



# fortnightly update

Tuesday 26 January 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.

## Changed requirements regarding notifiable conditions

On 1 January 2010, the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (PHWA) and the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 (the Regulations) came into effect replacing the *Health Act 1958* and the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001.

Details of the changes are on our website under [Publications/Resources for Practices](#), and briefly are as follows:

- New notifiable conditions: **Chikungunya virus infection** and **blood lead greater than 10 µg/dL**.
- **Giardiasis** has been removed from the list of notifiable conditions.
- **Hepatitis A** has moved from a Group B to a Group A notifiable condition.
- New and revised Notifiable Conditions Form.

For further information about notifiable conditions contact either the Department of Health's Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit on 1300 651 160, Environmental Health Unit on 1300 761 874, or visit <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/ideas> or <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/>

## Free tests for country Victorians

Rural Victorians now have access to free testing and treatment for sexually transmissible infections. The *TESTme* service is funded by the Department of Health and provided by the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre.

The service is specifically targeted to young people (25 or under), indigenous people (of any age) and men who have sex with men (of any age), who live in Victoria and are more than 150km from Melbourne. It has been funded for one year to assess uptake, suitability and acceptability. *TESTme* should be considered as a referral option for patients in the target population.

People seeking free advice or treatment can call the *TESTme* service on **1800 739 836**. More information about this service is available at [www.TESTme.org.au](http://www.TESTme.org.au)

## AMH Drug Choice Companion: Aged Care Booklets Available

The new 2010 booklets for practitioners, nurses and pharmacists who work with older people are available through the division on special if any members are interested. The companion is designed to aid the quality use of medicines in aged care and is produced by the same people that publish the Australian Medicines Handbook (AMH) – the independent medicines reference.

Copies are available for \$45. If you're interested, please call Rhett at the division: 5674 0900.

The latest GP news from the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital is now available online at the GP resources page of the hospital's website. Please go to <http://www.eyear.org.au/healthprofs/gpdocs/Summer2009-10newsletter.pdf> to view or print a copy, or contact Dr Lina Nido, GP Liaison Officer on 9929 8187 or [Lina.Nido@eyear.org.au](mailto:Lina.Nido@eyear.org.au)

Fortnightly Edition

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

I am pleased to commend the Small Rural Hospitals Clinical Risk Management (CRM) Limited Adverse Occurrence Screening (LAOS) Programme annual report for your reading. As you will be aware this has now been produced for the last 3 years and provides collated information State-wide. Although not in hard copy yet, this will occur late January, an electronic copy can be found at [http://www.health.vic.gov.au/clinrisk/downloads/2009\\_12\\_dhs\\_laos\\_prog\\_report\\_web.pdf](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/clinrisk/downloads/2009_12_dhs_laos_prog_report_web.pdf)

### **RMFN Spouse/Partner Education and Training Grant**

The Rural Medical Family Network, Inc. (RMFN) is pleased to offer grants to assist rural or remote medical spouses or partners wishing to undertake further education or training. This round of applications will close on the 11th March 2010.

#### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

Any spouse or partner (of a doctor) living in a rural or remote area of Victoria (which includes South Gippsland).

#### **WHAT TYPE OF EDUCATION/TRAINING IS SUITABLE?**

Applicants may apply for a grant to assist them to undertake any course of study delivered by an accredited training organisation or qualified private provider.

#### **WHAT WILL THE GRANT COVER?**

The grants are valued at up to \$1,000.00 per applicant, which may be used to reimburse applicants for any costs associated with their study eg tuition fees, purchase of books, equipment and course materials, travel to attend classes in larger centres etc.

#### **HOW DO I APPLY?**

Please complete the Application Form, which is available on the RMFN website: [www.rmfn-vic.com](http://www.rmfn-vic.com)

### **CAN DO PROJECT**

**Gillian Ashton, Program Coordinator**

#### **Working with patients with comorbid AOD and mental health issues - The South Coast Comorbidity Network**

As a component of the Can Do project, GPA South Gippsland have developed a networking website for professionals in the local Bass Coast and South Gippsland regions. The website has been designed so that individuals and organisations can keep up to date on current programs, training, resources and services that focus on Alcohol and Drug Issues and/or Mental Health. To date the website has attracted 21 members, however we wish to increase this number and encourage this new means of information sharing and networking. It is simple to join, just go to <http://scccomorbidity.ning.com> and click on the "Sign In" icon in the top right hand corner of the page.

