

# Generally Speaking

Information for Gold Coast general practices

ISSUE: May 2017

[www.healthygc.com.au](http://www.healthygc.com.au)

## Gold Coast Health strategies continuing to improve wait times

Gold Coast Primary Health Network and Gold Coast Health are continuing to work on strategies to reduce the number of patients waiting for a specialist appointment. Recently, redesigned referral templates incorporating the new Queensland Clinical Prioritisation Criteria were developed for local GPs, to ensure specialists receive complete referrals, which supports timely prioritisation and decision making. GPs with Special Interests have also been appointed to treat patients waiting for specialist appointments.

This month, Gold Coast Health is implementing a new 'internal referral redirect' process for outpatients, to ensure patients are seen by the most appropriate clinician at the right time.

GP Liaison Unit's Dr Carl de Wet said as part of the new process, hospital staff will assess category two and three patients and determine if it is more appropriate for the patient to be referred internally for specialist advice or services or alternatively to redirect patients to see their GP for initial evaluation where it is clinically appropriate.

GPs will be notified if their patient who has been in the in the Gold Coast Health service has been referred for assessment within Gold Coast Health, or if they have been assessed by the relevant specialist team who then recommended that it is more appropriate for the initial clinical review and management to be conducted in the primary care setting.

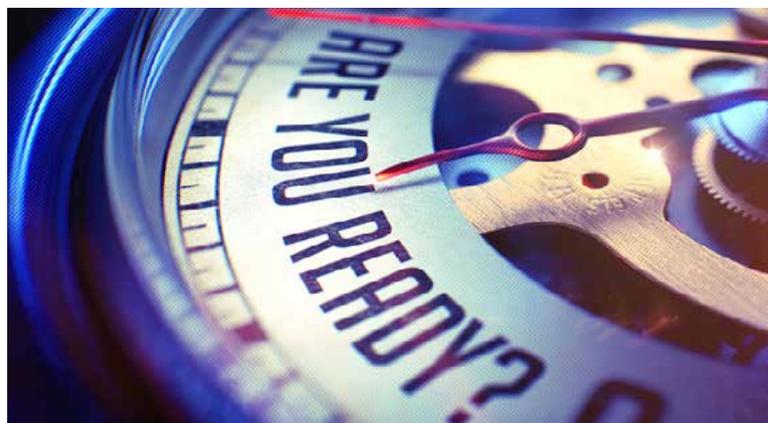
Dr Jeremy Wellwood, the clinical director of Cancer, Access and Support Services (CASS), explained: "The redirect process is about the right patients being seen in the best place for their clinical condition.

"Often times this best place is the patient's local general practice. In some instances patients may also be appropriately redirected to other specialties in the hospital or to allied health professionals.

"With this process, specialist teams will review internal referrals for specialist outpatient services and will have the option to redirect patients to see their GP for initial evaluation where it is clinically appropriate.

"After review with their GP, the patient can be easily referred to the specialist clinics if that is what the GP and their patient identifies as the most appropriate option.

"By linking better with our clinical partners in primary care we hope to improve outpatient access in Gold Coast Health so that we can see the patients that need specialist review within the appropriate timeframes," Dr Wellwood said.



## Managing emergencies and pandemics in general practice

With the recent severe weather events a timely reminder of how easily a disaster can occur, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is reminding practices that it has developed *Managing emergencies and pandemics in general practice: A guide for preparation, response and recovery*, with support from the Department of Health and Ageing.

The guide aims to assist general practices to better prepare for, respond to and recover from the impact of emergencies and pandemics. The guide has been designed to be an educational resource for general practice staff during emergency preparations and response efforts.

The RACGP says during previous emergency responses, GPs and practice teams consistently worked to ensure that individuals requiring urgent medical attention were seen and people in disaster-affected areas could continue to receive ongoing care.

The RACGP says, "GPs and practice teams play a critical role in the immediate and acute phase to the long-term recovery phase, and it is imperative that practices have an up-to-date emergency response plan so that they are prepared, well stocked and ready to respond to any crisis."

