



# fortnightly update

Tuesday 9 March 2010

The gpa fortnightly update is posted on our website [www.gpasouthgippsland.com.au](http://www.gpasouthgippsland.com.au)  
If you would like to be included on the email distribution list, please contact Mandy M at GPA on 5674 0900.

## GPA website - GP Member Section

The GP Member section of the website is up and running. The section is password protected and contains information specific for GPs, as well as a members' forum.

Any GP who has not applied for a login can obtain one by contacting Mandy M at GPA on 5674 0900 or email [m.mcdonald-susic@gpasouthgippsland.com.au](mailto:m.mcdonald-susic@gpasouthgippsland.com.au)



## Medicare Australia's online education services

Medicare Australia has developed a range of online education services to help doctors with MBS and PBS, including eLearning modules, learning guides, quick reference guides and handbooks and other resources. To access Medicare's online education services visit [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/business/education/index.jsp](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/business/education/index.jsp)

## New national clinical practice guidelines portal

Developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council's National Institute of Clinical Studies, the new national portal is a 'one stop shop' for clinicians, researchers, policy makers and consumers to access guidelines developed during the preceding 5 years for use in the Australian health care system. The portal and register can be accessed at [www.clinicalguidelines.gov.au](http://www.clinicalguidelines.gov.au) Further information is available at [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au)

## Heart Foundation tools for hypertension

These new Heart Foundation tools provide quick access to key clinical recommendations and summarised treatment algorithms to help guide management of people with raised blood pressure. For more information and to access key guidelines, clinical tools and patient resources that can be downloaded and printed during a consultation, visit [www.heartfoundation.org.au/Professional\\_Information/General\\_Practice/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/Professional_Information/General_Practice/Pages/default.aspx)

## Scam medical letter

There is a letter being circulated by a patient purporting to have hepatitis C with hepatoma and end stage liver disease. The letter is fairly detailed and signed by Dr Caroline Sutherland from Sandy Bay Medical Centre and amongst the medications requested are Oxycontin, Ordine and Valium.

There is no Dr Caroline Sutherland at the noted clinic so medical practitioners are requested to:

- be wary of any person presenting a letter of this type
- call police if there is a possibility that an offender might be apprehended at their clinic
- notify the Department of Health with full details, including a description of the offender, if the same or a similar letter has been presented at their clinic in recent times.

If you have any further information relating to this or a similar scam, please contact the Duty Officer at the Department of Health on 1300 364 545.

## New e-health blog

A new e-health blog is available at [www.ehealthcentral.com.au](http://www.ehealthcentral.com.au) and aims at being a resource and discussion platform for GPs and other allied health professionals on all aspects of e-health. There is a forum where people can ask questions about e-health and receive answers from their peers. Members are encouraged to voice their opinions about e-health via this blog, which is sponsored by NeHTA.

Fortnightly Edition

General Practice Alliance – South Gippsland 5674 0900 [www.gpasouthgippsland.com.au](http://www.gpasouthgippsland.com.au)

## Getting Started - type 2 diabetes program

Diabetes Australia – Vic offers people with newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes or those who have not had diabetes education in the past, the opportunity to participate in the *Getting Started* - type 2 diabetes program. Three 3 hour sessions are run over consecutive weeks by a diabetes educator and a dietitian and provide patients with the information they need to get started with managing their diabetes. A carer or family member is also welcome to attend. Programs are run regularly throughout the year and are held at Diabetes Australia – Vic Head Office, 570 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. Cost is \$30 for Diabetes Australia – Vic members, or \$35 for non-members. No referral is required but bookings are essential. For enquiries or to register phone the Diabetes Info Line on 1300 136 588 or visit our website [www.diabetesvic.org.au](http://www.diabetesvic.org.au) - Type 2 Diabetes Programs & Services. **The next program is on Tuesday 13, 20 & 27 April 2010 from 6:00pm-9:00pm.** Encourage your patients to register and *Get Started*.

