



## H1N1 vaccine

*There have been some reported errors in the administration of the H1N1 vaccine. We are asking that divisions remind all practices that the dosage for all people over the age of 10 years is a single 0.5 ml (i.e. ½ ml) dose.*

## H1N1 website for Health Professionals

The Commonwealth has a website with up to date information for health professionals at <http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/healthprof>

Three issues that have raised concern for general practice are consent, indemnity and Medicare Australia claiming. These three issues have been resolved in the following ways:

1. Consent for this vaccine is the same as for other parts of the immunisation program and must be informed consent and noted in the medical software. Information from the Commonwealth on this can be found on page 6 of the information for Health Professionals – 18 September 2009 on the website above.
2. All the medical indemnity insurer organisations (MDA National, Medical Indemnity Protection Society, Avant, Invivo and MIGA) have confirmed that they will insure members involved in the H1N1 vaccination program.
3. Medicare Australia has been made aware by the Department of Health and Ageing that there will be a higher than usual number of claims made by General Practitioners (GPs) and nurse immunisers over the next few months. They have also reiterated that mass flu clinics are acceptable as long as there is no payment from another source.

Item numbers to claim from Medicare are (See the Medicare statement for Pandemic Vaccination Services at the bottom of the Guidance and information for Health Professionals page on the website <http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/healthprof>

## MyGeneralPractice - a growing resource for GPs

A new, improved version of MyGeneral Practice (MyGP) was launched on 1 October. The old MyGP and MyPracticeTeam (MyPT) portals have been merged to create a new website that will service as an extensive and growing resource centre for general practice. Users will still be able to access patient handouts, calculators and dermatology resources, popular evidence based clinical resources and links to the RACGP's online resources. Complementing these features is a new range of high quality information, tools and resources. Most importantly, your experience using the new MyGP will be easier, faster and more relevant. Visit [www.mygeneralpractice.org.au](http://www.mygeneralpractice.org.au)

## Family Cancer Matters: Update on treatment and screening options for families at risk of cancer

Free workshop for GPs and other health professionals

GPs and PNs are ideally placed to play an active role in assessing the link between family history and a patient's risk of developing cancer. This workshop aims to increase GPs' awareness and knowledge of genetics and family cancer so they can identify, manage and appropriately refer high-risk patients. Hosted by Cancer Council Victoria and the Victorian Cooperative Oncology Group's Cancer Genetic Advisory Committee and chaired Dr Gillian Mitchell, Clinical Oncologist and Director of the Peter MacCallum Family Cancer Centre. Presented by specialists from the Victorian Family Cancer Centres.

Workshop details:

**Date:** Wed 11 November 2009, 6.45—9.00pm (registration & refreshments from 6.30pm)

**Venue:** Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Lecture Theatre, St Andrews Place, East Melbourne

**RSVP:** Philippa Davis 9635 5049 or [General.Practice@cancervic.org.au](mailto:General.Practice@cancervic.org.au)

Accredited with RACGP for 4 category 2 points.

## Gippsland Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Intake Service Review General Practitioner Consultation

A centralised Intake Service is provided by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) Specialist Children's Services on behalf of all State Government Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Service Providers to provide a central point of contact for families and other referral sources to access Early Intervention Services in the Gippsland Region. The role of the Intake Service is to receive all referrals, determine whether the child is eligible or not eligible for ECIS, assist the family to access the immediate supports they need and then refer them to an appropriate ECI Service provider in their location.

A review of the of the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Intake Service is currently being undertaken by an independent consultant, Nola Ganly, for the DEECD and the Early Childhood Intervention Service Providers. The consultant is advised by a reference group of service providers and a parent.

General practitioners play a very important role in ensuring that families with children who have developmental concerns are able to access timely and appropriate services to address their needs. Your feedback about your experiences with the Intake Service or families with children with developmental delay will assist the consultant to make recommendations which will progress the achievement of an improved and more timely Intake Service. It is important that you as a GP have the opportunity to have input into the review so a short survey for general practitioners has been developed and can be obtained by emailing the consultant at [nganly@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nganly@bigpond.net.au) or by telephoning her on 5289 7479 or 0418 369 831. The review report is due by the end of November 2009.

