

*Welcome to our spring edition of 'Nursing Network',  
the newsletter for Practice Nurses.*

## MBS UPDATE

In response to requests from Practice Nurses we have listed below some of the MBS changes/inclusions that have occurred since November 2006.

### JULY 2007

#### Item 10997

The item was introduced to provide an MBS rebate (\$10.60) for **Practice Nurses** and registered Aboriginal Health Workers to provide ongoing support and monitoring, for patients with chronic diseases for, and on behalf of, general practitioners.

This will assist patients who require access to ongoing care, frequently for relatively routine treatment, and ongoing monitoring and support between more structured reviews of a care plan by the patient's GP. There is a maximum of 5 services per patient in a calendar year. The GP does NOT have to see the patient on the same day to claim this item.

#### Item 718 and Item 719

##### Health Assessments for People with an Intellectual Disability

Item 718 - at consulting rooms for a health assessment of a patient with intellectual disability. (\$199.60)

Item 719 - not being an attendance at consulting rooms, a hospital or RACF for a health assessment of a patient with intellectual disability. (\$222.05)

These items require an assessment similar to the Over 75 Annual Health Assessment.

### MAY 2007

#### Items 81100 to 81125

##### Allied Health Group Service under Medicare for Patients with Type 2 Diabetes

These new items numbers will allow people with type 2 diabetes to receive Medicare rebates for group services provided by eligible diabetes educators, exercise physiologists and dieticians, on referral from a GP. These services are in *addition* to the 5 individual allied health services available to eligible patients each calendar year under items 10950 to 10970.

#### Items 2710, 2712, 2713

##### Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and General Practitioners

The previous PIP Mental Health item numbers are no longer available, these have been replaced with the "Better Access Initiative" (items 2710, 2712, 2713). This initiative will increase community access to mental health professionals and team-based mental health care, with general practitioners encouraged to work more closely and collaboratively with psychiatrists, clinical psychologists and other allied mental health professionals.

#### MARCH 2007 Items 1, 2, 601 & 602 Emergency Attendance After Hours

A number of minor changes were made to the emergency after-hours MBS items for GPs. Changes include replacing the term "emergency" with the term "urgent"; allowing requests for urgent attendances, including surgery consultations, to be taken up to two hours prior to commencement of an after-hours period; and allowing regular providers of after-hours services to use the urgent after-hours home visit items.

Further information is available on the Department of Health and Aging website [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) and Medicare Australia website [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au)

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



**Marianne Taylor**  
Aged Care Program  
Coordinator

Marianne is an occupational therapist with a background in aged care. She completed a Master of Public Health in 2005 and has since worked at the Disability Services Commission and the South Metropolitan Public Health Unit.

Marianne comes to us with a strong background in aged care, hospital work, research, project management and GP liaison.



**Todd Anderson**  
Coordinator for FREQ  
StreetDoctor and Youth Health

Todd is a Registered Nurse with many varied professional experiences gained over 15 years of nursing. This includes both acute and community health in urban, rural and remote settings.

Todd has a passion for community and social justice which has seen him work for many years in remote aboriginal communities in central Australia.

Todd is looking forward to developing the FREQ StreetDoctor service in the local community and invites you to drop down to the FREQ StreetDoctor van to say hello.

## HPV REGISTER

A national HPV Vaccination Program Register (HPV Register) is being developed by the Australian Government to collect HPV vaccine data.

As this register is not yet operational, all practices will be asked to collect and hold the information until it can be forwarded on later this year. The proposed register will receive data on HPV immunisations for all girls from 12 to 18 years of age. Data for older girls and women (18 to 26 years of age) should also be recorded until the funded program finishes at the end of 2008.

A \$6 administration fee (plus GST) will be paid to GPs by the Commonwealth for lodging each HPV immunisation encounter for 12 to 18 year olds once the register is operational.

Personal information collected on the register will not be made available publicly but will be used to:

- evaluate the impact of the HPV Vaccine Program on cervical cancer rates,
- issue reminders if the course is incomplete, and
- contact vaccine recipients if booster doses are required.

You can collect data by:

- Using your medical software—step by step instructions for collecting HPV information using Medical Director, Genie and Zedmed software are available on the Australian GP Network's website [www.adgp.com.au/site/index](http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index). Also included are instructions to help retrieve the information in a report format which can be sent to the register later in the year.
- If you do not have desktop software you are still encouraged to collect the data. Example templates that can be used with the required fields for the proposed register can also be found on the AGPN website [www.adgp.com.au/site/index](http://www.adgp.com.au/site/index). This spreadsheet can be populated and kept electronically or in hard-copy.

