

PRACTICE FOCUS

FEBRUARY 2009 ISSUE



PRACTICE NURSE INFORMATION

Practice Nurse Pap Smear & Chlamydia Postcard

As mentioned in the last *Practice Focus*, NSW STI Programs Unit has produced an eye-catching post card designed specifically for practice nurses. The post card aims to support practice nurses to undertake STI testing in their practice. Please find enclosed, copies of the post card. Should you wish to order more, please contact Carolyn Murray on 02 9382 7458 or carolyn.murray@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au or go to www.stipu.nsw.gov.au.

Domestic Violence Referral Points Project

Eighteen two-day Domestic Violence training workshops have been held by Lifeline to date since February 2008. The Domestic Violence Referral Points project aims to increase the participation rate of eligible practice nurses and AHWs in training to support them in their role as domestic violence referral points.

The *Practice Nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers (AHWs) as Domestic Violence Referral Points Project* is an initiative of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and DoHA.

FaHCSIA engaged Lifeline Australia to develop and deliver training to practice nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers in PIP eligible practices working in rural and remote areas.

AGPN have been contracted to administer support payments for practice nurses/Aboriginal Health Workers from eligible practices to attend the two day face to face domestic violence training workshops conducted by Lifeline up until the end of June 2009.

Twelve more workshops will be conducted until the end of June 2009 across Australia. There has been a strong demand for places at the training, with many of the workshops oversubscribed. Feedback from participants indicates that the information is well presented, contextually relevant and useful.

For further information please visit www.generalpracticenursing.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=33497

Kidney Check Australia (KCAT) Professional Education For GPs & Practice Nurses

KCAT now offers online learning to GPs and other health professionals. Kidney Health Australia and KCAT have worked with PriMeD and Genesis Ed to develop a series of on-line learning which is accredited with RACGP under the QA&CPD program. On-line learning opportunities especially designed for Practice Nurses are currently being developed.

PriMeD offer a range of individual online learning modules around CKD early detection, assessment and management. This includes individual modules or an active learning module (30 Category One, RACGP QA&CPD points) which will equip GP's with the essential knowledge and skills to screen, diagnose and manage patients who are suffering from CKD. These modules provide practical tools to assist GP's in applying their learning back into practice. Visit the Chronic Kidney Disease on-line program at: www.kidney.primed.com.au



The PriMeD CKD Program has recently been reviewed to ensure that all information is completely up to date!

Whilst this program has been developed mainly for GP's, nurses and other health professionals are welcome to enrol. A separate CKD program on PriMeD Pharmacy is also available.

More information and documents of interest are available on the MNCDGP website at the following link www.mncdgp.org.au/program-summary/Immunisation

Flu 2009

Please find attached the influenza vaccine 2009 order form. It is also accessible on the NSW Health site. www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/publichealth/immunisation/pdf/2009_GP_Flu_Order_Form.pdf

Rotarix Cut Off Dates

Practices are reminded to consider the Rotavirus vaccine cut-off dates when making bookings for babies to be immunised. This may mean additional education of reception staff, to ensure that they understand the importance of a baby's immunisation appointment NOT being delayed beyond the cut-off dates for Rotavirus vaccine.

ROTARIX (NSW)

- 1st dose **MUST** be given between 6-14 weeks
- 2nd dose **MUST** be given between 10-24 weeks

ROTATEQ (VIC/QLD/provided in NSW through PHU's if commenced course in other states)

- 1st dose must be given between 6 -12 weeks
- 2nd dose must be given between 10 – 28 weeks*
- 3rd dose must be given between 14-32 weeks
- Minimum interval between doses is 4 weeks for both Rotarix and Rotateq.

* 2nd dose of Rotateq can be given up to 32 weeks of age. However a 3rd dose will not be able to be given if Dose 2 is given after the 28th week.

NCIRS Fact sheet on Rotavirus Vaccination in Australia is available for download from: www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au/facts/rotavirus_vaccine_for_children_june_2007.pdf

Rotavirus REMINDER Dosing Guidelines For Rotavirus !!

Although this vaccine has been on our schedule for a while there are still some uncertainties around dosing parameters.