The Can Do Project will be conducting training for General practitioners, AOD workers, Mental Health workers, Schools and Youth workers in the coming months on working with comorbid clients and early intervention. We will also be putting together some guidelines for referral to local AOD and Mental Health Service Providers for GPs. Stay tuned for updates!

#### **SunSmart update on summer campaigns**



Young Victorians and women are the targets of two UV protection campaigns running in Victoria this summer.

- The *Dark Side of tanning* focuses on adolescents and young adults, graphically representing the damaging impact of tanning and sunburn. Campaign materials can be found at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au)
- *Fashion to die for* highlights the dangers of solariums and targets 18- 30-year women, who remain the biggest users of solariums. A brochure and poster can be ordered at [sunsmart.com.au/resources](http://sunsmart.com.au/resources)

Stay tuned for an update on two new GP resources to assist in the promotion of safe UV exposure and vitamin D in Victoria.

## Assistance with personal emergency planning for fire and heatwave preparation activities at home for Home and Community Care clients

The Victorian Government has provided local councils and other HACC assessment services with additional funding to provide extra support to frail older people and younger people with disabilities, who may need it, to prepare for the current fire season through personal emergency planning and heatwave preparation.

Who is eligible? There is a small group of Home and Community Care (HACC) clients in the community who may be unable to effectively prepare and plan for an emergency and heatwave themselves. They are HACC clients who live in high risk areas, are socially isolated and who have some level of cognitive impairment that would mean that they cannot develop a personal emergency plan without support.

Where to refer? Local councils are currently working with those HACC clients that need extra support to prepare personal emergency plans. If you have a patient that meets the above criteria and does not have a personal emergency plan, you can refer them to their local council or case manager for consideration.

People who meet these criteria but receive support through Veterans Home Care or from a Commonwealth funded care package such as a CACP or EACH package, should be referred to their relevant assessment service or case manager for assistance.

### Medical Observer: Talking Women Investigating vulval itching - Dr Elizabeth Farrell

Vulval itching is a common complaint that may present at any age. In the reproductive years, Candidiasis is often the cause, as the yeast requires oestrogen for growth, whereas other conditions such as lichen sclerosus are more often seen postmenopausally.

To read the full article, go to [Talking Women>Vulval Itch](#)

## RCH and Divisions of General Practice Practical Paediatrics Program 2010

On the emailing list yet? If not, send a blank email to: [join-practicalpaediatricsrch@lyris.wch.org.au](mailto:join-practicalpaediatricsrch@lyris.wch.org.au)  
Our schedule for 2010 is nearly confirmed and this is the way you'll be kept informed.  
See RCH Primary Care Liaison (Kids Connect): [www.rch.org.au/kidsconnect/edu.cfm](http://www.rch.org.au/kidsconnect/edu.cfm)

Continuing Professional  
Development

**YOUNG MINDS:**  
**TREATING DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY IN**  
**YOUNG PEOPLE**  
**2 EVENINGS**  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and**  
**17<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

*RSVP: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2010 by  
phone: 5674 0900, fax: 5674 3124  
or email*

[j.tiziani@gpasouthgippsland.com.au](mailto:j.tiziani@gpasouthgippsland.com.au)

**NECESSARY FOR THOSE GPs WHO WANT**  
**TO CONTINUE CLAIMING ITEM 2710**  
**FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH PLAN**

### NATIONAL PERINATAL DEPRESSION INITIATIVE

**When:** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010  
**Time:** 7pm to 9pm  
**Venue:** General Practice Alliance  
South Gippsland Office  
11 Williams St, Inverloch

*A light meal will be provided*

The Division has received some funding to provide assessment and treatment for women who have been identified as being at risk of or having been diagnosed with perinatal depression. I am planning an information evening on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> and would like at least one representative from both GPs and Practice nurses to come along and assist with information about current services, what is available and what you would like to see available.

The aim of this program is to ensure that patients receive continuity of care through to specialist mental health treatment.

The program provides free counselling for women who are at risk of deterioration of their mental state and needing ongoing support from their GP, midwife and C&MH nurses.

*Please contact Judy Tiziani – 56740900 or email*  
[j.tiziani@gpasouthgippsland.com.au](mailto:j.tiziani@gpasouthgippsland.com.au)

Fortnightly Edition

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