

New website launched

Our new website went live last Friday afternoon. Visit www.sgpn.com.au and take a look around. The upgraded site offers new features, easier to find information and lots of links to useful resources. The design is much simpler and cleaner and the navigation options more logical and better arranged. Features we love include the Find A...module, which allows you to search for a health practitioner or find a career in our region. The Events calendar will be great too. We're currently working hard to get the data in these areas up to speed and you'll notice more and more information populating these functions over the coming weeks. We'd love your feedback – email info@sgpn.com.au with your suggestions or comments.

CPD CPD CPD CPD CPD CPD CPD

CPD events continue to roll out throughout the network region and a reminder to all Cooma and Far South Coast GPs about two events that are to take place next week.

The first to be held next Wednesday, 11 August at the Royal Hotel in Cooma where Dr Teresa Foce, Psychiatry Clinical Lecturer at ANU will be presenting on **major depression**, an approach to managing partial response or non-response: switching, augmentation and combination strategies.

On Thursday 12 August, Dr Sally Newsome will be presenting at The Wharf Restaurant in Merimbula about the **management of subclinical hypo and hyperthyroidism**.

Both evenings provide GPs with an opportunity to increase knowledge, ask questions and catch up with their colleagues in a convivial environment. RSVPs for both evenings are required by this Friday – so don't miss out! To add your name to the attendees list, simply email or phone Workforce Officer Sue Berry on 4474 5111.

A (very) last minute reminder too about tonight's CPD evening being held in Goulburn in conjunction with Aged Care Plus. Entitled **"Aged Care – EMMS, CAPAC and drug prescribing"** – it should be a fascinating evening with three presentations by Dr James Griely, Dr Tony Whelan and Dr Peter Webster. If you would still like to attend (and have not indicated as such) please contact Sally Renshaw on 4823 4300 or sally.renshaw@ae.salvationarmy.org.

A heads up that the **ANU students** are out and about over the next couple of weeks in Eurobodalla and Cooma for **Rural Week**. Sue will be contacting you again soon about attending a social function to meet with the students and extol the benefits of being a rural GP!

"Review of opioid prescribing in chronic pain" is the current NPS clinical audit. Doctors need to enrol by 14 August 2010. Click [here](#) or visit our website under Practice Resources/NPS. Our NPS facilitator Jo McMahon reminds you this is the last paper based audit for the year.

Fine tuning Indigenous PIP

As more SGPN practices are registering for the Indigenous Health Incentive a few exasperating (but fixable) issues have emerged. Read on...

Some practices have reported difficulty in navigating the Medicare website to find the relevant forms, guidelines and patient information. A shortcut to the index is: [Forms and guidelines - Medicare Australia](#).

PBS Co-payment In some areas pharmacies have not quite caught up with finer details of the PBS Co-payment measure and there have been a few instances where patients with a correctly annotated and initialled script have been challenged. In each case the matter has been quickly resolved when the pharmacy has contacted the practice. However, it is a far from ideal situation as the patient may feel embarrassed or offended. Please let the SGPN Indigenous Health Project Officer Robin Vote know about any difficulties with scripts.

The program remains in the fine tuning phase and any reported issues will lead to clearer communication and instructions to all program participants. Robin can be contacted by email or at our Goulburn office on 4821 0436.

Medicare *rejected* letters Medicare is sending letters to practices when patients are ***rejected*** for the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive measure as they do not meet PIP requirements (ie 15 or older and has a chronic disease).

This means that if a patient is registered for both the PIP and the PBS on the same form, the surgery will receive a letter that says a patient has been rejected for the PIP without a mention of the PBS Co-payment registration status, even though they have more than likely been accepted for the PBS Co-payment scheme.

Medicare and PBS are working together to have this rectified so future letters state the status of both registrations. Unfortunately a large first batch has already gone out.

If a practice is unsure about whether one of their patients has been successfully registered for the PBS they should ring 1800 222 032, the Medicare Australia PIP IHI team who also do the PBS Co-payment registrations. For privacy reasons they can only say yes or no to whether a patient is registered.

Cultural Awareness Training confirmation has been received from RACGP that their free online training will extend to practice staff. Good news. More about that [here](#).