Shortage Of Meningitis Vaccine

As you are aware there has been an ongoing shortage of Meningitec® vaccine and NSW Health has been supplying some Councils and Community Health Centres with NeisVac-C®, a pre-filled syringe presentation of a conjugated Men C vaccine.

As supplies are depleting even further, NSW Health has advised they will need to supply everyone (including General Practice) with NeisVac-C®. Providers who receive this product also receive a PI and a one-page explanation in their delivery with the vaccine. The two vaccines are essentially the same antigen base however NeisVac-C® is a pre filled syringe, pre administration procedures differ. Please do not hesitate to contact your local AHS Immunisation Coordinator on 6588 2750 if you have any further questions.

Pandemic Flu Kit

The 2008 version of the Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza 2008 has been released.

The Australian Government also launched www.flupandemic.gov.au - which is a dedicated pandemic influenza website with important information on what the Australian Government is doing, and how individuals, businesses, communities and health professionals can prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic. The website also links to state and territory pandemic resources. If you would like a hard copy of the plan - these are available from January 2009 and can be ordered from the above website.

MD2.95 Patch Released

HCN have released a patch for the problems with Medical Director 2.95 which has some issue with missing vaccinations. It is called 2.95a and can be downloaded from www.hcn.com.au/products/md/md_download.asp

New MMR Decision Aid Website

The MMR decision aid is currently being updated. The new version will be available online soon. In the meantime, the old version is still available at www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au/decisionaid.

Important Influenza Information

The Influenza Specialist Group website is a fantastic resource for all things “flu”.

www.influenzaspecialistgroup.org.au/content/view/72/1/

- Find out the 2009 Flu strains in our vaccines www.influenzaspecialistgroup.org.au/content/view/70/67/
- Fact sheet Influenza and vaccination - myths & misconceptions among at-risk Australians 18-64 years of age www.influenzaspecialistgroup.org.au/images/stories/media/2008_isg_reseach_fact_sheet.pdf
- Go to the “Influenza Resources” (LHS menu) for reports, resources and a multitude of information.

Worth a visit before the 2009 Flu season!!

“New” GPNSW Immunisation Page

Visit www.gpnsw.com.au. The *Immunisation* page is now live with “resources” as a sub page. These pages can be accessed from the grey horizontal menu at the top of the screen by selecting *Programs* then *Immunisation* (will appear in drop down list).

POINTS OF INTEREST

- NSW Immunisation Guide for Practice Staff (based on the previous Whitehorse publications) are now available for download from the RESOURCES page (under *Immunisation*)
- Updated (Nov 08 MBS) Immunisation Financial Models (rural and urban) are now available from the NiGP page under RESOURCES.
- The 4yr Health Kids Check Financial Models are coming soon!

Wear A Mask This Flu Season

Protective face masks can guard against respiratory infections such as flu, and could play an important part in defending against a pandemic, according to new research. Persuading people to wear a mask and to fit it properly, however, is a difficult task that could limit their effectiveness, British and Australian scientists have found. In a clinical trial of the effectiveness of masks, researchers at Imperial College London and the University of New South Wales studied 280 adults from 143 families living in Sydney during the winter flu seasons of 2006 and 2007.

HPV “Catch Up” Program Extended Until Dec 2009

The community-based HPV catch-up program (delivered through general practice and community immunisation services), is provided for: 12-13* to 18 year old girls who have not completed their course at school; and 18 to 26 year old women.

The program finishes on 30 June 2009, so to be eligible for free vaccine, all females in the above age groups must have started the course with their first dose of the vaccine on or before 30 June 2009, and complete all 3 doses by 31 December 2009.

**Note: Eligibility is from the age of the first year of secondary school in your State or Territory. It may be 12 or 13 years old. Contact your State or Territory Health Department for details.*

ACIR Reports For “Due” Children

The ACIR has three different reports available that Practices may wish to use to assist them with identifying children **due** for their 4 year old jabs (ie: before they turn 4yrs). The reports are; **ACIR011A Due/Overdue Report** by locality, **ACIR021A Due/Overdue Report** and **ACIR036A Due/Overdue Report**.

