

What's New in the Nurse's Network

Peninsula partners announced as the Medicare Local for the Frankston & Mornington Peninsula Region

A local partnership including the Peninsula GP Network, Peninsula Health and the Frankston and Mornington Primary Care Partnership is pleased to be one of the second tranche of Medicare Locals announced by the Federal Government today.

PGPN Chair Dr Damian Flanagan said "this is an historic time for health reform in this country in which the Federal Government has allocated \$477 million over four years to establish a network of Medicare Locals across the country."

"The three partners look forward to working with the Medicare Local Board of Directors alongside the community, the Local Health Network, GPs and other primary health care providers to deliver a better health system for the Peninsula region" said Dr Flanagan.

"A longstanding structural issue in our health system is the lack of a mechanism to coordinate GP, private care and public primary health care services. The Medicare Local is an opportunity to build this platform with input from major health care providers,' the CEO of Peninsula Health Dr Sherene Devanesen said.

NEW MEDICARE ITEMS FOR GP MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PLANS: 2011-12 BUDGET MEASURE

Background to the Budget Measure

The 2011-12 Budget included the introduction of new time-tiered Medicare items for the preparation of a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan and changes to Medicare rebates.

An outline of this budget measure was provided in a previous Fact Sheet circulated in May 2011, which can be found at: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/budget2011-factsheet02.htm>

This Fact Sheet contains more detailed information on the Medicare items for GP Mental Health Treatment Plans including the new item numbers, the Schedule Fees and Frequently Asked Questions.

Key Points:

From 1 November 2011, Medicare items 2702 and 2710 for the preparation of a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan will be removed from the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and replaced with four new time-tiered items – 2700, 2701, 2715 and 2717.

GPs who have completed Mental Health Skills training accredited by the General Practice Mental Health Standards Collaboration (GPMHSC) and who previously claimed item 2710 will now claim item 2715 (for a consultation of between 20 and 39 minutes) or item 2717 (for a consultation of 40 minutes or more). The schedule fee for item 2715 is \$87.60 and item 2717 is \$129.00.

GPs who have not completed accredited Mental Health Skills training and who previously claimed item 2702 will now claim item 2700 (for a consultation of between 20 and 39 minutes) or item 2701 (for a consultation of 40 minutes or more). The schedule fee for item 2700 is \$69.00 and item 2701 is \$101.55.

There will also be changes to the Medicare Benefits Schedule fee structure for the GP Mental Health Review item 2712 and the GP Mental Health Consultation item 2713. From 1 November 2011, the rebate for both items 2712 and 2713 will be \$69.00.

Nurses' Paycheck relaunched

The ANF has relaunched *Nurses' Paycheck* as an on line service providing comprehensive and timely information on nursing wages.

Cost: \$5 for current ANF, NSWNA, or QNU members (Validation required) or \$35 for non-members per quarterly issue

[Visit the Nurses' Paycheck website](#)

This unique publication will help ensure that nurses, employers and other organisations have this important information at their fingertips.

Nurses' Paycheck will be periodically amended to reflect changes in public sector wage rates with more general updates every three months, and will be available on the 1st of March, 1st of June, 1st of September and 1st of December.

Primary Care Nursing Groups

PGPN endeavours to promote, support and encourage an active practice nurse network. We aim to facilitate the development of nurse groups for the purpose of peer support, mentoring, networking and chronic disease management education. We are encouraging nurses in the network to meet regularly, develop peer support relationships, and enhance nursing skills through group participation. If you feel you could lead, or would like to participate in a nurse group in your local area, or the wider community of PGPN, please contact Lynda French by email L.french@pgpn.org.au or phone on 9708 8019.

Coordinated Veterans' Care

The Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program is a new way for primary health care providers to assist Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Gold Card holders who have chronic conditions and complex health needs, to better manage their health and to help them avoid an unnecessary admission to hospital. Led by a GP, with a nurse coordinator, the CVC Program provides ongoing, planned and coordinated primary and community care. The Coordinated Veterans' Care program has released its [first training module](#) for GPs, nurses and AHWs.

Module one has five sections including:

- Introducing the Chronic Care Model
- The Health System
- Improving Quality of Chronic Condition Care
- Chronic Condition Self Management Support
- Community Sector Support.

The training program is accredited. -Contact cstapleton@agpn.com.au for more information or go to the website www.cvcprogram.net.au

CVC Lunch time Learning for Practice Nurses, Wednesday 7th December, 12md – 2.30pm Practice Nurses are invited to attend an interactive lunchtime workshop to learn how they can support the CVC Program within their practice. Lunch provided. Registration is via website. www.pgpn.org.au/events

What is the Practice Nurse Incentive Program?

The Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP) starts on 1 January 2012 and provides incentive payments to practices to support an expanded and enhanced role for nurses working in general practice. General practices across Australia, including those in urban areas as well as Aboriginal Medical Services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services may be eligible for an incentive to offset the costs of employing a practice nurse. One of the eligibility requirements is that your practice is accredited under the current Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Standards for general practice.

