

Weekly News

Friday 13th November 2009

Do you have an interest in medication safety?

GP required to join WA Medication Safety Group

Do you have a keen interest in medication safety? The WA Medication Safety Group (WAMSG) is looking for a GP to join the Group. Historically WAMSG has had an almost exclusive public hospital focus, however the Group would like to move some focus to ambulatory care and in particular the intersection between 'transition of care' and 'medication reconciliation'.

In 2010 it is anticipated that the Group will meet on the first Tuesday of every second month, commencing in February. Meetings are held at SCGH and commence at 1600 hrs.

It is important to note that no sitting fees are paid to WAMSG members.

If you are interested in joining the Group, please contact Lorna Hurst on 9319 0555 or email lorna.hurst@fremantlegpnetwork.com.au to obtain a copy of the Terms of Reference. Further information on WAMSG outcomes are available at www.watag.org.au/wamsg.

Mental Health Skills Training

From 1 January 2010, there will be changes to the Mental Health Skills Training: Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and General Practitioners through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (Better Access) initiative, in relation to the development of Mental Health Treatment Plans for people with a diagnosed mental disorder.

GPs that have undertaken training accredited by the General Practice Mental Health Standards Collaboration (GPMHSC) since the commencement of the Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care program on 1 July 2001 will continue to be able to access the current item number (2710), with a schedule fee of \$156.85, for developing a Mental Health Treatment Plan.

GPs that have NOT completed training will still be able to refer patients to allied mental health professionals in line with current arrangements however will access a lower schedule fee of \$125.95 (actual item number yet to be determined) for developing a Mental Health Treatment Plan.

Contact Julie Skevington or your Practice Liaison Support Officer on 9319 0555 for a fact sheet.

Training/Education

Accredited Mental Health Skills Training is also available online at: www.thinkgp.com.au - sign up and click on the Mental Health Skills Training ALM.

Mental Health Professionals Network – Collaborative Workshop

Wednesday 2 December 2009

6:15 – 9:30pm

Rosie O'Grady's,

RSVP by Friday 27 November 2009

Private practitioners who are eligible to provide services under Better Access will be remunerated \$150 for their attendance at one MHPN workshop.

More information, including the registration form, is available on the FGPN web site, www.fremantlegpnetwork.com.au, under "Events" or contact Jessica Cyngler from MHPN on

(03) 8662 6609 / email j.cyngler@mhpnetwork.org.au

Faxback

Young Minds GP Training Day

Come along to a FREE one day educational session that will focus on working with young people with mental health issues. It is based on the credentialed course by BeyondBlue. It will provide you with the training required to access the Mental Health Item care plan, item number 2710.

As this is an active learning module, attendees will be required to do some pre-reading 2 weeks prior to the course and some post-course work.

5th December, 2009

Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre
corner of Leach Highway and Murdoch Drive, Winthrop

GPs will be able to access 40 Category 1 QA & CPD points. To book, please contact reception on 9319 0555 today!

YES, I would like to attend

Place name and practice here

Therapeutic Advice and Information Service – Consult a drug information pharmacist

Do you know that you can contact a drug information pharmacist for free advice? The Therapeutic Advice and Information Service (TAIS) is a medicines information line specifically for health professionals including doctors, pharmacists and nurses. It is funded by the National Prescribing Service (NPS) and staffed by specialist drug information pharmacists.

Services include:

- Information on new drugs, complementary medicines and medicines reported in the media.
- Information on newly emerging side effects.
- Advice on the clinical importance of potential drug interactions.
- Identification of foreign drugs and recommendation of therapeutic equivalents.
- Assessment of expected benefits and potential risks of medicines.
- Information on drugs in pregnancy and lactation.

How do I contact TAIS? There are three options available:

1. Telephone 1300 138 677 Monday to Friday 9am-7pm EST for the cost of a local call (calls from mobiles may cost more); or
2. Fill out the on-line enquiry form for non-urgent enquiries at : http://www.nps.org.au/health_professionals/consult_a_drug_information_pharmacist/therapeutic_advice_and_information_service; or Fax (03) 9459 4546
3. To obtain TAIS telephone stickers as a handy reminder of this service call Lorna Hurst on 9319 0555, email lorna.hurst@fremantlegpnetwork.com.au or complete the fax-back form attached.



Did you know that you can ring 1300 138 677 and talk to a fully trained and experienced pharmacist who has the time, resources and expertise to provide a response to a range of clinical scenarios, such as the one described below?

Case Study - Sarah

Sarah, a 74-year-old patient presents to you describing feelings of sadness, loss of interest in her daily activities and appears to be underweight. You diagnose minor depression and refer her to a psychologist for cognitive behavioural therapy. Despite this, her symptoms remain unchanged after six weeks. She also has osteoporosis, Parkinson's disease and angina. Her current daily medicines include calcium carbonate 1500 mg/cholecalciferol 12.5 mg daily, alendronate 70 mg once weekly, levodopa 100 mg/carbidopa 25 mg three times per day, isosorbide monohydrate 60 mg daily, and clopidogrel 75 mg daily. Which antidepressant would be a suitable option?

Sarah also asks you about her husband Clyde who is 69-years old. She is worried about the effects that his rosuvastatin might be having on his cognitive function, specifically his short-term memory. He has been forgetting many of the details of conversations they have had and often does not recall details from previous days. She first noticed a decline in his short-term memory two months after he started taking the rosuvastatin. He does not smoke or drink alcohol. There is no family history of dementia. He has hyperlipidaemia and high blood pressure. His current daily medications include perindopril 5 mg daily, felodur 2.5 mg daily, and rosuvastatin 10 mg daily. What advice would you provide?

***Where do you go to look for this information?
How long is it going to take to research?
Do you have the necessary resources?***

Ring the TAIS line on 1300 138 677 and talk to a fully trained and experienced pharmacist who can provide you with a response to your questions.

In addition, to obtain handy TAIS stickers for your phone, please complete and return the details below:

Please send me _____ (insert number) TAIS telephone stickers

Name & practice stamp:

Fax to Lorna Hurst – 9339 8355