"Practices that are prepared for an emergency are more likely to have effective continuity of care arrangements for their patients while ensuring that business operations continue to run as smoothly as possible and are better positioned to respond to the health needs of their communities."

The guide is available at:

[www.racgp.org.au/your-practice/business/tools/disaster/emergencies](http://www.racgp.org.au/your-practice/business/tools/disaster/emergencies)

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Supporting GPs and General Practice

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GOLD COAST

An Australian Government Initiative



**Dr David Rowlands**  
Gold Coast Primary Health Network (GCPHN) Board Chair

This month we feature information for GPs about the RACGP guide to managing emergencies in general practice. With the recent severe weather events, this guide is a timely reminder about the important role GPs play in any disaster or emergency. The recent GCPHN Primary Care Opinion Survey also highlighted that emergency medicine was an area of interest for local GPs.

It is important that practices have their business continuity plans organised to ensure readiness for any event, particularly given the Commonwealth Games are only 12 months away.

During the recent floods, Gold Coast Primary Health Network was able to provide timely and important information to GPs from Gold Coast Health, through the GP Bulletin, which provides important alerts and updates. Almost 70 percent of all local GPs are now subscribed to this bulletin and I encourage all GPs to sign up by visiting:  
[www.healthyc.com.au/GPsignup](http://www.healthyc.com.au/GPsignup)

This month, we are holding an educational event about continuous quality improvement (CQI), which is crucial for practices now and into the future. CQI can not only achieve rapid, short term change, but with structured milestones can facilitate larger systems change, and improve patient care and business systems.

We are also hosting a number of other professional events including an educational workshop for GPs who are training medical students and a wound management learning module for GPs. To view all professional events visit:  
[www.healthyc.com.au/professionalevents](http://www.healthyc.com.au/professionalevents)

## Wound Management Active Learning Module for GPs

GPs are invited to a Wound Management Active Learning Module education day, with an update on wound management within the General Practice setting, including interactive compression therapy and wound product workshops. Wound management was the main area of interest recorded by GPs in the Gold Coast Primary Health Network (GCPHN) Primary Care Opinion Survey.

This event is being organised by GCPHN and will be held on Saturday, May 13 from 9am - 4.15pm at Robina. Guest speakers include Dr Stephen Yelland, Ms Cheryl Frank, Dr Selim Ozluer and Dr Andrew Jones.

40 RACGP QI&CPD Category 1 points are available.

To register: [www.healthyc.com.au/woundmanagementALM](http://www.healthyc.com.au/woundmanagementALM)



**Dr Lisa Beecham**  
General Practice Gold Coast (GPGC) Board Chair

A very successful networking event was held on April 27 at the Wine Barrel restaurant in collaboration with GPGC, Bond University and Gold Coast Primary Health Network (GCPHN).

Professor Chris Del Mar spoke on the absolute need for good antibiotic stewardship. It is estimated that antibiotic resistance problems will lead to 10 million deaths worldwide and cost over 66 trillion dollars by the year 2050.

It is imperative that we as GPs take ownership of reducing unnecessary antibiotic usage. Two key ways this can be enacted are to never issue a repeat script for antibiotics unless clinically indicated, and utilising delayed scripts with an expiry date on a delayed script for antibiotics.

Paul Copeland, Director from William Buck, spoke on business improvements for General Practice in the setting of the Medicare rebate freeze. He discussed thinking about the overall strategy for the practice and consider ways of value adding to the service.

We plan to hold a future session in detail on business approaches to make sure General Practice remains viable and thrives. GPGC held a 'polling table' to canvas ideas for the upcoming two years. We will endeavour to run the activities with the most votes, very soon.

The next GPGC event is June 8 so please save the date.

And a reminder to attend the GCPHN Quality Improvement Collaborative on May 25 (*see details page 5*) which will be a good opportunity to hear about the RACGP Plan, Men ACYW update and initiatives for quality improvement in General Practice.