If the practices request the report in January, it will only provide information on the children due in the month the report is requested, so you can follow up children in the month of their due date. This may be of some use for paper based practices.

The issue with the ACIR 11A report is that it provides immunisation information on children who reside in the postcode area selected (ie: Bankstown) and does not necessarily attend the practice in the area. Hence it is challenging to follow up individual children by practice locality, unless the practice requests the report themselves.

The following link which will take you to the list of reports available from the ACIR internet site along with an explanation of each report as well as the providers they area available to (ie: some are available for practices); www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/pubs/program/files/reports_available_from_secure_internet_site.pdf

Note: When requesting the report via the ACIR Secure Site you will need to select “Due” options to enable due children to appear on the selected report.

If you require any further information or clarity on this please contact the NSW ACIR Field Officers, Katy Zanatta and Julia Strudwick.

DoHA Communication Re: 4yr Old Due & Overdue Rules

DoHa has developed 2 fact sheets (1 for GPII and 1 for ACIR) re: changes to Due & Overdue Rules. The GPII flyers are being sent to providers in the GPII Feb 09 calculation statement run later this month.

They have also developed a brief article for the "Forum" newsletter from Medicare Australia which is sent to practices. This will be in the March/April 09 edition.

Furthermore, multi-lingual fact sheets which cover 26 languages are currently being developed to incorporate the MIA changes and are expected to be available to the public shortly.

Doctor Accused Of Fixing Research

A British doctor who sparked an international scare about the safety of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccines has been accused of fixing research to link the injections to autism.

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/doctor-accused-of-fixing-research-20090209-8153.html>

MEDICARE



Australian Government

Medicare Australia

Medicare Australia Launches New Online Learning Tool

Medicare Australia has introduced a new online education tool for health care professionals. *'Medicare and You'* is an online resource comprising of seven interactive modules on topics which health care professionals need to know when they commence Medicare billing. *'Medicare and You'* has been included in the November edition of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) on CD ROM, as part of a Department of Health and Ageing mail-out to all health care professionals.

Unfortunately due to a production delay not all practitioners on the MBS distribution list have received their CD ROM yet but they should receive them soon. Should you have not received the CD ROM, please contact DoHA on mbsonline@health.gov.au or 1800 020 103. The training is also available on-line. To view, visit: www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/business/education/index.jsp#N1002B.

Development and Delivery of e-Learning Training Package to Support Medicare Item 10997

AGPN is pleased to announce the pilot for the e-Learning Training Package to support Medicare Item 10997 has now begun. The pilot involves practice nurses across four states, Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria and 27 PNs from NSW. The pilot for registered Aboriginal Health Workers in the Northern Territory is moving into the final phase of development and is expected to occur in the near future.

Pilot participants have been asked to take part in two surveys associated with the e-Learning package. A process evaluation survey will be conducted immediately upon completion of the pilot to assess the modules across a range of measures. These include the organisation and structure of the subjects; flexibility of learning; effects of learning and understanding; and technological support. The impact evaluation survey will be conducted in early February 2009 in order to assess the package once it has been utilised in the workplace. AGPN will also conduct a teleconference for pilot participants to enable peer discussion of the package. All feedback from the pilot participants will then be collated and undergo data analysis. This information will be used to assist with development of the final package for endorsement and release in March 2009.

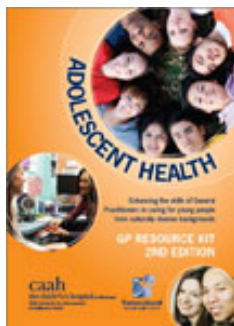
The e-Learning Training Package will be available on-line and in CD Rom format from March 2009 until 30 June 2009 free of charge via the RCNA 3LP website and from Batchelor Institute on-line learning centre site. After 30 June 2009 there will be a minimal cost recovery fee imposed, this cost is yet to be determined.

All interested practice nurses, Aboriginal Health Workers and associated healthcare professionals are urged to take up the opportunity to utilise this professional development program once it becomes available early next year, to assist chronic disease management in general practice.

