



IDGP Highlights

IDGP Mental Health Nurse Service

Over the past 12 months, the IDGP Mental Health Nurse Service had:

- 28 separate GPs refer a total of 50 patients to the IDGP mental health nurse service.
- 965 mental health nursing sessions delivered including 917 face to face sessions delivered.

IDGP Clinical Psychology Service

12 month results for the IDGP CPS included:

- 999 occasions of brief psychological therapy were provided to 187 GP referred patients.
- 26 GP referred patients attended the group treatment program for anxiety and depression.
- 18 GP referred patients attended the postnatal depression service

Headspace Illawarra Youth Health Centre

Over the past 12 months, headspace Illawarra has provided:

- Support to 664 young people who have accessed the service.
- Over 4000 occasions of support by headspace Illawarra's GPs, psychologists, mental health nurse, youth councillor's and youth workers.

WELCOME

The days are getting longer, the weather is getting warmer and suddenly Christmas is only one month away. Can you believe it? 2010 has been a big year within Australia as we have survived a mammoth election campaign and watched the mighty St George Illawarra Dragons finally win the NRL premiership.

2010 has been no less significant for those working within general practice with the unveiling of MBS changes, the move to national nurse registration and the rolling out of Closing the Gap. 2010 has also meant the end of this triennium period, so GPs must have their education points up to date.

On a local level we congratulate those practices who were successful with accreditation or reaccreditation and we recognise that the childhood immunisation coverage rate within the Illawarra continues to increase. Also the claiming of diabetes SIP levels has doubled over the past twelve months, which is a terrific result. We trust that consistent work by the general practice team has been of assistance to practices in achieving these outcomes.

2010 has seen the launch of the IDGP Clinical Psychology Team's 'Sleep Better' group and Perinatal Mental Health Service. 'Sleep Better' has grown from strength to strength with clients experiencing significant improvements in sleep patterns. The Perinatal Service has just kicked off its first wave of group sessions which are focused on providing therapy for women and men struggling to cope with the emotional demands of being a parent.

Within this edition of PS.. we have provided a summary of the results achieved in the recently completed IDGP cervical screening project. We provide a review of new developments with the Lifestyle Modification Program and an overview of a new Dementia Risk Reduction program. There is also an update on the launch of the 4th Edition standards.

Please look out for the colour poster insert on the Adverse Events Clinic available at Westmead Children's Hospital. Many nurses will have heard about this service at the recent Public Health Unit Immunisation Update.

The IDGP welcomes new Practice Support Officer Melanie Cousins who replaces Chris Pitt. After 2 1/2 years of enthusiastic and dedicated work, Chris is heading off for a year-long adventure travelling the globe. We wish him all the best for his trip and for his future career. Melanie has hit the ground running and will soon commence practice visits. We also bid farewell to Brendon Fitzgerald who is taking up a new regional Aboriginal health role based at the IAMS.

As this is the last edition of PS for the year, the Practice Support Team would like to thank you for all your support and feedback over the past 12 months and wish you a happy and safe Christmas. We look forward to working with you in 2011.

Linda, Kathy, Margaret, Melanie, Katherine, Kristie-Lee and Alison.
Your Practice Support Team



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Immunisation assistance and resources from Practice Support Team

Switch to electronic recording of immunization encounters

For any practices who are still using a paper based system (purple forms) and are contemplating utilizing an electronic method there are two options available.

ACIR secure site: practices can access the ACIR secure site via the internet to check a child's immunization history and record an encounter as well as download their ACIR reports.

Electronic batching: by linking the clinical and billing software a practice is able to submit data to ACIR via the Medicare Online procedure. This applies to most software programs.

Cold chain monitoring

The Practice Support team offers a data logging service for any practices wishing to monitor their fridge temperatures (for both domestic and purpose built fridges).

Loggers are placed in the fridge for a period of 4 – 5 days after which the practice is provided a graph and report of the fridge temperatures. This service can be utilized by any practices coming up for accreditation or at any other time.

