



fortnightly update

Tuesday 29 June 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.

Low Vitamin D in Victoria

Department of Health recommendations to health professionals relating to high loading doses of Vitamin D (greater than 50,000 IU) for adults have been revised following a review of new evidence. For more information go to: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/chiefofficer/publications/low_vitamin_d_med.htm

Rural Palliative Care Program

Julie Kellow
Program Coordinator

The Gippsland Region Palliative Care Consortium (GRPCC) has formed a partnership with specialist palliative care services in Melbourne to provide a free secondary phone consultation service to GP's and palliative care services during business hours.

Dr Brian McDonald will be visiting the region one day a month to consult with GPs and palliative care services to assist with the ongoing care of complex palliative care clients. Multi disciplinary team meetings have been implemented at BCCHS and other service providers are in the process of a developing a MDTM.

Brian will also be available for palliative education sessions throughout the region. A palliative care MBS & service system flow chart has been developed by Central West Gippsland Division of General Practice and will be distributed to all GPs in the near future.

Two day Diabetes update



Diabetes Australia – Vic presents a two day diabetes update for Division 1 and 2 Nurses working in general practice, acute care or community health to update their diabetes management skills and knowledge. Areas covered include anatomy/physiology overview, medications, monitoring, nutrition, physical activity, complications.

Date(s): 29–30 July 2010. **Time:** 9.30am–4.30pm. **Venue:** Diabetes Australia – Vic: 570 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. **Cost:** HP Member (Diabetes Australia – Vic) \$300.00 (incl GST) \$275.00 Early Bird (EB) rate. Non member \$350.00 (incl GST) \$300.00 EB rate. Register two weeks prior for the EB rate. Includes all course materials, morning tea and lunch.

Enquiries and RSVP contact Diabetes Australia – Vic on Tel. 9667 1728 Fax: 9667 1778 or <mailto:llobo@diabetesvic.org.au>

Upcoming CPD event:

Pharmacology in Drugs and Alcohol

Speaker: **Dr Richard Brough**
Date: **Thursday 15th July – 7.00pm – 9.30pm**
Time: **7pm - 9.30pm**
Venue: **Archies on the Creek**

To register, please contact Rhett McLennan on 5674 0900 or r.mclennan@gpasouthgippsland.com.au

View GPA education events and find links to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn on our website at <http://www.gpasouthgippsland.com.au/Education/EventsCalendar/>

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Adverse Patient Outcomes seminar DVD

The Medical Indemnity Protection Society (MIPS) have provided the division with a DVD of a seminar regarding adverse patient outcomes and the theoretical medico legal and professional ramifications and processes that may be faced by a general practitioner in Victoria.

The seminar also contains a range of risk management essentials to be employed.

If you wish to borrow the DVD, please contact Rhett at the division: 5674 0900 or r.mclennan@gpasouthgippsland.com.au

Royal Victorian Eye And Ear Hospital and Melbourne General Practice Network presents

Common and emergency ENT conditions for GPs

Tuesday, 3rd August, 2010, 6.30-8.30pm

Venue: Level 1, Peter Howson Wing, Eye And Ear Hospital, Gisborne Street, East Melbourne

**Speakers: Dr Carmel Crock, - Director of Emergency Dept at RVEEH, Emergency Physician
Ms Elizabeth Rose, - Otolaryngologist, RVEEH – Deputy Director Otolaryngology, RCH**

Further details contact: Talitha at Melbourne GP Network on 9347 1188
or e-mail to admin@mgpn.com.au

Do you have a patient that stutters aged between 2 and 6 years?

The Murdoch Children's Research Institute is developing effective treatments for children who stutter. Your patient may be eligible to participate. There will be no cost for assessment or treatment. Treatment is available at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital, Parkville. For more information you or the child's parents can contact Kylie Farnsworth tel 9345 4752 / kylie.farnsworth@mcri.edu.au. All enquiries are confidential.