Further information about the e-Learning training package is available on the AGPN website: www.generalpracticenursing.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=38550

GENERAL HEALTH

Enhancing The Skills Of GPs In Caring For Young People From Culturally Diverse Backgrounds



Although this Kit is designed primarily for GPs, it is also useful for everyone working in the youth health sector. The online version is downloadable from www.caah.chw.edu.au (under resources).

A collaboration between NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health and NSW Transcultural Mental Health Centre by Peter Chown, Dr Melissa Kang, Dr Lena Sanci, Verity Newnham and Clin Prof David Bennett AO, this Kit outlines the skills needed for working with young people and their families, while addressing the developmental, cultural and environmental factors that influence their health. Each chapter in the Kit begins with a 'flashcard' which summarises the key practice points for that particular chapter. The revised edition has also increased the emphasis on communication and youth-friendly consultation skills; revised and expanded sections on substance use, mental health, cultural competency, medico-legal issues, collaborative care, and the use of Medicare item numbers.

To order a copy of the GP Resource Kit, 2nd edition Please download the **order form** from www.caah.chw.edu.au (under resources) and fax the order form to **Kids Health** at the Children's Hospital at Westmead on **Fax:** (02) 9845 3562; **Ph:** (02) 9845 3585 **Email:** kidsh@chw.edu.au Price: \$35 for one copy; \$30 for 2 or more copies (incl. GST, excl. postage and packaging).

When Can Young People Consent To Their Medical Treatment & Care?

The NSW Health Care Complaint Commission regularly receives inquiries from concerned parents that feel the health service provider had not included them in the treatment decision relating to their children. Please see attached flyer from the HCCC for further information.

Cultural Safety Training

The Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) has launched a new website related to a new Indigenous Cultural Safety Training package. The package was produced in conjunction with RACGP and has been adjudicated under the RACGP's QA&CPD Program as an Active Learning Module (40 Category 1 points for the completion of 2 modules). The training will be available to individuals and organisations across Australia in 2009. The training is suitable for all health professionals including Division staff, GPs, practice nurses and non-clinical staff within general practice.

Cultural safety training aims to improve the quality of service delivered by health care providers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the experience of service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The training package includes five modules:

- Introduction to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- Better consultations (identification and communication)
- Prevention, health checks and management of chronic disease
- Primary health care with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Closing the gap: better health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Over the coming months AHCWA will be training facilitators in NSW to deliver the Cultural Safety Training package and determine the training calendar for 2009. If you are interested in participating in the training as an individual or an organisation in 2009, please contact Juliette Hubbard at AHCWA. Juliette will collate the contact details of interested participants and forward them to the NSW facilitators in early 2009. The cost of the training is yet to be determined.

More information on the training can be found at www.culturalsafetytraining.com.au or contact Juliette Hubbard at AHCWA on 08 9227 1631 or visit www.ahcwa.org.

Aboriginal Health Focus In Latest *Australian Health Review*

The latest edition of the *Australian Health Review* (November 2008, vol 32, no 4) includes a set of papers focusing on Aboriginal health in recognition of the recent achievements of the Closing the Gap campaign. Papers include topics on Aboriginal health policy, Aboriginal community controlled health organisations, access to emergency departments and eye health programs. For more information go to:

www.aushealthreview.com.au/publications/articles/issues/ahr_32_4_1108/contents_1108.asp

Measure Up Campaign For Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islanders

The *Measure Up* campaign from the Australian Better Health Initiative has launched a range of materials aimed at showing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders what they can do to lower their risk of chronic illness. The resources range from posters, radio interviews, radio adverts and a booklet. For further information on the Measure Up campaign or to download the resources please visit the following website:
www.measureup.gov.au/internet/abhi/publishing.nsf/Content/ATSI+resources-lp

As part of the *Measure Up* campaign, Tomorrow People has been launched to educate and motivate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be healthier and live longer. The Tomorrow People website has a range of resources and information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, including:

- Healthy lifestyles, nutrition and physical activity
- Tips for getting and staying motivated
- Recipes
- Information on chronic disease and diabetes
- Information on alcohol
- Information on child health

Resources can be ordered by emailing info@measureup.gov.au. For more information, visit the Tomorrow People website:
www.australia.gov.au/tomorrowpeople.