## Trainer workshop for GPs

### What you can do for the student - what can the student do for you

There is still an opportunity to register for this workshop, from 6.30pm - 9.30pm on May 10. It is being held at Spingwood to make it easier for GPs who live on the northern Gold Coast to attend. This event is for all GPs supervising or interested in supervising medical students as part of the Gold Coast Primary Health Network Clinical Placements Program.

The workshop includes a presentation and small group activities for GP supervisors of medical students, to cover ways and means of enhancing the experience and safety of clinical placements for both medical students and general practitioners.

This event has been organised by Gold Coast Primary Health Network, Bond and Griffith Universities and General Practice Training Queensland. To register visit:  
[www.healthyc.com.au/gptrainerworkshop](http://www.healthyc.com.au/gptrainerworkshop)

## Landmark pain research study

Emergency physiotherapist practitioners are involved in a landmark research study to prescribe pain relieving medications.

Robina Hospital's Deb Lenaghan is a principal investigator in a Queensland study investigating the safety of physiotherapists prescribing to consenting adult participants.

"Physiotherapists do not have prescribing rights in Australia so the trial results will be important for the future of any extension of scope of practice," she said.

Gold Coast Health will advise GPs by letter if their patients participate in the trial.

"We want GPs to advise us if they become aware of or suspect adverse drug events as a result of the prescribed medications," Deb said.

Gold Coast Health's Medicines Advisory Committee and Allied Health Credentialing Committee gave Deb approval to prescribe pain relieving medication for up to three days until the patient is reviewed by a GP.

She hopes to prescribe to about 550 consenting adult patients with musculoskeletal injuries at emergency departments at Gold Coast University Hospital and Robina Hospital during the chief health officer endorsed study ending in December 2018.

"My patients will have single system musculoskeletal injuries including ankle fractures and sprains, fractured and sprained wrists, knee sprains in general any peripheral joint injury."



## GPs with Special Interests showcasing their services in new video

Gold Coast Health's approach to reduce long waiting times for specialist outpatient appointments is being showcased to other hospital and health services, which may look to replicate the success of this strategy. A new video has been filmed to show the GP with Special Interests (GPwSI) model of care.

Five GPwSI have now been employed on a part-time basis until the end of June in specialties with long wait lists, including: ear, nose and throat, paediatrics, gynaecology, gastroenterology and hepatology.

"GPwSI are one of the main reasons why patients in some specialties are now being seen within clinically recommended times," GP Liaison Officer Dr Carl de Wet said.

The video is available for viewing at: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/206490339>

The General Practice Liaison Unit is based at the Gold Coast University Hospital and supported by Gold Coast Health and Gold Coast Primary Health Network. The unit is tasked with improving patient care by facilitating and strengthening healthcare integration between Gold Coast hospitals and primary care providers. To contact: [GCGPLU@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:GCGPLU@health.qld.gov.au)

## There's no place like home

Gold Coast Health will notify GPs when their elderly or frail patient joins the Geriatric Evaluation and Management in the Home (GEMITH) program.

Since the program started in March 2016, 500 patients have been through GEMITH, a community-based short-term hospital substitution service.

After being released from hospital, patients are able to enjoy home comforts while visited daily by an interdisciplinary team of medical, nursing and allied health staff, as well as access to a 24-hour helpline.

Nurse Unit Manager Hilary Peters said communicating with the patient's GP helps the patient transition back into the community after being discharged from GEMITH.

She emphasised that GPs would still receive patient discharge summaries after the patient was discharged from GEMITH.

The average length in GEMITH is 11 days, during which patients receive active case management and discharge planning.

"Most patients are over 65 years with geriatric syndromes including falls and osteoporosis, continence concerns, malnutrition, dehydration, confusion, depression, polypharmacy, psycho-social complexity, pain or skin integrity," Hilary said.