Cancer Learning: a key online resource for health professionals with an interest in cancer care

Cancer Learning is an online professional development website designed specifically for health care professionals working in cancer care, developed by Cancer Australia in association with leading Australian professional bodies and cancer organisations. [Cancer Learning](http://www.cancerlearning.gov.au) offers a broad range of evidence-based information and learning opportunities on this free, easily accessible, comprehensive website. Cancer Learning website: <http://www.cancerlearning.gov.au/>

WGHG Cognitive Dementia Memory Service (CDAMS) - UPDATE

The West Gippsland Healthcare Group recently welcomed new CDAMS Manager Audra Fenton. Audra joined CDAMS in April and has many years experience in the aged mental health and dementia field. She is looking forward to working with fellow health providers to deliver this very special field of service.



- WGHG CDAMS is a multi-disciplinary team who work together to provide **non-urgent diagnosis**, referral, support and education across the whole of the Gippsland region
- There is a waiting list, which in some cases may be up to six months, depending on the complexity of the client
- Clients are accepted onto the waiting list following an initial telephone assessment by a clinical nurse consultant.
- Neuropsychology is not provided on an individual basis. If this assessment is required, it is completed as part of the comprehensive assessment process

The referral process remains the same and may be made by letter, fax or S2S electronic referral (if available).

The team is happy to assist you with any queries about cognition and memory loss.

For further information or referrals please contact Audra and the team at:

**West Gippsland Healthcare Group, CDAMS Service
Baw Baw Health and Community Care, 33 Young Street, Drouin Vic 3818
Telephone: 5625 0242 Fax: 5625 0204**

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Are your practices ready for electronic discharge summaries from RVEEH?

HealthSMART is the state government program to upgrade the computer systems of Victoria's public hospitals and community health centres. The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital expects to implement the HealthSMART system towards the end of August. This will allow the distribution of discharge summaries electronically.

The electronic discharge summary will be delivered via the HealthLink secure messaging service. If you do not have HealthLink software at your practice, and would like to receive electronic discharge summaries from The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, visit www.healthlink.net and click on "subscribe to HealthLink", which is found under "useful links" on the main page.

Subscribing to this service is free for your general practice.

The HealthSMART application uses the Victorian Government's **Human Services Directory** database to access GP contact details. **Ensuring your practice details are current on this database is essential.** HealthLink creates and supplies the HSD with your practice's electronic address. (EDI Number)

If you are still unsure if your practice has HealthLink, would like to ask any further questions, or to trouble shoot any issues with your HealthLink subscription, contact HealthLink Support on:

Ph 1800 125 036 Fax 1800 151 146 Email helpdesk@healthlink.net

If no HealthLink address is recorded for your practice on the Human Services Directory, it will default to the fax number recorded and you will get a faxed discharge summary. Failing either of these options, you will get a printout of the discharge summary in the post.

Victorian Carer Card program launch

In recognition of the significant contribution that carers make to their communities, the Victorian Government is introducing the Victorian Carer Card. The card will provide discounts and benefits on a range of products and services, such as public transport, retail, leisure, education and health and wellness to people who devote their lives to caring for those who are unable to care for themselves.

The program will launch in July with carers now able to apply. To establish their eligibility, carers must provide evidence that they are a primary carer either through Centrelink or a health professional can sign the application form. A medical practitioner or health professional should sign an application for a Carer Card if they are satisfied that the applicant is the primary, unpaid carer of a person with a disability, a severe medical condition, or a mental illness, or who is frail aged or who is in need of palliative care or who is kinship carer.

For more information see the [Information for Health Professionals fact sheet](#).

GP web portal

The Victorian Department of Health has developed a web portal for GPs that will provide quick and easy access to Victorian Government websites commonly used by general practice. The site will help GPs and general practice staff to more readily access information and resources relevant to general practice. The website development and maintenance is a direct outcome of the Victorian Department of Health's ongoing commitment to general practice as documented in the working with general practice position statement. Trial use of the site has received positive feedback from GPs, practice nurses, practice managers and division staff.

The portal was considered well structured, relevant and informative. Of particular importance to GPs, the following subject areas were noted:

- hospital surgery waiting times
- immunisation information
- notifications of infectious disease
- drugs and poisons

The Department welcomes your constructive feedback so that they can continuously improve the site and encourages you to use the feedback tab which is regularly monitored.

General Practice Links Website: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/generalpractice/>