## Having a healthy baby - Diabetes and pregnancy information session

This information session is for women with type 1 and type 2 diabetes who are planning a pregnancy. Expert speakers include an obstetrician and endocrinologist from the Diabetes Clinic at the Royal Women's Hospital. They will address such issues such as pre-pregnancy planning and the use of insulin pumps during pregnancy. When: Tuesday 16 March 2010. Time: 7.00pm-9.30pm. Ground Floor Conference Room A, Royal Women's Hospital, Grattan Street Parkville. Cost: Free for DAV members and one guest. \$15 for non members. Bookings Essential 1300 136 588.

## Saturday morning educational lectures at RVEEH

The John Colvin Saturday morning lecture series season has commenced for 2010. The lectures on Ophthalmology, ENT and Dermatology run on Saturday mornings from 8.30am in the Lucy Jones Hall, Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. To view the schedule or for more information, go to [http://www.eyehandear.org.au/training/SaturdayProgram/satmorn\\_timetable2010.doc](http://www.eyehandear.org.au/training/SaturdayProgram/satmorn_timetable2010.doc)

PapScreen Victoria has grant and scholarship opportunities available!

### Community Development Grants – up to \$1000 + GST

- Successful applicants must plan, implement and evaluate a cervical cancer prevention project that targets marginalised women in their community.
- Application deadline Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010



### Nurse scholarships – up to \$1000 (incl GST)

- Successful applicants are required to commence an accredited RCNA Pap test Provider Training Course in 2010.
- Application deadline Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010

Visit [www.papscreen.org.au](http://www.papscreen.org.au) for guidelines and to complete an application online.

For enquiries please contact Jane Street, Community Programs Project Officer on 9635 5663 or [Jane.Street@cancervic.org.au](mailto:Jane.Street@cancervic.org.au)

## AGPN eHealth Conference

**When:** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June at The Sebel Albert Park, Melbourne

**Who should attend:** Anyone interested in eHealth standards, strategies and solutions in the primary health care sector.

AGPN is seeking expressions of interest in this conference from potential delegates, speakers, sponsors and trade exhibitors. Register your interest online at [http://registration.gpnetworkforum.com.au/ei/getdemo.ei?id=27&s=\\_0DO0TET5G](http://registration.gpnetworkforum.com.au/ei/getdemo.ei?id=27&s=_0DO0TET5G)

## Increase in drug misuse

An emerging issue identified in the National Drug Strategy Development Working Group is the increase in misuse of pharmaceutical drugs.

Herald Sun, 26 February 2010, journalist Felicity Williams  
**"Smart Pills" Alarm**

*OVERWORKED Melbourne professionals and students are popping speed-like drugs in growing numbers to help them get through the day. The number of prescriptions for modafinil, a treatment for sleep disorders also known to improve alertness and concentration, has almost doubled in Victoria in the past three years.*

*Prescription drug abusers are also engaging in the dangerous practice of using modafinil - sold here as Modavigil - without a doctor's authority by buying it on the black market.*

*The Herald Sun can reveal that Melbourne professionals and students have openly discussed the effects, dosage, price and their experiences obtaining the drug without a prescription in an online drugs forum with a Russian domain name. A computer programmer in the discussion thread described the effect of modafinil as "like amphetamine". "Modafinil seems to make me feel sharper ... I don't know how else to describe it," he wrote. "I usually take it when I feel I should be getting something done."*

*Another user admitted he and his colleagues took the drugs before night meetings when he was selling commercial real estate.*

*A student described it as "the best study aid ever" despite side-effects such as "nasty headaches" and "feeling scattered".*

*According to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme website, Victorian pharmacies dispensed 723 items of modafinil last year, up from 370 in 2007.*

*It is also easy to obtain modafinil and other "smart pills" such as Ritalin, for hyperactivity, and donepezil, for dementia, without a prescription at online pharmacies. The Herald Sun arranged for the purchase and shipment to Australia of one packet of modafinil tablets but withdrew when the website requested credit card details.*

*Australian Medical Association vice-president Dr Steve Hambleton said illicit use of prescription drugs as smart pills was a major concern. "There are a range of side-effects, particularly when people aren't taking regular amounts," he said.*

