contact
Daria Atkinson on
5481 1300 or email
datkinson@mpdgp.com.au*

CHANGES UNDER THE FIFTH COMMUNITY PHARMACY AGREEMENT

Changes affecting GPs have been made to the Residential Medication Management Review and Home Medicines Review programs under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement. A new program has also been developed—the Medicines Use Review program incorporating the MedsCheck and Diabetes MedsCheck services.

From 1 October 2011, all medication management reviews conducted with eligible residents of an Australian Government funded aged care facility must be collaborative reviews. A collaborative review must be referred by a GP and conducted by an accredited pharmacist. GPs are eligible for payment for their role in a collaborative review under MBS Item 903.

From 1 October 2011, GPs will be able to refer directly to an approved accredited pharmacist for HMRs without the need to go through a community pharmacy. GPs will still be able to make referrals to a community pharmacy. This change will be reflected in MBS Item 900.

The aim of this new program is to optimise your patient's effective use of medicines through improving their understanding of, and compliance with, their medication therapy. The program will be trialled by the Department of Health and Ageing and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia in 2011–12 through a pilot starting in July 2011. Under this program, a MedsCheck and Diabetes MedsCheck service will be provided. MedsCheck and Diabetes MedsCheck will produce a report to be given to the patient that includes patient details, recommendations and a list of all medicines the patient is taking.

For further information visit the Medicare Australia website <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au>, Department of Health & Ageing, Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Phone: 1300 555 262.

MONITORING FERTILITY: ASSISTING CONCEPTION

An ALM for Health Professionals. RACGP QI&CPD 40 Category 1 (Women's Health) Points.1 Day Obstetrics Grant. Saturday 20 August 2011 at Rydges Bell City, Preston. 9:15am – 4:30pm. For further information contact Ovulation Method Research & Reference Centre of Australia Ltd, 2A/303 Burwood Highway, East Burwood. Victoria 3151. Phone: 03) 9802 2022 Email: thebillingsmethod@woomb.org Website: www.billingslife.org.

A registration form can also be obtained from Wendy Loomes at Murray-Plains.



DID YOU KNOW???

THREE TIMES AS MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INFECTED with the winter flu in Victoria compared to the same time last year.

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NATIONAL DIABETES SERVICES SCHEME – RECENT CHANGES TO THE SCHEME

The National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) is an initiative of the Australia Government administered by Diabetes Australia. The NDSS delivers diabetes-related products at subsidised prices and provides information and support services to people with diabetes. Registration is free and open to all Australians diagnosed with diabetes.

Needle Access for Non-Insulin Injectible Medication

As part of the 2011-2012 Federal budget, access to needles via the NDSS has been granted to Registrants with type 2 diabetes for non-insulin blood glucose lowering medication. Currently the only approved medication in this category is Byetta (exenatide). Registrants will require their NDSS record updated to show they have been prescribed Byetta. This can be done by showing a prescription at an NDSS Access Point (Sub-Agent) or by completing a Change to Medication Request Form - type 2 diabetes.

To access this form go to <http://ndss.com.au/Documents/NDSS/NDSS%20Forms/OPS04-02.040%20ChangeToMedication-Type2.pdf>

State Government funding of the co-payment is confirmed in Victoria.

Sub-Agents now known as NDSS Access Points

Diabetes Australia entered a new five year contract with the Australian Department of Health and Ageing to continuing administering the NDSS. As part of the new contract NDSS Sub-Agents will now be referred to as NDSS Access Points.

NDSS Online Services Directory

On 30 June 2011, the NDSS launched an online services directory (OSD) of Health Professionals and NDSS Access Points around Australia. To access the OSD, your patients can visit <http://osd.ndss.com.au/search/> if you are a health professional and would like to register to be a part of the OSD, please visit the Register page by visiting <http://osd.ndss.com.au/register/>

National Gestational Diabetes Register

The National Gestational Diabetes Register was established within the NDSS to help women who have had gestational diabetes to manage their health into the future. Registration with the National Gestational Diabetes Register is free. Women who have been diagnosed with gestational diabetes, reside in Australia and hold or are eligible to hold an Australian Medicare Card are entitled to register.

Visit <http://www.ndss.com.au/en/GD/Regisration-Form/> for more information on signing up your patients for the National Gestational Diabetes Register.

NDSS Gestational Diabetes Website

The gestational diabetes webpage is now live. Please direct your patients to <http://ndss.com.au/en/GD/> for information and support about gestational diabetes and the new NDSS Gestational Diabetes Register.

NDSS Fact Sheets

The NDSS has translated ten Diabetes Fact Sheets into ten languages. These can be viewed at: www.ndss.com.au/en/Resources/Multilingual/ The *Gestational Diabetes: Caring for yourself and your baby* booklet has been translated into five languages. This too is available from the NDSS website at: www.ndss.com.au/en/Resources/Brochures--Booklets1