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2012 gmGPn Events:

MBS Update—7 February 2012 Venue: To Be Advised

Sleep Apnoea—28 February 2012 Venue: TBA

PNIP Training—February 2012 Venue: TBA

Bowel Cancer Screening Training—29 February 2012 Venue: TBA

E-Health Workshop—March 2012 Venue : TBA

Balint Group—Feb-Dec

gmGPn Contact

Chris Edmonds

Chris Edmonds

Sarah Carpenter

Chris Edmonds

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Chris Edmonds

Message From the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues

The Health Reform Agenda initiated by the Gillard Government has created many changes and much uncertainty in Primary Care. I wanted to touch base with you before we break for Xmas and the New Year, and bring you up to date about the changes that this will create in our neck of the woods.

Medicare locals are here. Our region is covered by the Inner East Melbourne Medicare Local (IEMML). Divisions of General Practice that lie within the boundaries of a Medicare Local are no longer funded by the Commonwealth Government. That money is now being diverted to the Medicare Local. As a result, our funding from the Commonwealth Government has ceased.

As you are aware, we, at the Greater Monash GP Network, were outspoken about the need to continue servicing General Practice, and we were, and continue to be, keen to continue to provide services to our member GPs. In order to continue to do that, we had to find extra funding.

I am pleased to report that we have been able to negotiate funding from IEMML to continue to provide these services, at least until 30 June 2012. We will be doing our best to continue our relationship with you, our members, into the future, and we will keep you informed of our progress.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Board, CEO, staff and yours truly, I want to wish you a safe and peaceful festive season and all the very best for the New Year.

Leon Massage
Executive Director

Changes to MBS - 1 January 2012

There will be a new MBS from 1 January 2012. The only changes of significance are the deletion of the practice nurse items #10993-#10999 (immunisation, wound management and Pap tests). The Practice Nurse Incentive Payments (PNIP) scheme will be kicking off from 1 Jan of course. You can view the new MBS at www.health.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Downloads-201201 and the changes are listed on p18.

Review of GP mental health treatment plans

You will recall the introduction of 4 new GP mental health treatment plan items on 1 November 2011, replacing the 2 older item numbers. It has been reported that Medicare is rejecting claims for GP mental health treatment plan review #2712 when it is claimed in relation to mental health treatment plans put in place on or before 31 October 2011. This was an oversight by the Commonwealth. To remedy this, they have introduced a new GP mental health treatment plan review item #2719 which will apply for mental health treatment plans that existed on or before 31 October

New Online Training Supports GPs Dealing with Complex Immunisation Consultations

The latest *gplearning* module is suitable for general practitioners and practice nurses in their key management role in immunisations. This activity should take one hour to complete and has been approved by the RACGP QI&CPD Program for 2 Category 2 points in the 2011–2013 triennium. To enrol, or for more information, please visit www.gplearning.com.au.

For inclusion in the Friday Facts: Contact Irene Stavrou on 9569 5077 or email: admin@gmgn.org.au. Articles must be submitted by 10AM Thursdays. If you are not receiving this via email but would like to, please send an email to Irene at admin@gmgn.org.au

ATAPS — Change of local referral and funding arrangements for the Access to Psychological Services (ATAPS) program

From 1 January 2012, the newly formed Inner East Melbourne Medicare Local (IEMML) will assume responsibility for the funding and administration of the ATAPS program for GPs in the Greater Monash GP Network catchment.

As such, from 1 January any new ATAPS referrals, or referrals for a patient to have a second six ATAPS sessions, will need to go to Inner East Melbourne Medicare Local. ATAPS continues to be targeted at people on low income. The referral process will be familiar.

GPs will choose a provider from IEMML's online Directory and will call IEMML's Clinical Services Intake on 8878 3755 to be issued with a voucher number for 6 ATAPS sessions.

IEMML is working to accept ATAPS providers who have been receiving ATAPS referrals from GPs in the Greater Monash GP Network catchment onto the IEMML provider Directory.

GPs who have any queries about these new arrangements should call Peter Gartside, Mental Health Program Coordinator, Inner East Melbourne Medicare Local, on 8878 3718.

Bowel Cancer Screening Program(BCSP)

The Victorian Department of Health is providing funding to improve the uptake of Bowel screening in general practice using Division support and the use of PEN Clinical Audit Tool and the Primary Care Sidebar.

This program, the Bowel Cancer Screening Program, aims to increase the GP awareness of bowel cancer and to achieve a sustained increase in ordering of FOBT for GP practice patients from age 50 onwards in accordance with NH&MRC and RACGP guidelines.

Your participation in this program will provide your practice with IT consultant support and training and the opportunity set additional prompts on the sidebar.

For further inquiries or if you would like to participate in the program contact Chris Edmonds at GMGPN on 9569 5077.

Is Your Practice E-Health Ready?

As a part of the health and hospitals network reform, the federal government is introducing a Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR) system. Health Identifiers provide the mechanism to enable patients and health providers to be uniquely identified, which is the first step towards delivering an E-Health system.

The GP Network has dedicated staff who will assist with the initial signing up and liaison with Medicare to obtain your individual number. For more information or to express interest in registering for a Healthcare Provider Identifier-Organisation (HPI-O) number contact Sarah Carpenter 9569 5077.

eTP – What is it?

Electronic transfer of prescriptions (eTP) — the secure transfer of prescription information between prescribing and dispensing systems — is an important early step towards an e-health-enabled healthcare system and improving medication management. While the majority of GP practices have access to eTP through their prescribing software, many are not yet using this technology.

There are currently two eTP services available — eRx Script Exchange and MediSecure — which may improve co-ordinated care and streamline work flows for general practices and pharmacies. Both services work with some of the most commonly used prescribing software systems, but many prescribers may be unaware they have access to eTP or how to enable the function within their systems by turning it on or registering.

eTP provides a range of benefits, like reduction of transcription errors and improved communication between prescribers and dispensers, and it is another mechanism to improve patient safety.

In the coming months NPS will help raise awareness of eTP as a tool for medication management, and will work with pharmacies and general practices using eTP to develop practical resources to facilitate uptake.

Further information may be obtained from NPS Facilitator, Bill Horsfall, 9569 5077