The IDGP can also provide a template for twice daily temperature recording and has copies of STRIVE for 5 (National Vaccine Storage Guidelines) and the KISS guide to vaccine management available.

Practice coverage rates and overdue children

If your practice would like any assistance in utilizing your GPII 20A report (from ACIR) please contact the Practice Support team. The report provides you with your immunization coverage rate and a list of children who are deemed overdue.

If your practice coverage rate for any given quarter falls below 90% you are no longer eligible to receive the \$3.50 (per WPE < 7yo) outcomes payment for that quarter.

Practices have approximately 2 months to recall overdue children or submit existing information to ACIR before a recalculation is conducted. If the recalculation improves the coverage rate from below 90% to above 90%, the outcomes payment will still be made.

Other resources available:

- 9th edition immunization handbook
- Myths and realities – responding to arguments against immunization. A guide for providers.
- Adverse events pads – common observed reactions to vaccines and what to do
- Childhood immunization fridge magnet (for parents and carers)

Hypertension and Dementia Risk Reduction Project

With funding from NSW Health, the IDGP is starting an exciting new project which aims to **reduce the risk of developing dementia by controlling blood pressure in patients aged 45-60.**

This project provides GPs and PNs an opportunity to deliver evidence-based primary health care to assist their patients to improve health outcomes by reducing their risk of **dementia** and other chronic diseases, through the improved management of their **hypertension**.

The project will involve:

1. Intensive IM/IT support to ensure hypertension measurements are accurately recorded into clinical software.
2. Formal education to participating GPs and PNs on a number of topics surrounding **hypertension and dementia** - (which will earn CPD points).
3. Support to implement latest guidelines for **hypertension**, including pharmacological management and management through lifestyle modification.
4. Opportunity to educate patients on the importance of managing their **hypertension**.

To find out more or provide an early expression of interest to participate, contact Katherine Eagleton on 4220 7600 or email keagleton@idgp.org.au



Kathy's Korner

Data Cleansing Tips For Medical Director

Is your practice archiving patients that have not been into the surgery for several years in the correct way?

If you are unsure and would like more information please give the practice support team a call on 4220 7600.

GP & Practice of the Year award

Illawarra GPs and practices have again been recognized for their excellent qualities and skills.

The selection is based on nominations made by patients and judged by a sub-committee of the Division's Consumer Consultative Committee. Awards were presented at the Illawarra Division of General Practice Annual General Meeting Dinner.

Dr Jenny Smiley had an outstanding number of excellent nominations and was the unequivocal choice for the **2010 Illawarra GP of the Year**.

The following GPs received an exceptional mention:

- Dr Leon Wright and Dr Seng Ooi from Dapto Medical & Family Practice
- Dr Grayson MacKay from the Illawarra Family Medical Centre

Winner of the **2010 Illawarra Practice of the Year** was **Bulli Medical Practice**. Dr Jenny Smiley's practice in Gwynneville received an exceptional mention.



Dr Jenny Smiley & Team, Illawarra GP of the Year 2010

IDGP AGM 2010

The IDGP held its Annual General Meeting on the 28th of October at the Novotel. The session was well attended and a great night was had by all. Guest speaker Professor Kathy Eager, Director of the Centre for Health Services Development reflected upon the health care reforms "Integration or Fragmentation; understanding the health care reforms."

Dr Gerges from Shellharbour Medical Centre and Dr Perriment from Dr Smiley's were voted onto the IDGP board. Dr Russell Pearson and Dr Steve Lyon were retained as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board.

Successful Cervical Screening Project finishes

Between July 2008 and Sept 2010 a total of 3405 Pap tests were completed as part of the IDGP's Cervical Screening Project. With funds from the Cancer Institute of NSW, the Division aimed to improve access to cervical screening services to women living in the Wollongong and Shellharbour LGAs. Target populations for this project were women aged 20-69 years considered un/underscreened, with an emphasis on screening Indigenous women and women from a CALD background.