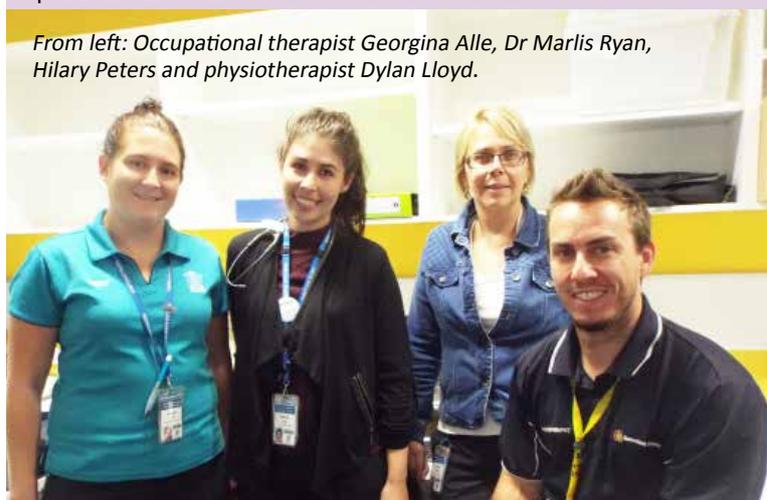
In hospital, they are assessed by one of GEMITH's two geriatricians to see if their needs are best suited through the program, rather than staying in hospital.

Hilary said: "For example, a patient with a broken hip may have previously had a long stay in hospital for rehabilitation until they could care for themselves at home.

"Now in most cases a patient can go home and receive daily visits from our multi-disciplinary team to help them back to baseline health.

"We have doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, a dietitian, pharmacist and social worker out on the road Monday to Friday helping our patients return to baseline health in their own home."

*From left: Occupational therapist Georgina Alle, Dr Marlis Ryan, Hilary Peters and physiotherapist Dylan Lloyd.*



## Advance Health Directive Mental Health

Individuals with a lived experience of mental health concerns can complete an Advance Health Directive for Mental Health introduced as part of the new Queensland Mental Health Act 2016. This care plan, will provide individuals an opportunity to better plan their future treatment and care to support their empowerment and recovery if they at a future time, are not able to make decisions for themselves.

The new Act promotes the use of advance health directives and treating persons in a 'less restrictive way', which means giving them as much say as possible about their treatment.

The Advance Health Directive for Mental Health - Guide and Form can be downloaded from the Mental Health Act website at: [https://www.health.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0036/639864/Advance-Health-Directive-Guide-and-Form.pdf](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0036/639864/Advance-Health-Directive-Guide-and-Form.pdf)

Please note this is quite a different document to an Advance Health Directive that provides clear instructions for families and medical staff, about end-of-life care for patients. This document is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/l2gncd8>

## Improving e-mental health skills for health professionals

eMHprac has free professional development courses, funded by the Australian Government, to improve skills for health professionals working in mental health. This includes modules for practitioners who provide psychological therapies and counselling and a module for service providers who provide services other than therapy (e.g. primary health care nurses). Find out more at: <http://emhprac.moodlesite.pukunui.net>

## RACGP e-mental health guide

The RACGP has a guide for GPs about e-mental health, which refers to the use of the internet and related technologies to deliver mental health information, services and care. e-Mental health interventions are effective for use in the management of mild to moderate depression and anxiety and can be disseminated in the primary care setting. To view the guideline visit: [www.racgp.org.au/your-practice/guidelines/e-mental-health](http://www.racgp.org.au/your-practice/guidelines/e-mental-health)

## Australian and NZ Addiction Conference

The 4th Australian and New Zealand Addiction Conference will be held on the Gold Coast on May 15 – 17.

Various types of addictions will be discussed including drugs, alcohol, pornography, gambling, sex, gaming, online, hoarding, compulsive shopping, steroids, as well as the various forms of treatment and paths to recovery.