We will inform you how to submit your data when the register is operational. **Meanwhile, if you have any queries please contact Gae Sawyer on 9319 0555, or email [gaes@frdgp.com.au](mailto:gaes@frdgp.com.au).**



### NATIONAL PRIMARY CARE COLLABORATIVE

**Coming event...arriving late October 2007**

An opportunity for all Practice Nurses to discover what the National Primary Care Collaboratives (NPCC) is all about!

## ADVERTISE YOUR PRACTICE VACANCIES ON THE FGPN WEBSITE

Fremantle GP Network is now advertising GP, Practice Nurse and Practice Manager vacancies on our website **free of charge** to member practices.

To view listed vacancies visit the Fremantle GP Network website at [www.frdgp.com.au](http://www.frdgp.com.au) select Workforce, Practice Vacancies.

For further information about this service contact Kelli Porter on 9319 0555 or look under Workforce on the Fremantle GP Network website.



## LIFESCRIPTS INVITATION

Fremantle GP Network wish to extend an invitation to GPs and Practice Nurses to join a Lifescrpt Focus Group.

We will be holding the first focus group meeting, for GPs and Practice Nurses, on Wednesday 5th September from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at Fremantle GP Network. We are seeking your opinion on the Lifescrpt resources; we wish to find out what the barriers are to using these resources and possible strategies to overcome these barriers. Participants will be remunerated at Divisional rates.

**Limited places available so please RSVP now. Contact Amanda Derbyshire via email [amandad@frdgp.com.au](mailto:amandad@frdgp.com.au) for further information.**

## WAPNA EVENTS

**20 August:** The latest information from the Heart Foundation on chest pain and other updates. This will be followed by the AGM at approximately 7.45pm.

**17 September:** An update on wound care products

**27 October:** Last WAPNA Seminar for 2007

All events are held at 7.00pm at Clinipath, Murray Street, Perth.

**To register or for further information please contact Rosemarie Winsor RN ph/fax: 9247 2178, 0419 141 259 [rg\\_winsor@westnet.com.au](mailto:rg_winsor@westnet.com.au)**

## IMMUNISATION CERTIFICATION COURSE

Accredited by the Royal College of Nursing Australia

The Department of Health and Aging has developed a new Accredited Immunisation Certification Course designed to support rural and remote, general and community nurses in their expanding and demanding practice role.

This program has been developed to meet the training needs of nurses by standardising the education component of immunisation.

It is designed to assist nurses in gaining the knowledge and skills necessary to become certified to give immunisation competently in areas of work where there may not be a medical officer on site.

The course includes both theoretical and clinical practice components. This self paced, distance education program is designed as a flexible learning program.

- **The theoretical component** of the immunisation certification training program will be 5 weeks in length. This is an external approach meaning you can complete this training manual at work or home.

Following the completion of reading the immunisation training manual, students are assessed via an open book multiple choice and short answer exam. Students must achieve a grade of 80% to satisfactorily pass the first part of the course.

- **The clinical practice component** will be dependant on the student's knowledge and previous clinical experience.

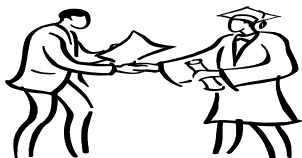
The evaluation of clinical competence is undertaken by a suitably qualified supervisor and is based on a set of Competency Immunisation Standards. Clinical competence is an integral component of the program and assessment tools are included in the package.

Nurses are expected to complete the theory (training Manual), clinical practice requirements and assessment components of the course.

Applicants must be registered in Division 1 or 2 of the Nurses Board of WA Register and practicing in a clinical area.

The Immunisation Certification Course costs \$50.00. For those nurses who do not wish to undertake the course, immunisation module materials may also be purchased for use as a resource at a cost of \$50.00 with no requirement to do the course.

**To enrol in the Immunisation Certification Course, or for further information, please contact Gae Sawyer on 9319 0555 or email [gaes@fdgp.com.au](mailto:gaes@fdgp.com.au)**



## NATIONAL PRESCRIBING SERVICE

**NPS Website: [www.nps.org.au](http://www.nps.org.au).**

The NPS website is a fantastic way to access accurate, balanced and evidence-based quality use of medicines resources.