This project was delivered to 23 practices using two different nurse led clinic models. Either IDGP provided to practices, a registered accredited cervical screening nurse to run clinics at practices or, the IDGP provided practices that utilised their own accredited cervical screening nurse, funds to offset the employment and administrative costs of running regular clinics.

All participating practices received assistance from the Division in accessing their patient data from the Pap Test Register, claiming relevant MBS item numbers, PIP and SIP payments, and culturally appropriate patient resources.

The Cervical Screening Project was a success. The use of nurse led clinics facilitated the involvement of practices by supporting qualified practice nurses to perform Pap tests and comprehensive Well Women's Health Checks that many GPs do not perform themselves.

The use of a qualified nurse in the practice removed the need for GPs to refer externally to pathology services, allowing women to receive their Well Women's Health Checks in the comfort of their own practice.

Importantly, this model also allowed sustainable capacity building for practices. Importantly, by having an accredited nurse conducting Well Women's Checks (supported by specific MBS item numbers), practices will be able to continue to provide their patients with cervical screening services.

The Project provided access to a qualified Women's Health Nurse for 3,405 patients in the Wollongong and Shellharbour LGA.

Of the 3,405 women who received a Pap test, 3,212 (94.3%) were aged between 20-69 years, 2,891 (84.9%) were un/underscreened, 301 (8.8%) were from a CALD background and 239 (7.0%) identified as being Indigenous.

Doctors (48.9%) and practice staff (17.7%) were the main two referral methods for patients. This suggests that doctors were happy to refer patients to their qualified practice nurse to perform the Pap test as part of a Well Women's Health Check, and practice staff utilised both the PTR data and/or their own medical software to actively find and recall patients (over)due for their Pap test.

As part of the Well Women's Health Check, breast screening (39.9%), continence advice (12.7%) and other (31.9%) (including pelvic floor examinations and menstruation), were the most common issues addressed by the nurse in addition to the Pap test.

External to clinic activity, the project had a number of other successes including a promotion campaign through supportive local media outlets and important collaborations with external stakeholders, such as the Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service, the Illawarra Women's Health Centre, SESIAHS and Barnardos Australia. These collaborations allowed the IDGP to build relationships with local service providers as well as improving the Divisions' profile within the community.

Unfortunately, the Cancer Institute NSW did not renew funding for this project. Despite this, the Division believes that the project has been successful in improving access to holistic cervical screening services to women living in the Wollongong and Shellharbour LGAs, delivered in a manner that is beneficial for patients and sustainable for practices.

Snippets

Taking Control – Diabetes, Depression and Anxiety Resource

beyondblue: the national depression initiative, in association with Diabetes Australia (Vic) has produced a FREE DVD aimed at helping people with diabetes, their carers and health professionals to recognise the symptoms of depression and anxiety. The DVD, *Taking Control: Diabetes, Depression & Anxiety*, features interviews with:

- people who have type 1 or type 2 diabetes and depression and/or an anxiety disorder – and a carer
- health professionals including a psychologist and an endocrinologist.

They talk about how to manage both diabetes and depression/anxiety and have tips for taking control of these conditions.

The FREE DVD can be ordered online at www.beyondblue.org.au or by calling the *beyondblue* info line 1300 224 636.

NHMRC Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has launched a national Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal to enable access to guidelines through a 'one stop shop' process. The website has links to Australian guidelines developed by governments, professional colleges, specialty societies and non-government agencies, which have all been assessed by the NHMRC.

The resource can be accessed at <http://www.clinicalguidelines.gov.au/>

Mind Your Mind

Alzheimer's Australia has launched a new website for the 'Mind your Mind' dementia risk reduction campaign. A new guide for dementia risk reduction has been released called 'Dementia risk reduction: a practical guide for general practitioners' that contains information on the modifiable risk and protective factors for dementia, the evidence of the association of those factors with dementia risk and a practical guide to the resources available.

