



Murray-Plains  
Division of  
General Practice

# 'Tuesday Facts'



Quality  
Improvement  
Council  
'Yes ... we are  
a QIC accredited  
organisation'

Tuesday 26 October 2010 - Issue 17-10/11

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER

#### Thursday 28

NPS Small Group –  
*Opioid use in Chronic  
Pain*,  
Ceres Restaurant,  
Echuca 6:15pm

MPDGP AGM  
Ceres Restaurant,  
Echuca 7:30pm

### NOVEMBER

#### Wednesday 10

Practice Staff Network  
Meeting,  
East Charlton Hotel,  
Charlton 7:00pm

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

## OXY-THE HIDDEN EPIDEMIC

This was a television program aired on Monday 27 September on ABC1 – it focused on the misuse of prescription drugs in Australia. General Practice Victoria is currently working with the Department of Health on recommendations for prescriptions of medications such as Oxycontin, MS Contin and Oxy norm in general practice.

GPs are urged to contact the Victorian Drug and Alcohol Clinical advisory service (DACAS – 1800 812 804) if they require clinical advice on issues such as management of withdrawal symptoms, pain management and the management of medical and psychiatric conditions.

The new website, [www.dacas.org.au](http://www.dacas.org.au) includes direct access to factsheets for GPs, drug information tailored for health professionals and information on screening tools.

## NATIONAL ASTHMA COUNCIL NEW LOOK ACTION PLAN

Have a look at NAC website and feedback your thoughts on how the new look action plan can be improved or if it meets your needs [www.nationalasthmacouncil.org.au](http://www.nationalasthmacouncil.org.au)

### Asthma Action Plans



### [Asthma Action Plans and templates](#)

Suitable for adults or children. An integral part of the Asthma Cycle of Care is the development of a written Asthma Action Plan.

## LUNG CARE NURSE AUSTRALIAN LUNG FOUNDATION

The Australian Lung Foundation (ALF) recently commenced the role of Lung Care Nurse. The position is designed to provide access to a highly qualified Lung Care Nurse for patient, relatives, carers and health professionals. The position is a National role and will extend its services across Australia. The Lung Care Nurse works in conjunction with the free call telephone enquiry line and is responsible for providing up-to-date information and emotional support by telephone, email, fax or mail about issues related to lung health/diseases.

The Lung Care Nurse (LCN) is currently working on establishing two telephone support groups; one for lung cancer patients and the other for their carers. The aim is to increase knowledge of respiratory disease within the community setting. Currently the LCN works two days a week and can be contacted on 07 32513647 or 1800654301 or via email at [ainsley@lungfoundation.com.au](mailto:ainsley@lungfoundation.com.au).

## RELEASE OF DRAFT PROTOCOL ON DIAGNOSTIC JOINT ASPIRATION.

The draft protocol for the assessment of evidence pertaining to diagnostic joint aspiration and intra-articular steroid injection for osteoarthritis and inflammatory arthritis is available for public comment until 29 October 2010. The news story can be accessed here:

[http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/News-20101025-Protocol\\_Release](http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/News-20101025-Protocol_Release)

The Draft Protocol can be accessed here:

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/MBRT-Public\\_Consultation%E2%80%93New\\_MBS\\_Listings+](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/MBRT-Public_Consultation%E2%80%93New_MBS_Listings+)

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## NOVEMBER 2010 IS GP MONTH

GPs will be the focus of two new programs from the Rural Health Education Foundation.

- November 9 – A Complete Check-up: Doctor's mental health and wellbeing
- November 23 – The Discomfort Zone: a guide to managing difficult consultations

For further information on these and other programs visit [www.rhef.com.au](http://www.rhef.com.au) or call 02 6232 5480.

## HEPATITIS C LOOKBACK

The Victorian Department of Health has been undertaking a 'lookback' program to identify all women who attended the Croydon Day Surgery (CDS) between 2006 and 2009 and who had a procedure involving the doctor implicated as the source of a cluster of hepatitis C infections.

Dr John Carnie (Victoria's CHO) has announced an extension of the hepatitis C lookback to three other facilities. The Department of Health has not found any evidence of clusters of cases at any of these other facilities using its notification system, however, in order to be sure there are no additional cases from these facilities, patients treated by this anaesthetist during this period will also be contacted and advised to be tested.