Measure Up - National Obesity Campaign

The Department of Health and Ageing launched the *Measure Up* campaign with a national advertising campaign. The campaign encourages patients to ask about the health implications of being overweight or obese, or what their waist measurement means in terms of health risk.

The campaign aims to reduce the prevalence of risk factors for chronic disease, limit the incidence and the impact of these diseases and reduce morbidity and mortality rates. It will raise an appreciation of why people need to change their lifestyles and includes supporting information, tips and resources on what to do and how to do it.

The campaign emphasises the link between waist measurement and chronic disease and is primarily targeted to 25 to 50 year olds who have children. It is also aimed at a secondary target audience of 45 to 65 year olds.

The campaign is part of the Australian Better Health Initiative – a joint Australian, state and territory government program which aims to reduce the prevalence of risk factors for chronic disease, limit the incidence and impact of these diseases and reduce morbidity and mortality rates.

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Since 2003, Ovarian Cancer Australia has been conducting National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Week in February every year. In acknowledgment of the growing recognition of this important event on the health calendar, Ovarian Cancer Australia has extended this week to create **National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, to commence in February 2009.**

On Sunday 8th February, 2009 Ovarian Cancer Australia launched the national awareness month in Melbourne. During this campaign, Ovarian Cancer Australia's expressed purpose is to inform and educate the women of Australia as to the signs, symptoms, risks and preventions of ovarian cancer.



Every woman needs to know the symptoms of ovarian cancer. Do You?

Ovarian Cancer Australia is the representative voice for ovarian cancer in Australia. Ovarian Cancer Australia was founded in 2001 as OvCa Australia, by those directly affected by the disease. Ovarian Cancer Australia provides community awareness programs, reliable resources and practical support services to women diagnosed with ovarian cancer and their families.

For more information go to www.ovariancancer.net.au or call 1300 660 334 (toll-free).

Research Study On Obstructive Sleep Apnea (Osa) Within The Primary Care Setting

The Woolcock Institute of Medical Research is currently undertaking an NHMRC-funded research study into the diagnosis of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) within the primary care setting. The results of this study will eventually lead to more accessible and efficient diagnosis and treatment of this common condition. All patients aged 18-75 who present with suspected or possible OSA are eligible to participate and will receive a prompt 'overnight sleep study' (polysomnogram; PSG) at one of five clinics/hospitals involved in the study as well as a Medicare-only follow-up visit with a specialist sleep physician and the use of a home monitoring device.

The "gold standard" method for diagnosis of sleep apnea is the overnight sleep study. These tests are expensive, have long waiting lists and are hard to access outside larger cities. We aim to determine if general practitioners can combine information from questionnaires and a simple home diagnostic test, to confirm or rule out sleep apnea. The results of this study will eventually lead to more accessible and efficient diagnosis and treatment of this common condition.

The Woolcock Institute offers free training in the diagnosis and management of OSA, and study procedures, which is accredited by the RACGP for 40 CPD points. Additionally, GPs are reimbursed for each patient, to cover the small amount of additional work required.

Further information is available at www.woolcock.com.au/study_OSA.htm and from the Project Officer, Amanda Siebers (telephone: 02 9114 0447 or e-mail: amandasiebers@woolcock.org.au). Please contact Amanda to register for the study and final training sessions.

Sexually Transmitted Infections Testing & Care Resources

GPs are identified in the NSW Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2006-2009 as central to the detection, care and prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The following resources have been developed by the NSW STI Programs Unit in collaboration with GPs to help your work detecting and managing STIs:

1. STI testing tool
2. NSW Sexual Health Infoline poster (for waiting room) and sticker (for your phone handset or computer monitor). The Sexual Health InfoLine provides specialist clinical advice to doctors, nurses and other professionals and also sexual health information and referral for the community.

These resources and other useful information, including your local public sexual health services, STI fact sheets and treatment guidelines and accredited training activities are available at the NSW STI Programs Unit website www.stipu.nsw.gov.au. Copies of these resources will be sent to you by the Mid North Coast Division of General Practice under separate cover.

NSW Health and the RACGP (NSW) are working together to produce a STI and HIV prevention media campaign during first half 2009. This campaign aims to increase the awareness of STI/HIV testing, treatment and prevention among young people including attending their GP.