The new website and practice guide can be located at <http://mindyourmind.org.au/>



PIP and QPI

What's happening at NPS?

If your practice receives PIP and visits on NPS therapeutic topics, then a QPI payment is possible if the GPs also complete a clinical audit (one audit per Full Time Equivalent GP is required).

Audits need to be fully completed by April 2011, so it is a good time to register and start now. Only electronic audits are currently available, however there are three to choose from:

Optimising management of type 2 diabetes, Management of hypertension and Review of proton pump inhibitor (PPI) prescribing.

Enrolment for these is via http://www.nps.org.au/health_professionals. Demonstrations are also available via this link.

For the practice to receive the QPI payment there needs to be three NPS activities per full-time equivalent GP.

Apart from the audits, these activities can be completed by a visit from me on any one of the NPS visiting topics presently on offer. These are:

- Management options to maximise sleep
- Opioid therapy in chronic pain: use a planned approach
- Therapeutic choices for menopausal symptoms

For any information on matter NPS, contact either Ali Martin or me at the IDGP on 4220 6700.

Margaret Jordan
mjordan@idgp.org.au



Bulli Medical Practice, Practice of the Year 2010

"Reset Your Life"

Reset Your Life is a nationally accredited lifestyle modification program (LMP) for **Type 2 diabetes prevention and management.**

The LMP is delivered in 7 sessions and runs over 6 months, providing participants with knowledge about:

- What is type 2 diabetes? How do we prevent it? How do we prevent it escalating?
- How physical activity can help
- What to eat and drink to stay healthy
- How to make and maintain healthier lifestyle choices
- Goal setting
- Stress management, healthy minds and tips to stay motivated

The LMP is subsidised for eligible patients at a cost of \$50 which is waived for Concession Card or Health Care Card holders.

Patients at risk of diabetes are eligible for a subsidy if they are:

- aged 40-49 years or are Indigenous and aged 15-54 years;
- at 'high risk' of developing type 2 diabetes as determined by the AUSDRISK tool (score 12 or greater)
- have had existing type 2 diabetes excluded;
- have not previously attended a subsidised Lifestyle Modification Program under the prevention of type 2 diabetes program

Patients **with diagnosed type 2 diabetes** are eligible for the 8 Medicare Diabetes Group sessions if they are on a GP management plan. The program will also be subsidised for these patients.

Friends and relatives or others not eligible for the subsidy are encouraged to attend to learn about healthy behaviour change. The full cost of the program is \$280, which can be paid in installments.

If you think joining a Lifestyle Modification program would be of interest to any of your patients, please contact Lauren or Katherine at the IDGP on **4220 7600** or email: idgp@idgp.org.au

Snippets

The NSW Sexual Health Information Line

Need help with STI Contact Tracing? Think NSW Sexual Health Infoline 1800 451 624. If you have detected a STI in your patient did you know it is your responsibility as part of good clinical management to talk to your patients about how to inform their sexual partners?

In most cases the patient will choose to notify their own partners with advice and support from you. Alternatively, some patients may prefer you or another agency (such as the local sexual health clinic) to contact their partners directly, keeping your patients identity confidential.

But whichever method you and your patient decide the NSW Sexual Health Infoline can support you. The NSW Sexual Health Infoline is available to provide information on contact tracing to clinicians.

They can outline your responsibilities in contact tracing, how to introduce it into a consultation, key points to discuss, tips for success and direct you to local sexual health services if you need further help.

For your patient, the specialist nurses can discuss tips and techniques to help let their partners know and support those partners informed of a possible exposure to an STI.

Position Vacant – Indigenous Health Project Officer

The IDGP is sad to say goodbye to Brendon Fitzgerald, who left the Division at the end of October.

We are currently advertising for a new Indigenous Health Project Officer with the goal of employing someone in the coming weeks.

