

What do the new Health Identifiers mean for practices?

Curious about Health Identifiers and what your practice needs to know and do to get ready for them?

The ACT Division of General Practice has prepared a factsheet which their eHealth Support Officer has generously shared with us and others. It describes the three types of Health Identifiers, which ones affect your practice and what happens next. It also has great links and contacts for further information.

You can find the Health Identifiers factsheet on our website under Practice Support resources, or there's a link right [here](#).

SGPN recommends... Joining the ACCEPt trial

ACCEPt is a randomised controlled trial to evaluate whether annual chlamydia testing in general practice can be effective at reducing the burden of chlamydia in the population, and, if so, how a national testing program should be introduced.

The Australian Government is funding the trial, which will be led by the University of Melbourne. About 54 towns across Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland will be selected to participate – half will receive a chlamydia testing intervention kit, the other half will continue with usual practice (control group). Participating practices will receive a comprehensive support package, as well as incentive payments, and participating GPs will be eligible to receive 40 category 1 QA&CPD points from RACGP.

For more information about the trial and how to take part, visit www.accept.org.au or call ACCEPt on 03 8344 0792.

Links we're lovin...

NEW! SGPN Business Solutions Did you know we can assist you beyond our usual practice support? [Here's more](#).

[Healthy Kids Checks](#) – all the information you need for the four year old health check, Items 709 and 711

www.yourhealth.com.au – all about the **National Health Reforms**

www.nps.org.au Independent, not-for-profit and evidence based, the NPS enables better decisions about medicines and tests

www.nswrdn.com.au **Need a locum?** NSW RDN can help... find out the [costs](#) and [submit a request](#)

www.gpconnect.com.au Get thee to our annual conference!

Click this link for SGPN's [Closing the Gap](#) resources

Best **Closing the Gap** link of all: SGPN's Indigenous Project Officer Robin Vote by [email](#) or phone our Goulburn office on 4821 0436

The Nurses Hub

[The Nurses Hub](#) is a new resource just launched in the CareSearch website. The Hub has palliative care information written specifically for all nurses, not just those working in palliative care services.

A vast amount of literature, resources and evidence has been referenced including: systematic reviews, key policy documents, patient handouts, project summaries and clinical guidelines. Practice nurses can register to receive the [nurses\[HUB\]news](#), a monthly newsletter to keep them up to date with what's happening in palliative care and what's new on CareSearch and in the Nurses Hub.

The Nurses Hub is free to use and available when needed at www.caresearch.com.au.

Nursing scholarships

Our PN coordinator Sharon King is urging the region's practice nurses to apply for RCNA's new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scholarships. Specialities can include: wound management, women's health, immunisation, diabetes management, chronic disease management and illness, mental health, asthma, cardiovascular care, obesity and food/nutrition, health and clinical assessment, sexual and reproductive health or competency based clinical skills (e.g. suturing, plastering, ear irrigation, medication administration).

Scholarships will be awarded as a contribution toward the cost of accessing short courses, workshops, conferences or seminars.

View criteria and apply [here](#) or visit www.rcna.org.au.

New name for oldest diabetes charity

Australian Diabetes Council is the new names for Diabetes Australia NSW, the country's oldest diabetes charity. A new website and customer care line number have been launched. Visit www.australiandiabetescouncil.com or call 1300 342 248.

Something informative for the waiting room

Savvy practices are placing copies of Medicines Talk around their waiting rooms. Written by consumers for consumers, MedicinesTalk is a free quarterly newsletter that provides reliable, accurate information and useful hints on managing medicines. Published by NPS, the [current edition](#) has articles on medicine interactions, common colds, vitamins and minerals and what information is on a PBS script.

Visit www.nps.org.au and search under the Consumers tab, or click [here](#) to go the Medicines Talk homepage where you can find the current issue as well as all the back articles.

What's on? Education and events for GPs, PNs and practice staff

Book now...only 5 places left! Ear Irrigation for nurses
Tuesday 12 October, Amooran Court, Narooma, 10am-5pm.
Contact Sharon King for further information on 4821 0434.

