



fortnightly update

Tuesday 20 April 2010

The gpa fortnightly update is posted on our website 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.

Please note there will be no fortnightly update issued in May. The next update will be issued on 1st June 2010.

Health alerts

Hepatitis C:

The Victorian Department of Health has identified a cluster of hepatitis C cases among patients treated by a medical professional in Melbourne. Please read the full alert available on our website (<http://www.gpasouthgippsland.com.au/> Note there is also a patient information sheet available at this website. If GPs or patients have any questions, please contact the call centre on 1300 365 677 between the hours of 8am to 10 pm.

Recall of products containing high levels of iodine:

Adult and neonate cases of thyroid dysfunction have been associated with the consumption of certain seaweed containing products found to have high levels of iodine. The products were recalled on 24 December 2009 and 16 March 2010. Information for GPs is now available at www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/recall-soymilk

Palliative Care directory

The GPA catchment Palliative care directory is now available on our website <http://www.gpasouthgippsland.com.au/Programs/RuralPalliativeCare/>

Diabetes resources for culturally and linguistically diverse Victorians

The Cultural Diversity Program at Diabetes Australia – Vic provides resources for Victorians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The Multilingual Infoline at DA–Vic connects callers with a diabetes educator, dietician or advocacy officer with the help of an interpreter. People can call the following numbers for information about diabetes in their own language:

Arabic	9321 5428	Mandarin	9321 5436
Cantonese	9321 5429	Spanish	9321 5435
English	1300 136 588	Turkish	9321 5432
Greek	9321 5430	Vietnamese	9321 5433
Italian	9321 5431	Other languages	9321 5438
Macedonian	9321 5434		

Resources are available for health professionals and their clients from Arabic, Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin), Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese backgrounds. For more information contact Kim O'Brien on (03) 9667 1733 or email kobrien@diabetesvic.org.au

BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDERS

When: Wednesday 28th April 2010

Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm dinner

**Venue: Rusty Waters Restaurant
1821 Phillip Island Tourist Rd Cowes**



**Dr. Peter Braun
Consultant Psychiatrist
Including an interview with a Client**

**RSVP: Friday 23rd April 2010 to Denise Dale: phone: 59511800, fax: 59521087
or email denise@pimg.com.au**

Fortnightly Edition

General Practice Alliance – South Gippsland 5674 0900 www.gpasouthgippsland.com.au

The National Prescribing Service Program Comes to South Gippsland

The National Prescribing Service (NPS) is finally coming to South Gippsland. Our region has previously been the only division in Australia without a quality use of medicines program for our GPs. With the advent of a locum professional, pharmacist Patricia Derrick, we will soon be contacting practices to organise appointments with GPs to go through a specific group of medicines and their distribution of it to patients. This process has been proven around the country to be of extreme benefit to GPs in providing information on the appropriate use of a medicinal group in various case scenarios, along with providing all participating GP's with CPD points for their colleges. If you wish to find out more about the NPS, please contact Rhett McLennan at the division or visit the NPS website:
www.nps.org.au/health_professionals

General Practitioner Anaesthetists' Locum Scheme (GPALS)



GPALS is a Locum Scheme especially for GP Anaesthetists throughout rural and remote Australia. Funded by the Australian Government, the Scheme is also the facilitator of Government subsidies for rural/remote GP Anaesthetist locum relief.

Host subsidies per GP Anaesthetist requiring relief include:

- \$750/day for locum service fees up to 14 days/financial year (\$750 x 14 = \$10,500)
- Up to \$1500/placement for locum travel costs.

Rural practices/hospitals that arrange their GP Anaesthetist locum privately are also eligible to access the subsidies. Access is easy - there is no administration fee or hidden costs and the paperwork is effortless (3-5 minutes to complete).

GPALS is also seeking GP Anaesthetists (JCCA accredited or equivalent) or Specialist Anaesthetists to register for locum work. A travel time subsidy of up to \$500/placement applies.

For more information, please visit the Australian Society of Anaesthetists at www.asa.org.au, call Dianne on (02) 9327 4022 or send an email to gpals@fed.asa.org.au.

CPD – Paediatric Allergy update May 22nd

Due to popular demand - Saturday morning CPD May 22nd, register now!

Learning areas include Food allergy – prevention of allergy, intro of solids, differentiating IgE and non-IgE mediated food allergies, interpreting tests, management & referral; Anaphylaxis & prescribing autoinjectors; Eczema; Snotty noses - when is it allergic rhinitis, impact on asthma; Urticaria – differentials, when is it allergy, management & referral.

