



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

Thursday 9

CRM/LAOS Reference
Panel, Face-to-Face
Inglewood, and by
teleconference
7:30pm

Tuesday 14

Loddon Mallee Integrated
Cancer Service – Febrile
Neutropenia,
(in collaboration with
Kerang District Health
and MPDGP),
Kerang District Health,
Kerang
6:15pm

*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*

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

MPDGP will be closed over the Christmas New Year period from 12 noon Thursday 23 December 2010 and will reopen at 9:00am on Tuesday 4 January 2011.

INTRODUCING THE NPS CLINICAL E-AUDIT: MANAGEMENT OF HYPERTENSION

The Management of Hypertension Clinical e-Audit provides GPs with the opportunity to assess absolute cardiovascular risk, modify risk factors, identify and aim for guideline-recommended blood pressure targets and tailor therapy according to coexisting conditions.

In response to GP feedback, Clinical e-Audit; Management of Hypertension now involves a review of only 10 patients.

Benefits of NPS Clinical e-Audits

- quick and easy to complete
- free and independent quality improvement activity
- evidence-based clinical guidance and patient resources
- secure data transmission
- immediate individualised feedback
- compare improvements in your practice against best practice clinical indicators and your peers
- Earn professional development points and incentives

Enrol online at www.nps.org.au/clinical_audits or call the NPS on 02 8217 8700 (select option 2).

AFTER-HOURS PIP PAYMENTS EXTENDED AND LOCAL AFTER HOURS SERVICES FUNDING FOR FURTHER TWO YEARS

THE Federal Government has announced that it will delay plans to remove the Practice Incentives Program payments for after-hours care.

The government had originally planned to remove the first-tier after-hours PIP payments – worth \$2000 a year for each full-time-equivalent GP – from next July. However, in a statement released late last week, Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon said the PIP payments would be extended for two years, until mid-2013.

Ms Roxon also announced the 101 GP practices which will receive up to \$100,000 each as part of the 2010-11 round of the \$10 million General Practice After-Hours Grants Program. Under the program, successful organisations will receive a two-year grant of up to \$100,000 to assist them with costs such as incentives for GPs, wages for support staff and other operating costs incurred after hours.

Murray-Plains is delighted with the news that both our applications for local services were successful. The Echuca After Hours Clinic and the Boort/East Wimmera Weekend GP Locum service have received further funding under this round of the grants program to continue to provide access to vital after hours medical services in our community.

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FAREWELL TO HELEN CRAMER

Our Education Facilitator, Helen Cramer, has been with us for over 2½ years and, sadly, is leaving MPDGP on 10 December 2010 to take up a role at Cohuna District Hospital. We wish Helen every success for the future and know that she will be sadly missed. We are currently in the process of appointing Helen's successor.

ABI BEHAVIOUR CONSULTANCY

The ABI Behaviour Consultancy is a free, state-wide behaviour management service for people with acquired brain injury (ABI) due to trauma, stroke, substance use, infection, tumour or hypoxia. The service is staffed by clinical neuropsychologists and a consultant psychiatrist who can work directly with general practitioners, practice nurses and mental health nurses around assessment and management. Management strategies aim to reduce the impact of ABI-related behaviours such as verbal and physical aggression, sexual disinhibition and inactivity. Referrals can be made by visiting www.bdpv.org or by phoning 03 9490 7366 to speak with the intake worker.

CENTRE FOR ONLINE HEALTH PROJECT

The Centre for Online Health (COH) at the University of Queensland is undertaking a project on behalf of the Department of Health and Ageing – to provide expert advice on telehealth.

This work relates to the recent announcement in August 2010, when an Australian Government commitment was made to invest \$392 million over four years to provide Medicare benefits for online consultations across a range of specialties, expand the General Practice (GP) After Hours Helpline to include videoconferencing capability and provide GP's and Specialists with financial incentives to deliver online services.

The COH are giving all GP's the opportunity to comment on this initiative and provide valuable advice related to the current state of telehealth in General Practice. A survey has been developed and is available online. It is anticipated that the survey will take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

[Please click here to take the survey](#)

Survey results will remain anonymous and your involvement is completely voluntary. The survey closes on Friday 10th December, 2010.

This study adheres to the guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland. Whilst you are free to discuss your participation in this study with project staff (contactable on 07 3346 4754), if you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Officer on 07 3365 3924.

Thank you very much for your involvement in the survey. Dr Anthony Smith.