There will be presentations from sector specialists, researchers, psychologists and medical practitioners in addition to poster presentations and workshops. For more information visit: [www.healthygc.com.au/Events/2380.aspx](http://www.healthygc.com.au/Events/2380.aspx)

**Mental Health Resources on HealthyGC**  
[www.healthygc.com.au/Resources/Mental-Health.aspx](http://www.healthygc.com.au/Resources/Mental-Health.aspx)

## Bowel cancer screening dates

The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) is expanding and by 2020 all Australians aged between 50 and 74 years will be offered free screening every two years, consistent with the recommendations of the National Health and Medical Research Council. Details below show at what age people will be invited as the program moves towards two-yearly screening. These people will receive a free kit in the mail for a simple test at home, within six months of their birthday.

### Eligible ages:

**2017:** 50, 54, 55, 58, 60, 64, 68, 70, 72, 74

**2018:** 50, 54, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74

**2019:** onwards 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74

GPs play a key role in ensuring that program participants progress through the screening pathway by providing clinically appropriate advice, services, treatment and care.

## Bowel cancer App

Patients may be interested in using a new app, which enables people to monitor their diet and lifestyle on a daily basis as one way to help reduce their bowel cancer risk. Developed by Bowel Cancer Australia, the bowel cancer app provides peer-to-peer support and buddy network, Australia's only national bowel cancer support group for patients and loved ones.

Other features include bowel cancer screening tips and tools, a list of questions to ask throughout the patient journey, a customisable treatment and mood diary, recipes and a meal planner. The app is available at:

[www.bowelcanceraustralia.org/bowel-cancer-app?gclid=CLkzdKtxtMCFdYIKgodcJQE5A](http://www.bowelcanceraustralia.org/bowel-cancer-app?gclid=CLkzdKtxtMCFdYIKgodcJQE5A)

## Digital Health

### Digital health update

As of April 23, there are now 9,854 registered healthcare providers and over 4.7 million consumers with a My Health Record in Australia.

### My Health inquiry line for providers

For assistance with Certificates or Registration, contact the My Health Record Enquiry Line on 1800 723 471 (option 2).

### ePIP compliance action

Practices that have been paid the PIP eHealth Incentive, but have not reached the required target and failed to opt out, will shortly receive correspondence from the Department of Health outlining the next step in the process for the repayment of funds. It is important for practices to read this correspondence carefully and understand the implications for their practice.

### On demand training

Healthcare professionals can now simulate use of the digital health functionality in their software which can be accessed at: [www.digitalhealth.gov.au/using-the-my-health-record-system/digital-health-training-resources/software-demonstrations](http://www.digitalhealth.gov.au/using-the-my-health-record-system/digital-health-training-resources/software-demonstrations)  
Further software demonstrations can be found at: <http://www.digitalhealth.gov.au/using-the-my-health-record-system/digital-health-training-resources>

## Quality event to assist your practice

Gold Coast Primary Health Network invites GPs and general practice staff to this informative free event, *Quality Improvement Collaborative Annual Meeting*, with strategies to develop continuous quality improvement initiatives to help your practice be more sustainable and resilient, promote high quality care and meet future needs.

Organiser Bev Korn said it's important that quality improvement strategies are implemented in practices to improve patient care and business systems. "We are helping practices and GPs to be supported and informed about improvement focus ed care."

**When:** May 25, 2017, 6pm - 9pm

**Where:** Sharks Event Centre in Southport

**RSVP:** May 18, 2017

**Register:** [www.healthygc.com.au/collaborativemeeting](http://www.healthygc.com.au/collaborativemeeting)

## Practice tips

# 1

### Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) online

Use the AIR secure email to correct or modify immunisation details already in the AIR - for example, a correction to a vaccination date of service or dose number. Please quote the patient's Medicare number and the corrections needed in the email. Further details: <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register-health-professionals>

# 2

### Accreditation assistance when registering for Practice Nurse Incentive Payments (PNIP)

To be eligible for the one-off \$5000 accreditation assistance payment, a practice must be registered for accreditation against the RACGP Standards for general practices. Practice branches are not eligible for the payment. The practice must join the PNIP, provide Human Services with proof of registration for accreditation and become accredited within 12 months of joining the PNIP. If you have any further questions, please contact the Incentives area on 1800 222 032. If a practice withdraws or has its payments stopped from the PNIP and later reapplies, the practice will not be entitled to another accreditation assistance payment.