Your local Area Health Service HIV and Related Programs Manager or public sexual health service can assist you with STI resources and training opportunities. Go to www.stipu.nsw.gov.au 'services' for contact details.

Please call Carolyn Murray, GP sexual health services, project manager at the NSW STI Programs Unit on 9382 7458 if you have any further inquiries.

Achieving Quality Use Of Medicines In 'Treating The Symptoms Of Dementia'

It is estimated that 200,000 Australians have dementia. As the population ages, the number of cases of dementia is expected to increase. To assist health professionals understand best practice for patients with dementia there is a new National Prescribing Service Limited (NPS) program on 'Treating the symptoms of dementia'.

The latest program provides health professionals with access to clinical information about the use of cholinesterase inhibitors and memantine, antipsychotics for behavioural disturbance, and advice on how to monitor and objectively assess therapy.

The program within Divisions and networks includes educational one-to-one visits from NPS Facilitators and small group case-based meetings for GPs, pharmacists and staff of aged-care facilities. The themes for these activities are how to manage patient and carer expectations of the effectiveness of a range of medicines in treating the symptoms of dementia and, if there are no clear beneficial effects of the medication, the process of withdrawal.

Further information on dementia can be found in NPS News 59 (which includes a case study) and the Prescribing Practice Review (PPR) 43. Complimentary subscriptions are available, visit NPS website at www.nps.org.au/healthpro.

Please ask your local NPS Facilitator about the schedule of activities that are being provided.

HMR Promotional Material

The copyright agreement between *The Pharmacy Guild of Australia* and Ms Margaret Fulton for the use of her image on all HMR promotional material has expired as of 31 December 2008. This means that from **1 January 2009** any HMR promotional materials carrying Margaret Fulton's image need to be withdrawn from circulation and destroyed. Examples of the materials that are in general circulation and carry Ms Fulton's image, include:

- Margaret Fulton posters in various sizes
- Margaret Fulton information brochures in various sizes
- Margaret Fulton detailing cards
- "Mixing Up Your Medication" A4 size folders
- Margaret Fulton CDs
- Margaret Fulton trade stand banners; and
- Images of Margaret Fulton that promote HMR which might be on your website

The continued use of HMR promotional materials containing Ms Fulton's image after 1 January 2009 will constitute a breach of copyright.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, in partnership with the Australian General Practice Network, is in the process of producing new promotional materials to replace the Margaret Fulton materials. This material will be ready for distribution shortly.

DVA Clarification of Business Rules for Items 10990 & 10991

The Business Rules and other information relating to these Item numbers can be found on the DVA website www.dva.gov.au/health/provider_fees/lmofees and are detailed below. The fees are effective from 1 November 2008.

VETERANS ACCESS PAYMENT

DVA's fees for the Veterans Access Payment (VAP) are:

- \$6.50 (items 10990, 64990, and 74990); or
- \$9.80 (items 10991, 10992, 64991 and 74991).

The VAP is assessed according to the MBS rules for the equivalent Medicare Bulk Billing Incentive items, and is not payable on inpatient items. The VAP cannot be claimed against items listed on the Repatriation Medical Fee Schedule (RMFS) and Relative Value Guide (RVG).

RURAL ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE

The Rural Enhancement Initiative (REI) loading of 10% continues to apply to relevant consult items for services at hospitals designated under the REI. The REI is not payable on items listed on the RMFS or RVG. The following are excerpts from the Schedule:

"The fees listed in the Repatriation Medical Fee Schedule (RMFS) are for specialist consultations and procedures."

"Out of hospital items have been calculated based on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) at a rate of 135% of the MBS for consultations and 140% of the MBS for procedures."

All medical practitioners, including LMOs and general practitioners, who have the appropriate qualifications updated with Medicare Australia are eligible to claim for services listed in the RMFS. Items listed on the RMFS do not attract the Veterans Access Payment (VAP) or the Rural Enhancement Initiative (REI) loading."

WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES

Below is a list of courses/ conferences run by external organisations. Please contact the appropriate organisation for further information. **Please Note:** The NiGP program cannot fund PNs to attend these courses.