The PNIP simplifies financing arrangements by consolidating funding arrangements under the Practice Incentive Program (PIP) Practice Nurse Incentive and six of the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) practice nurse items and redirecting them into a single payment to eligible general practices. Registration for the PNIP is now available.

More information on the PNIP can be found at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/incentives/pnip.jsp. Or

Phone: 1800 222 032 **Website:** www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/pnip

Email: pnip@medicareaustralia.gov.au

Mail: Practice Nurse Incentive Program, GPO Box 2572, ADELAIDE SA 5001

Fax: 1300 587 696

Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP) Workshop

Target Audience: Practice Managers, Nurses & GPs invited to attend

Event Provider: PGPN and AGPN

Date: Tuesday 15 November 2011

Time: 12.00 – 2.30pm

At the completion of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Describe the changes to practice nurse funding commencing in January 2012
- Explore opportunities PNIP will create for your practice and nurses
- Access the resources to assist with implementing the PNIP
- Articulate changes that can be made in your practice to maximize the nursing role.

Venue: Mornington Golf Club Tallis Drive Mornington 3930

RSVP: 9 Nov 2011 directly to PGPN

RCNA social media guidelines a must for nurses:

http://www.rcna.org.au/wcm/Images/RCNA_website/Files%20for%20upload%20and%20link/rcna_social_media_guidelines_for_nurses.pdf

Plan your education now

E-Learning opportunities:

www.e-healthlearning.com.au

www.e-pharmlearning.com.au

www.3ip.rcna.org.au

ANF Education Opportunities:

18th and 25th of November

- Wound Management with Sandy Dean

22nd and 29th of November

- Medication administration – principles and practices revisited with Sue Pleunik

30th November

- Introduction to electrocardiography with Kate Potter

23rd November

- IV Cannulation for registered nurses and midwives with Lynne Murray

For registration for any of these courses contact:

www.anfvic.asn.au/education

Orientation Program for Nurses new to General Practice (online program)

This program is now back on line after overhaul of content and structural changes to the online system. To access go to <http://generalpracticenursing.com.eau/education/orientation-program-for-nurses-new-to-general-practice>

APNA courses coming soon

The following list outlines all new courses coming soon to the APNA Online Learning Store:

- Immunisation Parts 1 – 6
- STI and Blood Borne Virus
- Palliative Approach

If you have any questions in relation to any of the above courses please contact APNA on **03 9669 7400** or via email education@apna.asn.au.

Upcoming Nursing Conferences

Australian Wound Management Association Conference

Harbouring wound care

18-22 March 2012, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, NSW.

Visit: <http://www.awma2012.com/>

Immunisation Update

Prevenar 13 Supplementary Dose

The Prevenar 13 supplementary dose should be reported to the ACIR as **dose 4** to enable accurate reporting against the catch up program. For children who are on a catch up schedule for their primary course of pneumococcal vaccination (i.e. they may have received less than 3 doses), if they are eligible for the supplementary program, the supplementary dose still needs to be recorded as **dose 4** on the ACIR.

Reporting of Prevenar 13 dose 4 can be submitted to the ACIR manually in the 'Other vaccine' box on the Immunisation Encounter (IMMU-2) form.

Providers using the Record Encounter function on the ACIR secure internet site can report dose 4 of Prevenar 13 under the 'Other' tab. Other electronic methods of reporting data to the ACIR (Online Claiming and Internet Data Interchange (IDI)) should now be set up to submit Prevenar 13 dose 4 details to the ACIR.

Questions about how to report data to the ACIR can be directed to the ACIR's general enquiry line on 1800 653 809.

Immunisation Resources

Cold chain

National Vaccine Storage Guidelines – Strive for 5' at www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/provider-store

Boostrix[®] program for parents

The Victorian Government Department of Health has extended funding for another 12 months of Boostrix[®] vaccine for parents of newborn infants. This program commenced on 15 June 2009, in response to the continuing epidemic of pertussis in Victoria and nationwide.

Please order the vaccine using the *Boostrix vaccine for new parents order form* and order the updated poster and fact sheet by accessing the form and online resource ordering at: www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation

Helpful Links for Practice Nurses

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency www.ahpra.gov.au
on **1300 419 495**

Australian Nursing Federation

www.anf.org.au

Australian Practice Nurse Association

www.apna.asn.au or phone freecall 1300 303 184

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au

General Practice Victoria

www.gpv.org.au

Immunisation

www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation

Australian General Practice Network

www.agpn.org.au

Practice nurse information

www.practicenursing.infohttp://

Wound Management

www.awma.com.au/

Royal Children Hospital Clinical Guidelines

www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.titles

Medicare Australia Medicare Benefits

www.health.gov.au

Adverse events following immunisation

www.saefvic.org.au/

Adverse Re

For further information about this correspondence or any other query about nursing or immunisation please contact:

Lynda French

Primary Nursing Project Officer. Email L.french@pgpn.org.au or phone on 9708 8019.