



GP down south Division of General Practice Local news

Immunisation rates within the Peel and South West

National immunisation rates have been steadily falling over the last 9 months according to statistics from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).

GP down south's immunisation rates have followed this trend, falling from 86.3% during the May 2009 quarter to 85% in the November 2009 quarter.

General Practices are one of the key groups that are able to improve childhood immunisation rates as they have significant contact with the target group of children i.e those up to 7 years of age. Each time a GP or a Practice Nurse sees a child it is an opportunity to ensure that a child is fully immunised.

There are several ways a Practice can improve their immunisation rates:

- Every day, ensure that you accurately report all your immunisations to ACIR. If you do not have direct access to ACIR and would like some help, please call Denise at GP down south.
- Each month, check your immunisation payment statements. Double check that every immunisation you reported on, in the last month, is on the statement.
- Ensure that your Practice receives its GPII20A (or 20A) report. This report is the key to improving your rates. It lists all the overdue children in your practice and summarises which vaccines the child is overdue for. If your Practice does not receive this report, please ring Medicare.
- Have an immunisation recall and reminder system set up in your Practice.
- Allocate one staff member to take responsibility for ensuring all tasks listed above are completed.
- Place a copy of the latest immunisation schedule (May 2009) in each GP consulting room and treatment room.
- Go to the GP down south website (www.gpdownsouth.com.au) and download a copy of "Improving immunisation rates in your Practice". This resource provides a checklist template to ensure all of the above are undertaken in a timely manner.
- Ring GP down south and ask for help!

Another way to help improve childhood immunisation rates is to undertake the "healthy kids check" for eligible children. Further information and a template for this is available at our website.

Improving Adult Immunisation

On the topic of immunisation, GP down south was successful in obtaining a grant to enable the development of a Health Care Worker Vaccination Policy. The initial aim of the pilot program is to improve the health of the adult population by increasing awareness of, access to and implementation of adult immunisation programs in Australia.

Watch this space to check on the progress of the Practices that are participating.





WA General Practice Network State News

Orientation Program for Nurses new General Practice



This **2 day** workshop will enhance the confidence and competence of those nurses who have been working in the general practice setting for less than 12 months.

The course will cover the following modules:

- Professional Practice
- Management of clinical systems
- Provision of Clinical Care
- Collaborative Practice

Course Cost: \$120 (GST inc). All course materials, morning tea and lunch on both days included.

Dates:

- **Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 March 2010 or**
- **Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5 May 2010**

Contact Jane Butcher or Gae Sawyer 9472 2922

Or email Susan.shensley@wagpnetwork.com.au for a registration form.

CCR - The Cervical Cytology Register (WA)

In order to improve congruency and gain uniformity with other state and territory cervical cytology registers, *Minimum National Standards for Follow-up and Reminder Protocols for Cytology Registers* have been devised and are based on the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) publication *Screening to Prevent Cervical Cancer: Guidelines for the Management of Asymptomatic Women with Screen Detected Abnormalities*.

The Cervical Cytology Registry (CCR) of WA has recently implemented a component of these standards into our state Protocol of Actions, which relate to the timeframes for follow-up and reminders for current normal Pap smear results. These are:

- Normal (with no prior history or normal within last 36 months) – reminder contact with woman at 27 months. These reminders were previously sent at 30 months.
- Normal (with history of high-grade histology or abnormality in past 36 months – follow-up contact with provider at 15 months and with woman at 27 months if no further information is received.

This is a new and additional category of action for the CCR.



National Prescribing Service Limited

NPS drugs and therapeutic topics

Find independent, evidence-based information on various drug and therapeutic topics, download resources on each topic to improve Quality Use of Medicines practice.

Topics covered include:

- Acute coronary syndrome drugs
 - Allergy and anaphylaxis drugs
 - Analgesics
 - Antibiotics
 - Antidepressants
 - Antidepressants in children
 - Antihypertensives
 - Antipsychotics
 - Antithrombotics
 - Anxiety disorders
 - Asthma
 - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD),
 - Benzodiazepines & other hypnotic drugs
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
 - Common colds
 - Complementary medicines
 - Dementia
 - Dermatological drugs
 - Diabetes drugs
 - Drugs in the elderly
 - Dyslipidaemia drugs
 - Dyspepsia - reflux and peptic ulcer drugs
 - General medicines
 - Headache and migraine drugs
 - Heart failure
 - Hormonal contraception
 - Hormone Replacement Therapy
 - Ischaemic heart disease
 - Medication review
 - Nicotine, alcohol and other drug dependencies
 - Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS)
 - Osteoporosis drugs
 - Palliative care
 - Polypharmacy
 - Rheumatoid arthritis drugs
 - Using new drugs
 - Urinary incontinence
 - Vaccines
- http://www.nps.org.au/health_professionals/drugs_and_therapeutic_topics



Australian General Practice Network National News

Student nurse placement in general practice

The **Guide to Student Nurse Placement in General Practice** has been developed to support a consistent approach and quality experience for student nurses during clinical placement in general practice.