Link to story: <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/melbourne-professionals-and-students-are-taking-dangerous-amounts-of-prescription-drugs-with-the-number-of-prescriptions-for-modafinil-almost-doubling-in-victoria/story-e6frf7kx-1225834486870>

## Advice to the Traveller - A Seminar on Travel Health

Saturday, 20 March 2010, 8.15am - 1.30pm - Royal Melbourne Hospital, Parkville

This seminar continues to be given every few years as travel health is extremely important to practising physicians and general practitioners. It is also a common issue in medical practice, particularly as an increasing number of Australians are travelling overseas each year and are often visiting remote and underdeveloped destinations. This seminar aims to provide you with up to date information on advice to the traveller and includes important topics, new and emerging issues and case examples.

For further information and more registration forms, contact VMPF, Level 8, 27 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy Vic 3065 Tel: 9415 1177 Fax: 9416 2624 - e: [seminars@vmpf.org.au](mailto:seminars@vmpf.org.au) web: [www.vmpf.org.au](http://www.vmpf.org.au)

This seminar will be of interest to all General Practitioners and as a regular event it often attracts substantial registrations.

**Melbourne CAREX 2010 (MCX2010) - "Australia's Premier Health & Aged Care Expo" -**  
March 18 & 19 at the Caulfield Racecourse (0930-1600).

Seminar topics: Palliative Care, Wound Care, Dementia Car, Food/Support Services & Occupational Therapy. Further information contact Wayne Woff (Manager, Total Aged Services) T 03 9571 5606 / 0422 484 209 F 03 9571 9708 E [office@totalagedservices.com.au](mailto:office@totalagedservices.com.au) W [www.totalagedservices.com.au](http://www.totalagedservices.com.au)

**HPV notification payments ending soon!**

Time is now running out to receive payments for Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccinations notified to the HPV Vaccination Register. To ensure General Practitioner's (GPs) receive notification payments for outstanding vaccination data (six dollars per dose notified), notifications must be received by 31 March 2010. Payments can only be made for HPV vaccinations given to eligible consumers where data is received in an accepted format with all completed mandatory information. GPs must be registered with the HPV Register in order to receive payment and individual banking details are needed.

For assistance with how to submit notifications, or to check if notifications have already been received, please call 1800 478 734 (1800 HPV REG).

**CHANGES TO MBS ITEM NUMBERS FROM 1st MAY 2010**

**Changes to Health Assessments**

The structure of health assessment items will be changed and Medicare fees will be rationalised. Ten health assessment items will be replaced by **four new time-based items**.

The following health assessments will be undertaken under four new items:

- a Healthy Kids Check;
- a 45-year old health assessment;
- a type 2 diabetes risk evaluation;
- an older persons health assessment;
- a comprehensive medical assessment for a permanent resident of an aged care facility;
- a health assessment for a person with an intellectual disability; and
- a health assessment for a person in Australia under the Government's Humanitarian Program.

The four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health assessment items will be collapsed into one health assessment item with no designated time or complexity requirements, with no distinction between an assessment provided in or out of consulting rooms. The length of the health assessment will be at the medical practitioner's discretion. The following health assessments will be undertaken under the new item:

- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child health assessment;
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adult health assessment; and
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander older persons health assessment

The health assessment item for services provided by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal health worker on behalf of a medical practitioner will move to a new group (M12), and as a consequence will have a new item number (10986).

The new fee structure is set out below:

<b>New item numbers</b>	<b>New item names</b>	<b>New fee</b>
701	<b>Brief</b> Health Assessment of less than 30 minutes duration	\$55.00
703	<b>Standard</b> Health Assessment lasting more than 30 minutes but less than 45 minutes	\$127.80
705	<b>Long</b> Health Assessment lasting more than 45 minutes but less than sixty minutes	\$176.30
707	<b>Prolonged</b> Health Assessment lasting more than 60 minutes	\$249.10
715	<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander</b> peoples health assessment	\$196.65
10986	<b>Healthy Kids Check</b> provided by a practice nurse or registered Aboriginal health worker	\$55.00

The time period includes the time taken by the doctor and the practice nurse to undertake a health assessment.

