



National Prescribing Service Limited



Fremantle
GP Network

NATIONAL PRESCRIBING SERVICE PROGRAMS

Fremantle GP Network (FGPN) is contracted by the National Prescribing Service (NPS) to provide a range of educational services to general practitioners (GPs), allied health professionals and consumers. The NPS is an independent, non-profit organisation for Quality use of Medicines (QUM). QUM means ensuring that when medicines are considered necessary (including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and mineral supplements) they are chosen wisely and used appropriately, safely and effectively. This involves selecting, managing, monitoring and reviewing a patient's medicines to ensure that maximum benefit is obtained. It also involves providing the patient with relevant and appropriate information on their medicines and empowering the patient with the knowledge to use their medicines safely in order to minimise misuse and overuse.

NPS educational visiting program

This program assists GPs, practice nurses and pharmacists to keep up-to-date with independent, evidence-based information on a range of therapeutic topics. Approximately three therapeutic topics are offered each year and these topics are developed by NPS based on the educational needs of the participants. One-to-one educational visits, involving the GP and the NPS Facilitator, are recognised as the 'gold standard' in NPS educational visiting. In addition, small groups of GPs, practice nurses and/or pharmacists meet with the NPS Facilitator to participate in clinical case studies and this tends to be the most popular form of educational method at FGPN. In excess of one hundred GPs regularly participate in each NPS therapeutic topic. In addition, quality assurance tools, including clinical audits and paper-based case studies, complement the educational visiting program. All of these activities enable accredited practices, and those working towards accreditation, to aim to achieve the Quality Prescribing Initiative, a component of the Practice Incentives Program.

Independent information to health professionals and consumers

Independent, accurate, balanced, evidence-based QUM information is regularly provided to health professionals and consumers. Publications available to health professionals include the *Australian Prescriber* and *NPS News*; and *RADAR*, which provides information about new and revised listings to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

A range of QUM information and tools is available to consumers, including: the *NPS Medicines Line* - a confidential telephone service provided by qualified pharmacists; Consumer Medicines Information; and community programs targeted at various groups. FGPN also promotes a range of NPS campaigns and initiatives within the community including the *Common colds need common sense, not antibiotics* campaign, *Generic medicines are an equal choice* campaign and the *Get to know your medicines* campaign. Many of these initiatives are targeted at multicultural communities, with the relevant resources translated into several languages.

Useful Links:

- National Prescribing Service www.nps.org.au (02) 6282 6755
- NPS Medicines Line (Consumers) 1300 888 763
- Fremantle GP Network www.fremantlegpnetwork.com.au

Contact:

Lorna Hurst

Tel: 08 9319 0555

Email: lorna.hurst@fremantlegpnetwork.com.au