# 3

### Treatment options website - Type 2 diabetes patients

RACGP has been involved in developing a new interactive (user friendly) website for clinicians, launched by the Australian Diabetes Society, to improve the lives of people living with type 2 diabetes. This link is available along with a range of useful resources on the Gold Coast Primary Health Network HealthyGC website at: <http://healthygc.com.au/Resources/Diabetes-Endocrinology.aspx#9329>

# 4

### Australia and New Zealand pulmonary rehabilitation guidelines launched

Lung Foundation Australia, in collaboration with the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) has developed and launched the first-ever pulmonary rehabilitation guidelines for Australia and New Zealand. Visit the COPD page under Clinician Resources. <http://healthygc.com.au/Resources/Respiratory-Resources.aspx#9312>

## Practice Support

## Starting the hypertension conversation

As part of National Heart Week, the Heart Foundation is urging GPs to talk with their patients about the importance of diagnosing and treating high blood pressure.

The Foundation can also assist GPs to increase their professional knowledge, by downloading guidelines for the diagnosis and management of hypertension in adults. A range of hypertension resources and tools are also available.

Practice staff can also subscribe to the Heart Health Network to get the Heart Foundation e-newsletter for new guidelines, publications, practice tools, events and general news for health professionals.

Find out more at: [https://heartfoundation.org.au/campaigns/heart-week?=&utm\\_medium=ctabutton&utm\\_content=banner](https://heartfoundation.org.au/campaigns/heart-week?=&utm_medium=ctabutton&utm_content=banner)

The Gold Coast Primary HealthyGC website also has a wide range of resources and tools about cardiology, which are available at: [http://www.healthygc.com.au/Resources/Cardiology-\(CHD\).aspx](http://www.healthygc.com.au/Resources/Cardiology-(CHD).aspx)



## Changes to accreditation

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, in collaboration with the RACGP, developed the National General Practice Accreditation Scheme which commenced on 1 January 2017. The scheme aims to:

- Provide greater choice for practices seeking accreditation.
- Improve support programs for implementation of accreditation.
- Provide practices with access to national data on accreditation performance and enable benchmarking.

Under the scheme, general practices seeking accreditation must be assessed by an approved accreditation agency.

General practices due for accreditation before 30 June 2017 will maintain existing arrangements with their accreditation agency. From 1 July 2017, practices undergoing accreditation will need to ensure they use one of the approved accreditation agencies.

For further information visit:

[www.healthygc.com.au/Events/Events-News/Changes-to-General-Practice-Accreditation.aspx](http://www.healthygc.com.au/Events/Events-News/Changes-to-General-Practice-Accreditation.aspx)

The RACGP is developing the fifth edition of the RACGP Standards for general practices which will be released in October 2017. Practices will be able to use either the fourth or fifth edition Standards up to October 2018. From November 2018, all practices undergoing accreditation will be assessed against the fifth edition Standards.

Further information on the development of the Standards is available at [www.racgp.org.au/standardsdevelopment](http://www.racgp.org.au/standardsdevelopment)