Family Planning NSW Courses

Topic	Date	Organisation	Location
Well Women's Screening Course	29 April 09	Family Planning NSW	Illawarra
Well Women's Screening Course	8 July 09	Family Planning NSW	Ashfield

Topic	Date	Sydney Time	Channel	Program number	Repeat of broadcast
Birthing in the Bush	Tue 10 Mar 09	8 pm	4	905	Fri 13 Mar, 12.30 pm Channel 23
The Health Workforce - An Interview with Professor Des Gorman	Tue 17 Mar 09	8 pm	4	906	Fri 20 Mar, 12.30 pm Channel 23
A program on Autism	Tue 28 Apr 09	8 pm	4	907	Fri 1 May, 12.30 pm Channel 23

Podcasts are now available for a number of the RHEF programs. Visit www.rhef.com.au/podcasts/podcasts for a list of available programs.

Topic	Date	Organisation	Location
Management trouble-shooting	5 – 6 March 09	Ausmed Conferences	Sydney
Advanced Diabetes care	30 – 31 March 09	Ausmed Conferences	Brisbane
Registered Nurse refresher program	Monthly Enrolment	The College of Nursing	Distance education
Immunisation for Registered Nurses	Monthly Enrolment	The College of Nursing	Distance education

Conferences/ Forums for PNs:

Topic	Date	Organisation	Location
Lifeline National Conference	11 -13 March 09	Lifeline	Canberra
1st Annual National Lifestyle Medicine Conference	20 – 22 March 09	Australian Lifestyle Medicine Association	Sydney
APNA Visionary Conference	30 Apr – 2 May 09	Australian Practice Nurses Association	Melbourne

Certificates and Graduate Certificate/ Diploma Courses:

Course	Organisation
Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice)	Sunshine Coast University/ Divisions of General Practice www.generalpracticenursing.com.au
Graduate Certificate in Health (General Practice Nursing)	Flinders University: www.nursing.flinders.edu.au
Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice)	University of Queensland: www.nursing.uq.edu.au
Graduate Certificate in Practice Nursing	University of Wollongong: www.uow.edu.au/health/nursing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Certificate in Wound Care Graduate Diploma in Wound Care 	Monash University www.vcp.monash.edu.au/courses/woundcare/index.html
Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education and Management	University of Technology, Sydney: www.nmh.uts.edu.au
Graduate Certificate of Diabetes Education	Deakin University: www.deakin.edu.au
Graduate Certificate Nursing (Mental Health)	University of Western Sydney: www.uws.edu.au/about/acadorg/schools/nursing
Graduate Certificate in Community and Primary Health Care	Griffith University: www.griffith.edu.au/schools/nrs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Certificate Nursing Graduate Certificate in Nursing (General Practice) 	The University of Queensland: www.nursing.uq.edu.au
Graduate Diploma in Nursing Science (Community Health & Primary Care)	The University of Adelaide: www.health.adelaide.edu.au/nursing
Professional Certificate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wound Care Immunisation 	University of South Australia: www.unisa.edu.au/nur
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education Master of Diabetes Education 	Curtin University of Technology: www.nursingandmidwifery.curtin.edu.au
Bachelor of Nursing (Post registration) Non-award program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-entry program for Division 1 Registered Nurses (RPRN) Pre-registration for Overseas Qualified Nurses (PPPOQN) 	University of Ballarat: www.ballarat.edu.au/nursing

Course	Organisation
Enrolled Nurse Conversion (Medication Administration) Cert IV Course No: 716	TAFE NSW various campuses. See www.tafensw.edu.au
Medication Administration for Enrolled Nurses Statement of Attainment Course No. 3271	TAFE NSW various campuses. See www.tafensw.edu.au

TAFE Listings with Nursing Courses

Armidale - New England Institute
Coffs Harbour - North Coast Institute
Taree
Lismore - North Coast Institute
Tamworth New England Institute

INTERESTING ARTICLES/RESEARCH PAPERS

- Royal College of Nursing, Australia. *National Registration and Accreditation of nurses*. Connections, 11(2) December 2008: 2-3.
- Royal College of Nursing, Australia. *The big issue this month: Credentialling*. NursingReview December 2008 p5.
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