Registration online: [here](http://www.rch.org.au/kidsconnect/edu.cfm?doc_id=8613). RCH GP Access website (Kids Connect):

http://www.rch.org.au/kidsconnect/edu.cfm?doc_id=8613

Leongatha Autism Support Group

Leongatha Community House, 16 Bruce Street Leongatha

Wednesday April 28th, 2010, 10am – 12 noon

Guest Speaker: Anita McMillan, Dietician

Any queries, please contact Yvonne at Parent To Parent Gippsland on 1800 010 453, or email yvonne.waite@noahsarkinc.org.au

Training opportunities

VHIA announce a new course to their 2010 training calendar in 2010. Bookings can be made at www.vhia.com.au - Suicide Assessment & Intervention, 27 May 2010: 9.30-4.00, VHIA, 312 Kings Way, South Melbourne. *Recommended for case workers, supervisors and managers working with individuals who may be suicidal. The course is also useful for reception staff who may deal with suicidal individuals face to face or over the phone.*

Go to www.vhia.com.au to view other training opportunities.

Fortnightly Edition

General Practice Alliance – South Gippsland 5674 0900 www.gpasouthgippsland.com.au

Know your numbers - blood pressure awareness program

The National Stroke Foundation (NSF) are distributing resources as part of the 2010 **Know your numbers** (KYN) blood pressure awareness program (**17–23 May**).

High BP is one of the major risk factors for stroke and is a serious medical condition that can affect anyone. People are often not aware of their BP and even those that are aware can often not manage their condition well. The NSF has developed KYN to raise BP awareness and to help people reduce their risk of stroke.

Through partnerships with The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Omron, Rotary, YMCA and local health centres, BP checking stations are set up in public locations such as pharmacies to provide an opportunity for people to stop and check their BP. Specific KYN resources have been developed for both the consumer and health professional including a brochure, 1,2,3 action plan and wallet card. Individuals who are identified as having high BP at a blood pressure station will be given a 'GP referral letter' and advised to seek professional medical advice.

If you would like to order KYN 'sample packs' (1-250 packs) for your medical centres to promote and display KYN campaign and consumer materials, please contact Belinda Wilkinson, National Stroke Foundation, tel: 9670 1000 email: bwilkinson@strokefoundation.com.au

Stop stroke. Save lives. End suffering www.strokefoundation.com.au

AAPM National presents the 2010 E-Seminar Facilitated by the NSW branch

Are you in a rural or remote area?

Are you having trouble finding quality educational opportunities in your area?

Or, is it just difficult to "get away" from the office to attend sessions?

*This program is a must for all healthcare practices –
Specialist, Allied Health or GP - large or small.*

AAPM are offering national one-hour programs that you can attend from the comfort and convenience of your office or home. All you need is a PC, and a telephone that can be used simultaneously. You will be emailed the presentation, instructions and an evaluation form prior to the scheduled sessions.

You can save them on your PC for viewing during the session, or print them in hardcopy for taking notes. There will be time allocated at the end of seminars for questions and answers.

Further information contact Stephanie Shield, AAPM NSW Secretariat

Ph: 1800 196 679 Fax: (07) 3257 3932 Email: nsw@aapm.org.au Website: www.aapm.org.au

Let's get to work on men's health in 2010: free support resources available

Free resources available at no cost, visit www.andrologyaustralia.org and click on the button 'Get to work on men's health'. A range of other men's health information is available on the site in addition to these specific resources, and all the resources are evidence-based and available at no cost.

Life & Death Matters – it's the care that counts

3rd Gippsland Palliative Care Conference

Saturday 29 May 2010, 9am – 5pm

Century Inn, Princes Hwy, Traralgon West

Registration is free and closes Friday 21st May 2010.

Contact Anthony Hooper, GRPCC 0427 428 580 or anthony@peppermintridgefarm.com.au

Julie Bernardson, GPA Palliative Care Coordinator has accommodation funding available for any GPs wishing to attend from the South Gippsland Division.

Palliative Care Forum - Melbourne

The Australian & New Zealand Society invites medical practitioners to attend its palliative care forum.

Date: Monday 17 May 2010 Venue: PeterMac Lecture Theatre, East Melbourne

Presentation: Anxiety and depression in the terminally ill - Professor Brian Kelly

For more information: www.anzspm.org.au or email Karen Cooper: karen@anzspm.org.au