The Jean Hailes *Foundation*  
for women's health



### Prof Helena Teede meets Dr Sally Cockburn (aka Dr Feelgood)

The Jean Hailes Foundation's Director of Research, Prof Helena Teede, was a special guest on Sunday 20th September on Melbourne radio station 3AW. She joined Dr Sally Cockburn (aka Dr Feelgood) on her radio show "Talking Health" to discuss polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), a condition affecting up to 11 per cent of Australian women of reproductive age. The program makes very interesting listening, for either you or your patients/clients. See how to access a podcast of the show here [www.jeanhailes.org.au/content/view/760/707/](http://www.jeanhailes.org.au/content/view/760/707/)

### Statement on the recent HRT and lung cancer findings from the WHI study

Last month, the Foundation released a statement in response to a study published in The Lancet (20 Sept 2009), which found that hormone replacement therapy (HRT) was associated with a small increase in risk of death from lung cancer for women over 60 years old. Women aged 50-59, who make up the majority of HRT users, showed no significant increase in risk of death from lung cancer. There was also no significant increase in the total number of lung cancer cases. Read more at [www.jeanhailes.org.au/content/view/762/709/](http://www.jeanhailes.org.au/content/view/762/709/)

### 'My Healthy Weight' Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who completed our online survey on healthy weight. We received 46 responses from health professionals. According to our community survey results, 30 per cent of women ask their GPs for information on healthy weight. This number increases to 70 per cent for women who don't access health websites. Clearly, women see their GPs as an important partner in weight control and management and we would like to hear from more GPs about their views on healthy weight – this is why we will be resending the survey to GPs and urging them to take the time to complete the five minute survey.

### Health Professional Education

Our recent videoconference on endometriosis was a big success. Presented by Dr Elizabeth Farrell and Prof Peter Rogers, the videoconference covered endometriosis research, diagnosis and management. It will be available to view online as a webcast shortly and is recommended for GPs, community nurses and other allied health professionals. For all our webcasts see [www.jeanhailes.org.au/content/view/230/351/](http://www.jeanhailes.org.au/content/view/230/351/)

### The Jean Hailes Foundation for Women's Health Websites

[Jean Hailes Foundation](#)  
[Ageing Well](#)  
[Bone Health for Life](#)  
[Early Menopause](#)

[Endometriosis](#)  
[Health for Women](#)  
[Managing Menopause](#)  
[Managing PCOS](#)

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A copy of the Medical Journal of Australia's Guidelines for Communicating End of Life Issues are being delivered to all Practices. If Doctors want more copies, they can be printed from [http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/186\\_12\\_180607/cla11246\\_fm.html](http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/186_12_180607/cla11246_fm.html) In the right hand top section in the "red square" there are directions for printing the PDF version.

### Foster's Advance Care Planning System

Foster Medical Centre has allowed us to post up their Advance Care Planning System on our website under [Publications/Resources for Practices - Palliative Care](#).

CareSearch recognises that there are many people living with a serious illness that cannot be cured. For these people, their families and their carers there are many things to learn and consider. CareSearch provides trustworthy information about palliative care and the website is available when it is needed at [www.caresearch.com.au](http://www.caresearch.com.au). To find out more about the project contact Natasha Schembri on 08 8275 2817 or email [Natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au)

Carers play such an important role in the community and during Carers Week, CareSearch is taking the opportunity to recognise this contribution by releasing new resources to support family carers providing care at the end of life.

### **New resources now available:**

#### [End of Life Brochure Series](#)

Earlier this year CareSearch launched new pages for patients and families requiring palliative care. These seven new brochures look at some of the specific issues from the For Patients and Families section.

- [Why information matters](#)
- [Communication](#)
- [Living with a terminal illness](#)
- [How to care](#)
- [Groups with specific needs](#)
- [At the end](#)
- [Bereavement, grief and loss](#)

#### [CareSearch DVDs](#)

A new set of short DVDs introduce some of the important issues that need to be thought about at the end of life. (Also available on GPA South Gippsland website under [Publications/Resources for Practices - Palliative Care](#).)

#### [Print resources](#)

This new webpage brings together all the helpful materials for patients and carers that can be printed making it easy to download, save or print off information to share.

## **Upcoming Continuing Professional Development events**

### Allergies in Children- Dr David Bannister

Thursday 12th November, 2009 at The Rhythm Cafe, Foster [Click here](#) for more information.

