

Chronic Disease Management

Healthy Weight Week - 24 to 31 January 2010

The Dieticians Association of Australia (DAA) along with its Accredited Practising Dietician members are hosting the third annual Australia's Healthy Weight Week (AHWW) 24 -31 January 2010. This part of their comprehensive obesity strategy aims to help Australians achieve and maintain a healthy weight by eating better, feeling better and moving more NOW.

Free resources available include an A3 poster, A5 consumer brochures, food and exercise records that can be provided to patients and "Take 10 in 2010" factsheets (these are set of ten tips to help your patients achieve a healthy lifestyle by making small changes every week. For further information or to order or download resources visit the AHWW website:

www.healthyweightweek.com.au

Information on the Practice Incentive Program (PIP) Indigenous Health Incentive

The new Practice Incentive Program (PIP) Indigenous Health Incentive will commence in May 2010. This incentive will support general practices and Indigenous health services to provide better health care to Indigenous Australians, including best practice management of chronic disease.

To join this new incentive, practices will need to be participating in the PIP and meet sign-on requirements. The first payments through the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive will be made to eligible practices in May 2010.

There is a sign-on payment, annual registration payments and a two-tier outcome payment structure.

Further information about the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive will be mailed to eligible practices by Medicare Australia in the next few weeks. In addition, practices can also get further information by calling Medicare on **1800 222 032**. If you have any initial points requiring clarification please call **Kate Forrest, at FGPN on 9319 0555**.

CareSearch

Is a website that provides evidence based palliative care information and resources for those providing palliative care and those affected by palliative care. There are many resources within CareSearch that maybe of interest to GPs and these can be located at

www.caresearch.com.au

Be the first to know about new drugs with NPS RADAR. It's free and it's great!

NPS RADAR gives you access to timely, independent, evidence-based assessment of new drugs, new PBS listings and research for health professionals. The December edition of RADAR is now available and includes articles on:

- Pramipexole (Sifrol) for early Parkinson's disease: this is a new listing in addition to the restless legs syndrome indication. NPS RADAR discusses the safety and relative efficacy of different treatments in early Parkinson's. A Medicine Update will also be published for this new listing;

- Olanzapine depot injection (Zyprexa Relprevv) for schizophrenia: Olanzapine pamoate is a long-acting injectable form of olanzapine. NPS RADAR examines the risk of post-injection syndrome and measures to manage it;

- In brief items covering new safety information about varenicline (Champix); etoricoxib (Arcoxia), a new COX-2 selective NSAID; 10-valent pneumococcal vaccine (Synflorix); montelukast (Singulair) for exercise-induced asthma in children; and an extended listing for ciprofloxacin ear drops (Ciloxan).

To view RADAR on-line go to:

http://nps.org.au/health_professionals/publications/nps_radar

To subscribe to RADAR go to:

http://nps.org.au/health_professionals/order_free_information/order_now

Small and general business tax break

AGPAL surveyor and author of the RACGP Infection Control Standards for office based practices 4th edition, Dr Nick Demediuk, would like to remind practices who own sterilisers i.e. technicians having problems getting parts, no printout or data capture facility, that you may be eligible for a tax break to assist in the purchase of a new steriliser.

"An additional tax deduction of 50 per cent of the cost of eligible new tangible depreciating asset between 13 December 2008 and 31 December 2009 and first uses the asset, or install it ready for use, or (in the case of new investment is an existing asset) brings the asset to its modified or improved state on or before 31 December 2010."

For more information visit:

www.ato.gov.au/taxprofessionals/content.asp?doc=/Content/00175431.htm or speak with your accountant.

South Metro Public Health Unit (SMPHU) New Initiatives for Hard to reach 18-21 year olds with Chlamydia.

From January 2010, SMPHU will be offering contact tracing for high risk groups who have been screened positive for Chlamydia. This will be done in consultation with their GP. These high risk groups include those under 18 years of age, Aboriginal clients, patients diagnosed by Emergency Departments, those with co-infections with other STIs or repeat infections, antenatal clients, prisoners and others of concern.

A SMPHU nurse will mail out a letter to the GP which will provide information on Chlamydia treatment and screening for other sexually transmitted infections and contact tracing, if this has not been attended to. This is reduce the spread of Chlamydia in the community.