The NPS recognise that nurses play a vital role in achieving the best outcome for their patients and health consumers through Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) by:

- selecting management options wisely
- choosing an appropriate medicine, if a medicine is considered necessary
- ensuring that medicines are used safely and effectively

and as such they have recently set up a section within their website **specifically for nurses**.

Go to [www.nps.org.au](http://www.nps.org.au) to register or to receive hard or electronic copies of NPS resources, including Australian Prescriber, Medicines Talk (consumer quality use of medicines newsletter), NPS News, and RADAR (new drugs information).

The NPS has also started to develop specific Practice Nurse resources aligned to the Educational Visiting Program therapeutic topics that are rolled out to practice staff by FGPN throughout the year. For example, a handy A4 card *Resources for Practice Nurses and Patients with Type 2 Diabetes* was recently published by the NPS.

**To obtain copies of the above card please contact Lorna Hurst QUM Project Officer on 9319 0555 or email [lornah@fdgp.com.au](mailto:lornah@fdgp.com.au)**



## PROFILE

**Veronica Abrahams RN**  
Fremantle Women's Health Centre  
114 South Street, Fremantle  
9431 0500

**How long have you worked at Fremantle Women's Health Centre?**

Three and a half years.

**What is your role at Fremantle Women's Health Centre?**

Clinical Manager.

**What is your next planned project at Fremantle Women's Health Centre?**

Be a Whiz on Computers!

**How do you intend to celebrate the successful completion of this project? Swim to Rotto, walk the Bibbulmun Track?**

Write a book.

**Where would you like to go on your next holiday?**

India.

**Where are you actually going on your next holiday?**

Queensland.

**If you were not working at Fremantle Women's Health Centre where would you like to be, or who would you like to be?**

Leisurely working in the garden with PRN sundowners!

**What/who is your favourite?**

<b>Car</b>	Astra CDT
<b>Author</b>	Shakespeare
<b>Shop</b>	Antique shops
<b>Drink</b>	Tia Maria

**And finally, if you were shipwrecked on a deserted island name what/who you would like with you?**

<b>3 people</b>	Husband, handyman, hunter
<b>2 foods</b>	Nuts, fruit
<b>2 books</b>	Bible, Roots
<b>1 Pet</b>	My Dog—Sugar

**Thank You Veronica.**

**Who will be featured in the next issue?**

To nominate someone from your Practice please contact Suzanne Badham on 9319 0555 or email [sueb@frdgp.com.au](mailto:sueb@frdgp.com.au).

## FREMANTLE GP NETWORK EVENTS

**August 26**

**City to Surf Fun Run**

All details are on our website [www.frdgp.com.au](http://www.frdgp.com.au)

**September 5**

**Lifescritps**

Focus Group for GPs and Practice Nurses

6.30pm - 7.30pm

FGPN, 10 Silas Street, East Fremantle

**September 14**

**Fremantle GP Network AGM and Cocktail Party**

University of Notre Dame, Fremantle

**October 24**

**Asthma Update**

For further details please contact Jesse Pearse via [jessep@frdgp.com.au](mailto:jessep@frdgp.com.au).

**Healthy Lifestyles Workshop Series**

For GPs, Practice Nurses, Practice Managers, Practice Staff.

Tools, tips and tactics towards healthier lifestyles for Chronic Disease Patients

FGPN, 10 Silas Street, East Fremantle

**18 September 2007**

Workshop 1

Tools and how to apply them

**26 September 2007**

Workshop 2

Tips and how to implement them

**3 October 2007**

Workshop 3

Tactics and how to employ them

**More information on above workshops – available soon!**

### Scholarship News Hot off the Press

The Australian Government has announced that applications for the 2007 Practice Nurse scholarship scheme are now open. The scholarships are for professional development training and also include post-graduate courses.

Administered by the Australian Practice Nurse Association (APNA), applicants do not need to be APNA members to apply but must have current nursing registration. Applications open 15 August & close 28 September. Scholarships can be awarded for courses commenced from 1 July 2007.

Application forms and supplementary information is available from the APNA website [www.apna.asn.au](http://www.apna.asn.au) or ph. 03 9614 7777.

Fremantle GP Network constantly strives to improve the quality and range of services to our practices and welcomes positive feedback and complaints. We invite you to send your comments to [reception@frdgp.com.au](mailto:reception@frdgp.com.au)