### Travel Medicine - Dr Jonathon Cohen

Thursday 19th November, 2009 at Spice Island Café, Churchill Island via Phillip Island [Click here](#) for more information.

### Training for Practice Nurses

The next Practice Nurse training session will be on Wednesday 9th December at The Wonthaggi Club, with a presentation by Kidney Health Australia.

## Patient-initiated aggression study

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing has commissioned the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI) and Campbell Research & Consulting to conduct the **first national study examining patient-initiated aggression against general practitioners and general practice staff in Australia**. We now need your input.

Extensive consultations and interviews with stakeholders and general practice staff across Australia have already occurred and findings have been used to develop two national online surveys for general practitioners and general practice staff.

### **PRACTICE MANAGER SURVEY (Or other practice representative)**

Please [click here](#) or alternatively go to [surveys.campbellresearch.com.au//1024\\_Practice\\_Survey.htm](http://surveys.campbellresearch.com.au//1024_Practice_Survey.htm)

(Note: Only one survey response per practice is required by a practice representative. This representative can be any member of staff from the practice including practice managers, medical receptionists, practice nurses or allied health professionals)

### **GENERAL PRACTITIONER SURVEY**

Please [click here](#) or alternatively go to [surveys.campbellresearch.com.au//1024\\_GP\\_Survey.htm](http://surveys.campbellresearch.com.au//1024_GP_Survey.htm)

(Note: Each GP in your practice needs to complete their own 'General Practitioner' survey)

If you have any questions about this survey please contact Assoc. Prof Rhian Parker at APHCRI on (02) 6125 7838 or [rhian.parker@anu.edu.au](mailto:rhian.parker@anu.edu.au).

## Quality Improvement Workshops

The **Improvement Foundation** is offering quality improvement workshops for Australian organisations ranging from 1 – 3 days. If the staff and GPs at your practice are interested in those scheduled for Victoria please call IFA on 08 8422 7400, visit their website [www.improve.org.au](http://www.improve.org.au) or email [workshops@improve.org.au](mailto:workshops@improve.org.au)

Day workshops are costed at \$650 +GST or 10% discount for early bird registration and scheduled in Melbourne on Dec 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> or March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 2010. Longer workshops are more expensive and targeted to teams of up to 3 people. All workshops attract QA&CPD points with RACGP.

## Smoking Cessation Clinical Audit now available

**80% of smokers are unhappy with their habit. You can help them quit.**

Tobacco causes more illness and death than any other drug and is a major cause of cancer, heart disease, lung disease, and stroke, and causes or contributes to many other diseases and conditions.

Cancer Council Victoria's General Practice Program together with Quit Victoria have developed the 2009 Smoking Cessation Clinical Audit to help your practice implement smoking cessation guidelines based on the proven approaches to smoking intervention.

To arrange for a **Smoking Cessation Clinical Audit** pack to be sent to your practice email [general.practice@cancervic.org.au](mailto:general.practice@cancervic.org.au) or call **9635 5697**.

Audit attracts RACGP category 1 and 2 points, as well as ACRRM and RCNA continuing education points.

### **Participate in Research for 40 Category 1 QA & CPD**

Deakin University, funded by Beyond Blue VCOE, are conducting research which aims to evaluate the effectiveness of an internet-based health information resource (Heath Health Online) for improving the psychological and physical well-being of people with coronary artery disease.

GPs are needed to refer eligible patients to the study and to provide minimal information about the patient's heart disease (with patient's consent). GPs will receive \$100 for participating, and will be eligible for 40 Category 1 QA & CPD points.

GPs who would like to participate or find out more, please contact Lucy Jackson via email [lucy.jackson@deakin.edu.au](mailto:lucy.jackson@deakin.edu.au) or by phone 9244 6259.

## Order your Free *Measure Up* campaign tape measures now

The second phase of the *Measure Up* campaign commenced on 13 September 2009. You can view the evaluation results for the first phase of the campaign at [www.australia.gov.au/MeasureUp](http://www.australia.gov.au/MeasureUp)

"*Measure Up*" tape measures in aluminium cases and fact sheets have been produced specifically for GPs and health professionals to use when measuring patients. These resources, booklets and posters can be ordered from the *Measure Up* campaign website at <http://www.measureup.gov.au/internet/abhi/publishing.nsf>