Evaluation of the lower limb using Doppler ultrasound for GPs and Practice Nurses *Friday 17 September, Moruya 10-1pm*
Contact Sharon King for further information on 4821 0434.

National Stroke Foundation – Guidelines for Best Practice
13 September, Whale Motor Inn Narooma. SGPN is hosting a CPD dinner meeting with a presentation by St Vincents Hospital rehab specialist Dr Josephine Braid. Bookings to Sue Berry, email or phone 4474 5100.

DiVeRT: Domestic Violence Response Training for Practice Nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers
Tuesday 21 & Wednesday 22 September, Batemans Bay
PNs and AHWs gain knowledge, confidence and experience in how to respond and where to refer families experiencing domestic and family violence. For more information, schedule and enrolment forms please click [here](#) or visit www.lifeline.org.au and search divert training.

Aged and Dementia Care Symposium *Friday 22 October, Batemans Bay.* SGPN is co-hosting this full-day education event with GSAHS, Alzheimers Australia and the NSW Government. For further information and registrations contact Alzheimer's Australia NSW Education Services on 02 8875 4653.

SARHNI Update (Sexual and Reproductive Health Nursing Update, formerly known as the Gynaecology Nursing Update)
27 October 2010, 9am-3.30pm, Monte Pio Hunter Valley Motor Inn, Rutherford. Family Planning NSW is hosting its annual one-day sexual health update for nurses and midwives. Full program is available [here](#).

SGPN Business Solutions: can we help?

[SGPN Business Solutions](#) provides a range of practice management activities on a fee-for-service basis. Established in 2009, the company offers an all-of-practice management service, as well as staff brokerage, recruitment and submission writing services. These activities are in addition to the free services provided to the region's general practices by SGPN's Practice Support team.

The company's operations are overseen by a committee that consists of general practitioners, practice managers and senior SGPN staff. Any profits are returned to the community through the provision of preventative health programs.

There's more information about how SGPN Business Solutions can help your practice on our website under the Practice Resources tab, or call Linda Brown on 4474 5100.

GPs to drive Australian Lung Census

General Practitioners are being urged to assess the lung health of 50,000 adults as part of the largest single screening of lung function to be undertaken in Australia.

The Lung Census – a joint initiative of The Australian Lung Foundation, The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Improvement Foundation and MediMark International – will be conducted from 4 -15 October 2010 to support and promote Global Test Your Lungs Day (14 October) and the Year of the Lung.

GPs can find out more about the Lung Census and register to take part in this landmark initiative by visiting www.lungcensus.com.au.

Panvax Junior update from Chief Medical Officer

The Australian Government Chief Medical Officer advises that stability testing by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of the pandemic influenza vaccine for children, Panvax H1N1 2009 Junior, has shown a decline in potency in the 0.25 ml pre-filled syringes.

As a result, the TGA has informed the manufacturer, CSL, that its registered 12 month shelf life can no longer be supported. CSL has amended the shelf life to 6 months and as a result existing stocks of Panvax H1N1 2009 Junior should now be considered expired. The safety of the vaccine is not affected. CSL will be retrieving all stock and will contact immunisation providers to organise this process.

In Australia, the decline in potency is specific to the Panvax H1N1 2009 Junior vaccine which is supplied in 0.25 mL pre-filled syringes. Panvax in multidose vials is not affected, nor are the trivalent seasonal influenza vaccines.

Immunogenicity and dosage regimen implications for children 6 months to <3 years of age who may have received Panvax H1N1 Junior:

ATAGI has advised that revaccination of children who have already received two doses of Panvax H1N1 2009 Junior is not necessary, as the potency of the vaccine administered to date is considered adequate to induce an immune response. If a child aged 6 months to < 3years of age is due to receive a second dose of H1N1 containing vaccine, this can be provided by using the age appropriate dose (0.25ml) obtained from a Panvax multi-dose vial. Alternatively, the 2010 seasonal influenza vaccines (Vaxigrip and Influvac) are also suitable for use.

ATAGI's full advice will be available shortly on www.healthemergency.gov.au and www.immunise.health.gov.au