In the mean time if any practices have any queries pertaining to the Indigenous Health Incentive or the Cultural Awareness training please do not hesitate to contact the Practice Support Team at 4220 7600.

RACGP launches 4th edition standards

The RACGP launched the 4th edition accreditation standards in October at the GP10 conference.

For a free downloadable PDF version of the standards go to <http://www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/PracticeSupport/StandardsforGeneralPractices/Standards4thEdition.pdf>. Hard copies of the standards will be available from the RACGP from mid December 2010 at a cost of \$45 for members and \$60 for non-members.

Both AGPAL and GPA are aiming to phase in the 4th edition standards gradually over the next 12 months. The following dates give a guide to the phasing in plan:

Phase 1 – from October 2010 to June 30th 2011: all practices will continue to be assessed against the 3rd edition standards. (Please note that GPA have indicated if all their resources have been updated prior to the 30th June 2011 then they may make the choice between 3rd and 4th edition standards available earlier to their practices).

Phase 2: 1st July 2011 – 31st October 2011: practices can choose to be accredited against the 3rd or 4th edition.

Phase 3: from 1st November 2011: all practices will be assessed against the 4th edition standards.

For those practices wishing to access a **summary of the key changes** between the 3rd and 4th edition there is a 4 page summary available at the following link http://www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/PracticeSupport/StandardsforGeneralPractices/Standards4thEd_KeyChanges.pdf or contact practice support for a copy to be emailed or sent to you.

There have been 15 practices so far this year who have undergone a successful accreditation or re-accreditation visit. Well done on all your hard work and well deserved achievement. Good luck to all the practices who still have survey visits between now and the end of 2010.

For any support with accreditation including resources and mock accreditation visit please contact the Practice Support Team.

OTiIS Update

Over the past few months, OTiIS has seen a number of practices respond to our "OTiIS netregistry and Google Apps" offer, OTiIS is able to register a domain name and set up a free Google apps e-mail service, giving your practice a personalised feature rich e-mail service at a low price. The practices that we have set this up with have provided some really positive feedback.

We can see several benefits in this approach such as:

- Securing a domain name that is relative your business and easy to remember; this has the potential to lead people to your website and make it easier to let people know your e-mail address.
- Some practices are reporting using a more online approach to the way their practice does business, by using e-mails more in the management of their practice.

Google Apps is a cloud based service that is reliable, secure, powerful and intuitive. This cloud based service can help employees collaborate and work more efficiently. When combined with a new domain name, Google Apps will be a valuable service that offers the following to practices:

- Microsoft Outlook interoperability allowing synchronisation between a practice's online email account directly and their Outlook client!
 - Access to emails anywhere anytime via an internet ready PC or Mobile device!
 - Over 7GB of email storage capacity stored out on the cloud in a secure and accessible location!
 - Large online storage capacity for storing documents online!
 - Keep track with an online calendar!
- OTiIS is experienced and available to assist in making this a reality for your business.

CONTACT OTiIS NOW TO GET CONNECTED!

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OTiIS Email: otiis@idgp.org.au

OTiIS offers a full IT support service at a discount to IDGP Members.

For a free quote on discounted hardware and software contact us on the above number. OTiIS is able to supply hardware and software to practices even if you do your own IT support or have another provider of IT services.

Practice staff who are interested in purchasing discounted Hardware or Software can visit www.otiis.com.au, sign up and enjoy great savings!

Snippets

Contact Tracing Remains Key to Managing Sexually Transmissible Infections

The Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) is pleased to announce the Australasian Contact Tracing Manual (4th edition) has been released.

The Manual is the leading national resource available to health care workers for the contact tracing – or partner notification – of sexually transmissible infections (STIs), viral hepatitis and HIV-related tuberculosis.

The need for a revised version was initiated by ASHM, in response to recent Australian research suggesting both health care providers and patients diagnosed with STIs would like more guidance and resources to assist them with partner notification.