Closing the Gap links

Indigenous PIP Health Incentive [Q&A](#) (comprehensive, indexed)
Indigenous PIP Health Incentive [SGPN factsheet](#) (2 pages)
Indigenous PIP PBS Co-payment [SGPN factsheet](#) (1 page)
Indigenous PIP [Medicare](#) forms and guidelines

Best link of all: SGPN's Indigenous Project Officer Robin Vote by email or phone our Goulburn office on 4821 0436.

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

Family Planning NSW Annual Conference and Open Day

Saturday, 14 August, Family Planning NSW offices at 328-336 Liverpool Road, Ashfield. Get the latest information on reproductive and sexual health in just one day. \$175 and 13 Category 2 points. Click [here](#) for information and registration.

Depression and dementia in later life Wednesday 11 August, Southern Cross Club Woden. Professor Brian Draper for Alzheimers Australia will address the distinction between depression and mild dementia, features that suggest depression and dementia coexist, and management strategies for depression in persons with dementia. More info [here](#).

Save the date! Local Primary Care Collaborative Workshop: Lifestyle medicine and chronic disease prevention Saturday 21 August, Canberra. More info on this page.

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. Nursing and Allied Health CPD hours: 7. Medical: 10 Category 2 points with RACGP and 5 PDP points with ACCRM. Here's a [link](#) to the program and registration form on our website. Alzheimers Australia is managing the registrations.

GP Connect 2010 12-14 November, Hotel Realm Canberra. SGPN's joint conference with ACT Division of General Practice. Partnering with ANU Rural Medical School and RACGP, the program is shaping up to be a cracker. Visit the website for more information www.gpconnect.com.au.

SGPN recommends...

Bega and Eurobodalla GPs recruit children for Go4Fun MEND

We are currently recruiting for the **GO4Fun MEND** program in your region. Go4Fun MEND is a **FREE** 10 week obesity prevention program for **7 to 13yr** old children who are currently **overweight or obese**. This multi component healthy lifestyle program has been researched extensively and has been shown to get children healthy and fit and to sustain the changes after 12 months.

We're ready to start in Bega on 24 August with eight participants and limited places are still available.

In the Eurobodalla we need to boost our numbers. We have four participants registered and keen to start. At least four more children are required.

General Practices can [refer directly](#) to the program (using the referral template on the SGPN website – Programs/Fitness and Lifestyle) or families can self refer to Nina on 0457 687 306.

What we did this week... (a little slice of SGPN life)

We. Launched. Our. Website. 😊

Flu vaccinations for U-5's

Children under 5 years of age can now be vaccinated against influenza using Vaxigrip® or Influvac® seasonal influenza vaccine. That's the advice of the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer, Jim Bishop.

Vaccination of children from 6 months to less than 5 years of age with Fluvax® and Fluvax® Junior is not recommended due to the identified increase risk of febrile convulsions.

Recommendations for the use of seasonal influenza vaccine including Fluvax® in children 5 years and older and in adults has not changed. For more information, visit www.health.gov.au or www.immunise.health.gov.au.

Collabs learning workshop: Take real action and move forward

Fill your election day with lifestyle modification goodness. Come to the local collaborative full day learning workshop on Saturday 21 August in Barton. Why? Because:

- Dr Dale Ford, Dr Garry Egger and Prof Prasuna Reddy will be discussing lifestyle medicine and chronic disease prevention.
- 10 Category 2 points through RACGP and 5 PDP points through ACCRM are on offer. PNs will attract 5 RCNA (3LP) CNE points.
- New South Welshpeople attending can beat the polling day queues and organise a Postal Vote because they are travelling interstate. Bonus! Postal Vote Hotline 1300 659 730.

Dr Dale Ford is the Improvement Foundation's Principal Clinical Advisor. Prior to this, he was Clinical Director of the Australian Primary Care Collaborative, a role he held for approximately two years. He was also Chair of the Diabetes Expert Reference Panel. Dale is a GP and has been a partner in a group practice in Hamilton, Western Victoria, for the last 20 years. He is also Medical Director of Otway Division of General Practice. He helped set up the regional training provider "Green Triangle GP Education and Training", was the inaugural Chair for the organisation and is currently on the Board.

If you'd like to book or if you'd like to discuss the benefits of participating in the local collaborative, please call or [email](#) Virginia in our practice support team.