Gold Coast Primary Health Network Area				
Notifiable diseases	Mar 2017	Mar (5 Yr Mean)	YTD 2017	Total for 2016
<b>Vaccine Preventable</b>				
Measles	3	-	3	-
Pertussis <sup>#</sup>	17	30	44	269
Rubella	-	-	-	-
Influenza (Lab confirmed)	105	52	333	2350
Mumps	<3	-	<3	7
Varicella	79	51	270	976
<b>Bloodborne</b>				
Hepatitis B (Newly Acquired)	<3	<3	<3	4
Hepatitis B (Unspecified)	10	-	35	121
Hepatitis C	33	22	71	288
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>				
Campylobacter	76	41	239	710
Cryptosporidiosis	28	20	76	228
Hepatitis A (All)	-	3	<3	9
Rotavirus	12	8	25	98
Salmonellosis (All)	54	64	206	506
<b>Sexually transmitted</b>				
Chlamydia (All Forms)	331	221	1031	3007
Gonorrhoea (All Forms)	65	32	197	608
Syphilis (Infectious <2yr dur)	4	4	18	47
<b>Arboviral disease</b>				
Ross River Virus	20	60	35	108
Barmah Forest Virus*	4	6	9	12
<b>Other diseases</b>				
Q Fever	<3	<3	<3	10
Legionella	<3	<3	<3	3
Meningococcal (Invasive)	<3	<3	<3	4
Pneumococcal (Invasive)	<3	<3	4	22

\* Caution should be used when making historical comparisons of BFV cases due to the high number of false positive notifications related to a commercial serology kit. # Caution should be used when interpreting Pertussis notifications due to changes in notification criteria in 2013. Data Extracted April 18 2017 Qld Health NCOS database

## Aged Care

### GPs role in short-term restorative care

The Short-Term Restorative Care (STRC) Program provides early intervention to reverse and/or slow 'functional decline' in older people and improve wellbeing through the delivery of a time-limited (up to 56 paid days), intensive, goal-oriented, multidisciplinary and coordinated range of services designed for, and approved by the care recipient. STRC services can be delivered in the home, the community, an aged care home, or a combination thereof. The program is ideal for people who are:

- goal-oriented and have the desire to return to earlier or improved levels of independence; and are
- not receiving a Commonwealth subsidised home care package, residential care or transition care.

GPs can support STRC care delivery through consultation, diagnosis and advice. For example a GP may:

- Refer an existing patient to My Aged Care so they can access information on ageing and aged care, have their needs assessed and be supported to locate and access services available to them.
  - Be engaged to participate in an STRC MDT to ensure that underlying health conditions are diagnosed, treated, and considered during care plan design.
  - Participation in MDTs may be through phone consultation / written collaboration and may not include or require face-to-face involvement.
- To refer a patient to My Aged Care:
- Use the online health professional referral form or visit: [www.myagedcare.gov.au/referral](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au/referral)
  - Call the My Aged Care contact centre on 1800 200 422.

More information: [www.agedcare.health.gov.au/programs/my-aged-care/health-professional-referrals-to-my-aged-care](http://www.agedcare.health.gov.au/programs/my-aged-care/health-professional-referrals-to-my-aged-care)

## Vaccinating adults for pertussis New online module MD Briefcase

A new online module *Vaccinating adults for pertussis* is a new training module to help GPs be better able to:

1. Recall the current epidemiology of pertussis infection in Australia
2. Review the dosing schedule for children and adolescents
3. Review the recommendations for vaccination in adults, including pregnant women and older adults
4. Counsel patients and caregivers regarding possible adverse effects post vaccination.

(2 RACGP QI&CPD Category 2 points)

To access, either log into MD Briefcase or sign up for free. Visit:

[www.mdbriefcase.com.au/default.aspx](http://www.mdbriefcase.com.au/default.aspx)

## GPs to promote the flu jab

GPs can play an active role to help bring down flu rates across the country to protect Australians and those most at risk.

Immunisation expert, Dr Paul Van Buynder, Chairman of the Immunisation Coalition, has invited GPs to play an active role in advocating for the flu shot.

"Only 36 per cent of people 18-64 years old with underlying medical conditions get the annual flu shot to protect themselves from serious and potentially life threatening complications from influenza," Dr Van Buynder said.

Professor Robert Booy, Director of the Immunisation Coalition, said the supply of vaccine to GPs last month will increase protection for elderly patients.