Please find the full alert and further information on the CHO website <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/chiefhealthofficer/alerts/alert-2010-10-hepc.htm>

## PANDEMIC VACCINATION SURVEY: SUMMARY RESULTS.

This report, which is available at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/phe/128/12096.pdf> presents results from the 2010 Pandemic Vaccination Survey conducted in January and February 2010 by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The report provides estimates of swine flu vaccination uptake by Australians, along with the motivation for, and barriers to, vaccination. The survey showed that the swine flu vaccine uptake as of February 2010 was estimated at 18.1% (or about 3.9 million people). Some of the reasons why people wanted to get vaccinated include the seriousness of swine flu (24.7%), doctor's advice (16.8%), employment-related reasons (13.7%) and being in an 'at risk' group (10.9%).

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS: FEE SCHEDULE FOR MEDICAL SERVICES - 1 NOVEMBER 2010

Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) fee schedule which is to take effect as of 1 November 2010 can be accessed via the link below. In previous years DVA has mailed copies of fee schedules to individual providers each November. Unfortunately this has not proved to be efficient. This year DVA will be implementing a more targeted approach to providers who wish to receive copies of DVA fee schedules. It is envisaged that this strategy will ensure all providers have access to the DVA fee schedules in a timely and efficient manner.

DVA Fee Schedules online: DVA will continue to provide

- updated fee information electronically to software vendors for inclusion in practice software programs, and
- fee schedules online, so that providers can download an electronic version at their own convenience via the following link: [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)

Hard Copies of DVA Fee Schedules: If medical providers require one or more hard copies of the fee schedule, they will now be able to choose one of the following options:

- Order online at [www.dva.gov.au/service\\_providers/pages/forms.aspx](http://www.dva.gov.au/service_providers/pages/forms.aspx)
- Fax order to 1800 671 670
- Telephone 1800 155 355

Pre-orders for a hard copy fee schedule can be made prior to 1 November 2010. Pre-ordering will ensure providers receive copies of the schedule as soon as they are available, at the correct postal address. If you have any queries regarding these arrangements, please contact DVA direct on 1300 550 457.

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Email: [wloomes@mpdgp.com.au](mailto:wloomes@mpdgp.com.au) Website: [www.mpdgp.com.au](http://www.mpdgp.com.au)

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## HEADS UP FOR GPs ON AUSTRALIAN HEALTH SURVEY 2011-2012

The Australian Health Survey (AHS) starts in March 2011. It will be the most comprehensive health study ever undertaken in Australia, with some 50,000 participants being asked to give blood and urine samples at local pathology centres. This voluntary component of the survey will be in addition to the usual national health survey questions about diagnosed conditions and health service usage. Study participants can request that a copy of results also be sent directly to their GP. The AHS will be carried out by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in close consultation with the Department of Health and Ageing. You can find more information about the AHS at the [ABS website](#).

## A NEW GUIDE TO COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE: AMA

The Commonwealth Government is implementing reforms to allow nurse practitioners and midwives to provide Medicare-funded services to patients and to prescribe medications listed on the PBS. These changes are scheduled to commence on 1 November 2010.

The AMA has prepared a guide "Collaborative Arrangements - What you need to know" to help answer many of the questions doctors will have about collaborative arrangements and how they should be structured, as well as identify key issues that doctors should take into account when considering being part of a collaborative arrangement. You'll find the guide at [www.ama.com.au](http://www.ama.com.au).

## WHAT DO YOU THINK? CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Tell us your experiences for the December Primary Times!

Australian Practice Nurses Association (APNA) is featuring practice nurses from different settings (rural, remote or overseas locations) in the December 2010 edition of Primary Times magazine. We would like to hear from any nurse who has worked in rural, remote or overseas settings about your experiences and thoughts. We invite you to answer a few questions and we will collaborate all the answers received and include the answers in the Primary Times. Please [click here to download the questions](#), and email your responses to [lucy.dear@apna.asn.au](mailto:lucy.dear@apna.asn.au) by Friday 5 November.

## RACGP STANDARDS FOR GENERAL PRACTICES (4TH EDITION)

The RACGP *Standards for general practices* (4th edition) were officially launched at GP10. A free PDF version of the *Standards* and a summary of key changes between the 3rd and 4th editions are now available at [www.racgp.org.au/standards](http://www.racgp.org.au/standards). The College will be running a number of online information sessions on the latest edition of the *Standards* in November. To view the webinar schedule and for further information on the *Standards*, including transition arrangements for practices seeking accreditation or re-accreditation, visit [www.racgp.org.au/standards](http://www.racgp.org.au/standards).

## STANDARDS AND COMPUTER SECURITY GUIDELINES LAUNCH

The RACGP *Standards for general practices* (4th edition) and RACGP Computer security guidelines: a self assessment guide and checklist for general practices (3rd edition) were officially launched at the GP10 conference in Cairns. The Computer security guidelines are now available at [www.racgp.org.au/ehealth/csg](http://www.racgp.org.au/ehealth/csg). The Standards will be available in PDF at [www.racgp.org.au/standards](http://www.racgp.org.au/standards) soon. The Standards hard copy will be available for purchase from early December 2010 and from November 2010 there will be a Standards webpage.



## PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Murray-Plains Division of General Practice is seeking Expressions of Interest from the following disciplines to serve on the Practice Development Advisory Group (PDAG) for a period of 12 months from November 2010-November 2011. The PDAG Terms of Reference accompanying this document sets out the functions of the group.

The PDAG meets 3-4 times per year mainly by teleconference although some meetings may be face-to-face. Remuneration is at the rate of \$115.00 per hour (+ GST).

I, ..... of .....  
(Name) (Address)

wish to apply for appointment to the PDAG in the role of :

- GP representative
- Pharmacist representative
- Consumer representative
- Community health representative
- Practice Manager
- Practice Nurse

Signed ..... Date .....

Please complete and return this form to:  
**Kerry Parry, Practice Capacity Manager,**  
Murray-Plains Division of General Practice  
by Email: [kparry@mpdgp.com.au](mailto:kparry@mpdgp.com.au)  
or fax to 03 5480 0702  
by **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.**



## **PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **PURPOSE**

The Practice Development Advisory Group provides advice and direction for a range of Murray-Plains Division of General Practice service provision programs.

### **PROGRAMS**

- Immunisation
- Chronic Disease Management support
- Continuing Professional Development
- Quality Use of Medicine
- Clinical Risk Management
- Other relevant programs as considered appropriate

The Terms of Reference for this Advisory Group are as follows:

1. Advise on the development, implementation, adaptation of the Murray-Plains programs under the auspice of the Practice Development Advisory Group.
2. Enhance MPDGP service provision consistent with Strategic Plan, Funding Agency guidelines and striving to address consumer and community needs.
3. Review relevant program activity reports.
4. Consider relevant population health data, health outcome information with consumer and community derived feedback.
5. Membership shall include but not be limited to:
  - Practice Capacity Manager
  - NPS Facilitator & Practice Capacity Team members (as appropriate)
  - Board of Management representative
  - GP representative
  - Pharmacist representative
  - Consumer representative
  - Community health representative
  - Practice Manager
  - Practice Nurse
6. Meet quarterly via teleconference (or face-to-face as required).
7. Non MPDGP employed Advisory Group participants are entitled to receive \$115-00 per hour as a sitting fee for attendance at an Advisory Group meeting.
8. MPDGP Board of Management will approve PDAG Membership on an annual basis following MPDGP's Annual General Meeting.



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Murray-Plains Division of General Practice is seeking Expressions of Interest from the following disciplines to serve on the Workforce Development Advisory Group (WDAG) for a period of 12 months from November 2010-November 2011. The WDAG Terms of Reference accompanying this document sets out the functions of the group.

The WDAG meets 3-4 times per year mainly by teleconference although some meetings may be face-to-face. Remuneration is at the rate of \$115.00 per hour (+ GST).

I, ..... of .....  
(Name) (Address)

wish to apply for appointment to the WDAG in the role of :

- GP representative
- Consumer representative
- Practice Manager

Signed ..... Date .....

Please complete and return this form to:  
**Kerry Parry, Practice Capacity Manager,**  
Murray-Plains Division of General Practice  
by Email: [kparry@mpdgp.com.au](mailto:kparry@mpdgp.com.au)  
or fax to 03 5480 0702  
by **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.**



## **MURRAY-PLAINS DIVISION OF GENERAL PRACTICE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **PURPOSE**

The Workforce Development Advisory Group provides advice and direction for a range of Murray-Plains Division of General Practice service provision programs.

### **PROGRAMS**

- Recruitment
- Retention
- Locum
- GP Health

The Terms of Reference for this Advisory Group are as follows:

1. Advise on the development, implementation, adaptation of the Murray-Plains programs under the auspice of the Workforce Development Advisory Group.
2. Enhance MPDGP service provision consistent with Strategic Plan, Funding Agency guidelines and striving to address consumer and community needs.
3. Review relevant program activity reports.
4. Consider relevant population health data, health outcome information with consumer and community derived feedback.
5. Membership shall include but not be limited to:
  - Board of Management representative
  - Practice Capacity Team Leader
  - MPDGP Workforce Facilitator
  - Clinical Advisor
  - GP Member/s
  - Practice Manager/s
  - Community/consumer representative (Consumer Reference Panel member)
6. Meet quarterly via teleconference (or face-to-face as agreed).
7. Non MPDGP employed Advisory Group participants are entitled to receive \$115-00 per hour as a sitting fee for attendance at an Advisory Group meeting.