The Australasian Contact Tracing Manual (4th edition) is designed for all Australian and New Zealand health care providers involved in the testing and management of people with STIs, viral hepatitis and HIV-related tuberculosis.

The publication also includes a range of patient handouts, sample referral letters for partners, and resources for health care professionals to provide to both patients, and partners of patients.

The Manual is funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and is distributed free of charge throughout Australia.

It is available as a hardcopy handbook and now in a searchable web-based format at www.ashm.org.au/ctm

It can also be ordered online or downloaded at www.ashm.org.au/resources.

Want to find a Psychologist?

If you are looking for a psychologist within the area that specializes in a certain field or speaks a certain language please visit the Australian Psychological Society website at <http://www.psychology.org.au/FindaPsychologist/Default.aspx?Mode=Advanced>

A “Day in the Life” of a Royal District Nursing Service Nurse

Royal District Nursing Service is now providing care to Veterans and War Widows in the Illawarra. They provide a complete range of Community Nursing services with the aid of current technology, as the following story illustrates.

Kim’s day starts with logging on to her tablet Personal Computer (PC) and connecting to the RDNS information system via wireless connection which downloads the client list for the day. This program updates each hour so that any new referrals or messages received at the RDNS Customer Service Centre can be transferred to the nurse on the road for same day response if needed. The Customer Service Centre (CSC) operates 24 hours a day, 365 days per year and over 80% of staff in the Centre are Registered Nurses. CSC is available for both clients and service providers to contact to discuss referrals, visit schedules or any other care issues.

Upon arrival at the client’s home, the District Nurse takes her PC into the client’s home. This enables her to access RDNS clinical procedures or care plans if needed, as well as MIMS online for clients requiring medication information. Kim’s first client Mrs Jones, is a lady requiring a compression therapy dressing for a chronic leg ulcer. After the dressing, Kim is able to set up her PC for the client to view the online client education package on leg ulcers.

Mrs Jones and Kim are able to discuss the process of her disease, and afterwards, Mrs Jones states she has a clearer understanding and is motivated to comply with her dressing regime. Upon leaving the home, Kim documents in the PC the length of the visit and travel time so that the Department of Veteran’s Affairs can be accurately billed for the visit.

Kim’s morning continues with visits to:

- Joe who has dementia and needs medication administration
- Barbara who was recently discharged from hospital and requires assistance with personal care.
- Jane has metastatic Cancer. RDNS nurses visit to provide assistance with

personal care, monitor symptoms such as pain management, bowel care and support family carers.

- John has diabetes, but is unable to use insulin pens due to severe arthritis and low vision. RDNS administers insulin, monitors BGLs and provide diabetes education re. diet, etc

During the morning, a new referral is forwarded to Kim’s PC from CSC. Pauline is 83 years old and has been referred by her GP for assessment and wound care after a fall at home and skin tear to her arm. Kim is able to visit Pauline and her carer (her daughter) that afternoon. She completes a holistic assessment, dresses the wound and arranges ongoing visits.

Other activities include a falls risk assessment, referral to Veteran’s Affairs Home Front Service which provides a home safety assessment, and discussion with Pauline and her daughter regarding aged care support services available.

Kim’s day concludes with a short time in the office where she is able to give handover the Pam who is rostered on the evening shift, restock her supplies and prepare for her next shift.

To make a referral to RDNS, please contact our Customer Service Centre on 1300 687 746 or if you would like further information from our local team, call the IDGP office on 4220 7630.

Practices looking for practice nurses

If your practice is looking to employ the services of a practice nurse or expand your current practice nurse workforce please notify the Practice Support team.

We currently have nurses looking for work in general practice. Practice support are also able to place an advertisement on the IDGP website free of charge with the details of what you are looking for.

Please contact Practice Support if you would like to place an ad or discuss this further. Phone 4220 7600 or email practicesupport@idgp.org.au.