## Changes to Chronic Disease Management Items

### Group A15, Subgroup 1: GP Management Plans, Team Care Arrangements and Multidisciplinary Care Plans

Two Chronic Disease Management (CDM) items for the review of CDM plans (items 725 and 727) will be **combined into one new item number** (732) that can be used *either* to review a GP Management Plan (GPMP, item 721) *or* to coordinate a review of Team Care Arrangements (TCAs, item 723).

The old item numbers will be deleted. The new item will have the same requirements as the old items and the same fee.

The change is set out in the table below.

Old items		New item	
Item number	Item name	Item number	Item name
725 Fee: \$66.80	Review a GP Management Plan	732 Fee: \$66.80	Review a GP Management Plan <i>or</i> Coordinate a Review of Team Care Arrangements/ Multidisciplinary Community Care Plan/ Multidisciplinary Discharge Plan
727 Fee: \$66.80	Coordinate a Review of Team Care Arrangements/ Multidisciplinary Community Care Plan/ Multidisciplinary Discharge Plan		

### Group A15, Subgroup 2: Case Conferences

The multidisciplinary case conference item structure will be streamlined. Eighteen GP multidisciplinary case conference items (734-779) will be combined into **six new items** (735, 739, 743, 747, 750 and 758) based on the duration of the service and on whether the practitioner is coordinating or participating in the case conference.

The old item numbers will be deleted. There will no longer be separate items according to the location of the service.

The **time periods will be adjusted** to more closely align with the time periods used for level B, C, and D normal consultation items.

The table below summarises the changes to the multidisciplinary case conference structure.

Old items		New items	
Item number and fee	Service time	Item number and new fee	Service time
<b>Organise and coordinate a GP Case Conference</b>			
734, 740, 746 Fee: \$89.55	At least 15 and less than 30 minutes	735 Fee: \$65.40	At least 15 minutes and less than 20 minutes
736, 742, 749 Fee: \$134.35	At least 30 and less than 45 minutes	739 Fee: \$112.10	At least 20 minutes and less than 40 minutes
738, 744, 757 Fee: \$179.15	At least 45 minutes	743 Fee: \$186.85	At least 40 minutes
<b>Participate in a GP Case Conference</b>			
759, 768, 775 Fee: \$63.95	At least 15 and less than 30 minutes	747 Fee: \$48.10	At least 15 minutes and less than 20 minutes
762, 771, 778 Fee: \$102.35	At least 30 and less than 45 minutes	750 Fee: \$82.40	At least 20 minutes and less than 40 minutes
765, 773, 779 Fee: \$140.70	At least 45 minutes	758 Fee: \$137.35	At least 40 minutes



**General Practice Alliance -  
South Gippsland  
Continuing Professional Development**



- **Medical and psychological impact of trauma on newly arrived refugees.**  
and
- **Ageing migrant communities: key challenges for individuals and their families, for communities and for aged care providers**

**When:** Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> 2010  
**Time:** 6.30pm for 7.00pm dinner  
**Venue:** Silverwaters resort  
San Remo

**Dr. Joanne Gardiner**  
**GP. Specializing in Refugee health**  
and  
**Ms. Ljubica Petrov - Centre for Cultural  
Diversity in Aging.**

7.00pm	Main Meal
7.30pm	Presentation
8.30pm	Dessert & Questions

*RSVP: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March by phone: 5674 0900, fax: 5674 3124  
or email [j.tiziani@gpasouthgippsland.com.au](mailto:j.tiziani@gpasouthgippsland.com.au)*

**Practical Paediatrics Program Part 1 2010  
Child & adolescent mental health**

Presented by RCH Mental Health Services & Victorian Forensic Paediatric Medical Service in partnership with Divisions of General Practice & RCH Primary Care Liaison

**Thursday, 15th April, 7-9pm**  
6.30pm register & light refreshments  
Royal Children's Hospital - Vernon Collins Lecture Theatre

Registrations essential, closing date: Tuesday 6th April.  
Contact: e: [wgpn@wgpn.com.au](mailto:wgpn@wgpn.com.au) / tel 9748 5511  
More information: [www.rch.org.au/kidsconnect](http://www.rch.org.au/kidsconnect) >Professional education