The guidelines can assist nurses and general practice to ensure a positive experience for nursing students in the general practice environment.

Provision of a quality experience for the student could influence their decision to seek a position as a nurse in general practice following graduation.

The guide provides information for divisions, general practice, universities and student nurses.

<http://generalpracticenursing.com.au/student-nurse-placement-in-general-practice>



A collaborative, grassroots, global initiative honoring nurses' voices, values and wisdom — to act as catalysts for achieving a healthy world.

The 2010 International Year of the Nurse (IYNurse) is the centennial year of the death of the founder of modern nursing — Florence Nightingale (1820-1910). To celebrate this historic milestone, the 2010 IYNurse was established to actively involve the world's nurses — estimated to be more than 15 million — in a celebration of commitment to bring health to their communities, locally and worldwide.

<http://www.2010iynurse.net/Default.aspx>



nabs

National Auslan Interpreter
Booking & Payment Service

DEAF PEOPLE NOW CAN GIVE FULL INFORMED CONSENT **FREE** INTEPRETERS AT THE DOCTOR'S

For many Deaf people, written and spoken English is not their first language. Sign Language is their first language. Many Deaf people struggle with written and spoken English. Most Deaf people in Australia communicate with Australian Sign Language (Auslan). Auslan is recognised as a community language by the Australian Government.

The risk of Deaf patients not being able to give their informed consent is very high when they do not have Interpreters for their medical appointments. Without the facilitation of a professional signing Interpreter, the Deaf person is at high risk of not understanding the implications involved and future consequences of an action.

Private medical practitioners such as GP's, Specialists, Chiropractors, Psychologists, Endocrinologists and many more can book an Sign Language Interpreter from NABS at absolutely no cost. NABS is funded by the Department of Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). The provision of sign language Interpreters is free to both the private medical practitioner and the client.

To book **FREE** Interpreter, contact the friendly Call Centre staff and they will be happy to assist you.

Phone: 1800 24 69 45 **TTY:** 1800 24 69 14 **SMS:** 0427 671 261 **Fax:** 1800 24 69 14

Email: bookings@nabs.org.au

Online: www.nabs.org.au

The National Auslan Booking Service (NABS) provides **FREE** sign language Interpreters for **private** medical and allied health care.

NABS Interpreting services are available to deaf Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders for both private and public health care.

NABS is funded by Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

NABS Call Centre is here for you. NABS is open 8 am to 8 pm Mon-Fri, 8 am – 1pm Saturdays, your local time, Australia-wide.



AGPN—Nursing in general practice website: www.generalpracticenursing.com.au



Hot Tips and Tricks for Nurses in General Practice

Can Nurses give Adrenaline in an Emergency?

If a patient presents with anaphylaxis and there is no Doctor can a nurse give adrenaline?

The answer is **no**, they cannot give adrenaline in an emergency without a Doctor's order. All they can do is give first aid, call for an ambulance and administer oxygen and put in an a Guedel airway if required.

However some nurses do have a competency to give adrenaline – usually gained through an ED or remote area nursing course. If they do then they might give it in the circumstances although this may not be sanctioned.

Refer to the guidelines from the Nurses and Midwives Board of WA – currently under revision. This is a handy reference to have available.

New Nurses Award 2010

From the 1st Jan 2010 a new award structure was put in place covering nurses with the **exception** of nurses who are:

- part of an existing enterprise award or NAPSA,
- a school nurse,
- covered by the Pharmacy Industry Award,
- or excluded from the award under the Act.

This new award structure will apply to most practice nurses.

Check the website below to update yourself on the new award.

http://www.fwa.gov.au/documents/modern_awards/word/M_A000034.doc



Australian Government
Medicare Australia

Changes to Medicare come into place 1st May 2010.

There will be a streamlining of item numbers and new item numbers for health assessments on a time basis. For the most up to date news on the changes visit the Medicare website.

<http://www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems>

When there is further information available it will be circulated via your local Division / Network.



IMMUNISATION WEBSITES FOR PARENTS

For information on immunisation:

Department of Health (WA)

<http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au>

Immunise Australia

<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au>

For information on your child's immunisation history:

Australian Childhood

Immunisation Register (ACIR)

<http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au>



Ausmed Online is a health library full of resources including:

- 100s of eChapters
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- HR Policy and procedures
- Powerpoints you can use to teach
- Medical images for you to legally use
- Job descriptions
- White papers and articles
- Fast facts etc

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Ausmed You Tube site:

<http://www.youtube.com/AusmedEducation>

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<http://www.facebook.com/Ausmed>

Useful Websites:

Medicare Australia www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

Medicare Online—Search the MBS www9.health.gov.au/mbs/search.cfm

Department of Health & Ageing (EPC and Health Assessments etc.) www.health.gov.au/epc