Snippets

Early Statistics (as at October 2010) regarding uptake of Closing The Gap initiatives

- More than 1,300 general practices and Indigenous Health Services registered
- More than 26,000 patients are benefiting
- Approximately 1,900 pharmacies are participating
- Uptake is highest in NSW with 42% of CTG prescriptions dispensed there followed by QLD with 30% and VIC with 10%.
- Top 5 medicines dispensed were Atorvastatin (cardiovascular), Metformin Hydrochloride (diabetes), Amoxicillin (antibiotic), Salbutamol Sulfate (asthma), and Perindopril (cardiovascular).

Practices looking for staff

If your practice is looking to employ a practice nurse, GP or locum you can contact the Practice Support team on 4220 7600 or at practicesupport@idgp.org.au about putting a free advertisement on our website.

To see current Ads of practices looking for Nurses, GPs and locums on our website please visit <http://www.idgp.org.au/services/practice-vacancies.html>

We also have a reception staff pool list. If you are looking for reception/administration staff please contact Kristie-Lee or Alison on 4220 7600 or at practicesupport@idgp.org.au to obtain our list.

KEEP THEM SAFE

A shared approach to child wellbeing: Out of Home Care Health Assessments

The NSW Government released Keep Them Safe: A shared response to Child Wellbeing, a five year plan on 3rd March 2009. The initiative is an outcome from the Special Commission of Inquiry into child protection services conducted by The Honourable Justice James Wood in December 2007 which resulted in 106 accepted recommendations for changes to the child protection system.

A significant component of Keep Them Safe funding will support the expansion of Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) services. Specific improvements include the appointment of OOHC Coordinators in Area Health Services across the state, whose role it is to ensure children and young people in OOHC receive comprehensive multi-disciplinary health and developmental assessments. The available literature widely acknowledges that children and young people in OOHC are a highly vulnerable group with increased rates of physical, developmental and emotional health problems compared to the general community of Australian children. In recognition of the high rates of health problems experienced by children and young people in OOHC, an initiative of the Keep Them Safe action plan is the delivery of health assessments to children and young people entering OOHC.

It will be the role of the OOHC Coordinator to plan, implement and monitor the process of providing both primary and comprehensive health assessments for children and young people entering OOHC.

All children and young people entering OOHC will receive a primary health assessment within 30 days of entering care and if required a comprehensive health assessment within 3 months. The primary health screening will be conducted by Child and Family Health Nurses, mainstream GPs, Aboriginal Medical Service GPs or Headspace GPs depending on the age and needs of the child. The primary health screening will include a physical examination, growth and development check, vision and hearing screen, dental screen, immunisation check, nutrition check and response to any concerns raised by carers.

There will be a template available (paper and electronic) for GPs to use when conducting the primary screening of OOHC children. Currently there is no MBS item number specific to this assessment so it is envisaged that a Level C or Level D consult would be claimed. An Item 715 (Aboriginal health assessment) for a child could also be used where applicable.

Following a primary health screening the OOHC coordinator will take the results of the screening to a triage meeting where the results for each child will be reviewed and an intake team will determine if it is necessary for the child to have a comprehensive assessment conducted. The comprehensive assessment is likely to involve a number of clinicians as per the child's needs. Children 0-5 years will be reviewed every 6 months and children 6-18yrs will be reviewed annually, unless changes in health or circumstances require more frequent reviews.

Based on 2007/08 data, 483 children entered OOHC for the Southern Region (Helensburgh through to Ulladulla). Of these children, over one third were indigenous and 45% were under 5 years old.

The Illawarra Division of General Practice is working together with SESIAHS and Community Services to facilitate these changes. If there is any further information you require or you have any comments or feedback please do not hesitate to contact Margaret or Linda at the IDGP on 4220 7600.



Dr Seng Ooi, Exceptional Mention Illawarra GP of the Year 2010

Education Events

Practice Managers' Forum – 8th of December

The final Practice Managers' Forum of 2010 has been announced. The session will be run on the 8th of December from 4:00pm to 5:30pm and will be held at the Illawarra Division of General Practice.

Leanne Cummins, the SESIAHS Antenatal Shared Care Coordinator will present on the ANSC services and how patients can be referred. The Practice Managers' Forum will have a social aspect with each meeting followed by dinner together at a Wollongong restaurant.

College of Nursing – Immunisation Course for RNs

For RNs looking to become accredited nurse immunisers the College of Nursing offers a distance education course with courses commencing monthly.

The pre-requisites are a current first aid certificate and current national registration. Current costs are \$664.50 for members and \$782.00 for non-members. For a fact sheet on the course go to: http://www.nursing.edu.au/Online_Course/ShowCourseProfile.aspx?CourseID=63&CategoryID=12

Please note that the 2011 commencement dates have not yet been updated on this fact sheet. For phone enquiries please contact the Assessment and Training Services Manager on (02) 9745 7500.

Online Immunisation Education

'Think GP' hosts the Immunisation Saves Lives Active Learning Module. Currently 518 doctors, nurses and administration staff are working through the 6 modules on the site. The general practice team can work through the ALM at their own pace, with each module taking 30 minutes to complete.

To complete the ALM, register at www.thinkgp.com.au

CPR Dates

NSW Surf Life Saving runs monthly CPR courses out of the Wollongong Master Builders Club. The cost of attending CPR training is \$60. All courses run from 9:30am to 12:00pm.

Upcoming dates include;
Sat 11th Dec 2010

NSW Surf Life Saving will run a CPR training session at your practice for a minimum of 5 participants on a day and time suitable to the practice.

Family Planning- Well Women's Screening Course

Dates for courses coming up in 2011:
7th February: Ashfield
5th April: Nowra
6th June: Ashfield

For a full list of courses, enrolment forms and cost please go to http://www.fpnsw.org.au/544645_5.html Or phone the course coordinator on 02 8752 4328.

Demystifying Depression: Managing Depression in General Practice

Date: Saturday, 18 December 2010

Cost: There is **no charge for this workshop**

Time: 8.45am registration for a 9.00am start, 4.45pm finish (Refreshments provided)

Venue: Black Dog Institute, Hospital Road, Prince of Wales Campus, Randwick

Endorsement: Active Learning Module: Category 1 attracting 40 QA&CPD points and Mental Health Skills Training (formerly Level 1 Initial) for those who complete requirements

Enquiries: Katie Denton 02 9382 8518 or email k.denton@blackdog.org.au

If you would like to attend, please register on our website using this link: https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/secure/courses/index.cfm?cid=GP_DD_20101218_BDI

NSW Smoking Care Training for PNs

Date: Tuesday 13th Dec 2010

Time: 9.30a.m – 4.30p.m

Venue: Function Centre Ribbonwood centre Dapto

Contact: Katrina Henze

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[Change to cultural awareness training due date](#)

Practices that have already signed on to the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive will not be required to complete cultural awareness training until 12 months after the RACGP training module is released, which is now forecast to be February 2011.

Introducing our new Practice Support Officer.....

For those of you who don't know my name is Melanie Cousins and I started working here at the Illawarra Division of General Practice as of the 8th of November. I live in the Sutherland Shire and am a recent graduate from the University of Wollongong with a Bachelor Degree in Science, majoring in Population Health.

My particular interest area is the health of children and I believe my position here would provide me with the opportunities

to continue to learn, and contribute to your organization by providing the support and information needed to positively contribute to improving the health of the Illawarra community. I have previously worked as a Cryostorage Manager for Fertility First and as a Retail Assistant for Target Miranda. I have also previously volunteered as a netball coach for St John Bosco College and as a teaching assistant at Minerva College, for children with intellectual disabilities.

I am extremely excited to have been given the opportunity to work at the Illawarra Division of General Practice. I look forward to getting to know you all and assist in

making a positive contribution to the Illawarra community.