"Research suggests there is an increased likelihood in the at-risk age group over 65 that the immune response decreases after three or four months. If these patients are vaccinated in April-May, the protection should last through the peak flu period of July-August."

The 2017 Influenza Guide for GPs, which provides useful information about influenza and vaccination and tips on how to facilitate influenza vaccination programs in general practice, can be downloaded at: [www.immunisationcoalition.org.au/resources/influenza](http://www.immunisationcoalition.org.au/resources/influenza)

To raise awareness about the benefits of being protected, the Immunisation Coalition is inviting residents to join an awareness campaign by uploading their image on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter using the hash tag **#HitMeWithYourBestShot!**

### Child development guide for health professionals

The Queensland Government's Red Flags Early Identification Guide (for children aged birth to five years) is a health resource for health professionals working with families, to help identify developmental concerns. Find out more: <http://healthygc.com.au/Resources/Early-Childhood-Development.aspx#10348>

### Seeking adults who stutter for a research project

Gold Coast Health and Griffith University Speech Pathology are looking for adults to join a research project "Intensive Smooth Speech for Adults who stutter". If you know a patient that might be interested, they can contact Jenny on 07 5668 5969, Marie on 07 5668 6985 or email [Jennifer.Smith6@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Jennifer.Smith6@health.qld.gov.au). Treatment will be provided by a speech pathologist and speech pathology students at Gold Coast University or Robina hospitals at no cost to the participant.

### Baby movement study

Gold Coast University Hospital is one of 26 hospitals across Australia and New Zealand involved in a research project called My Baby's Movements (MBM) that will run for the next three years. The study is led by the Mater Research Institute-University of Queensland, and aims to see if women find the My Baby's Movements mobile phone app useful in getting to know their baby's movements, and prompts them to seek assistance if they have any concerns about their baby's movements. The study will test whether the MBM program improves health outcomes, including reducing stillbirth rates.

More information: [www.mbmapp.com.au](http://www.mbmapp.com.au)

### Major milestone for low back pain research

An international study into low back surgery at Pindara Private Hospital has now reached 100 participating patients. The study focuses on tracking the outcomes of spinal surgery treatment undertaken by some of Queensland's leading neurosurgeons and benchmarking these outcomes against other international organisations. The study is part of the International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM) global collaboration to measure patient outcomes.

### Quitline survey to improve referral pathways

Quitline is investigating ways to make referral to Quitline easier for health professionals, to assist patients give up smoking. GPs are invited to complete a five minute survey to help with planning enhancements to Quitline referral processes. Complete the survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/health\\_professional\\_referrals\\_to\\_Quitline](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/health_professional_referrals_to_Quitline)

### Dementia Essentials accredited course

Alzheimers Australia is holding a three day accredited course to assist workers supporting people living with dementia, starting on either May 31, or June 1 at Robina. Strategies will assist with good communication, planning and developing appropriate activities and understanding of behaviours in people living with dementia. Visit: May 31 course details - [www.healthygc.com.au/Events/2645.aspx](http://www.healthygc.com.au/Events/2645.aspx) June 1 course details - [www.healthygc.com.au/Events/2638.aspx](http://www.healthygc.com.au/Events/2638.aspx)

### Free parent program for teens

GPs can now refer parents of teenagers aged 10-16 to a new online program from the evidence-based Triple P Positive Parenting Program. Teen Triple P Online gives parents skills and strategies to encourage considerate and appropriate behaviour, develop independence and confidence, and successfully prepare teens for risky situations. The six-module course is available free to all parents and carers in Queensland as part of the Queensland Government's Triple P Initiative. Parents can register for the program at: [www.triplep-parenting.net.au/teens](http://www.triplep-parenting.net.au/teens)

### Australian Doctor Cardio-Metabolic Disease Forum

Facilitated by a practising GP, this seminar in Brisbane on May 27 is presented by leading obesity experts, endocrinologists and cardiologists about evidence-based strategies for preventing and managing cardio-metabolic disease in primary care. Learn about the latest treatment options and proven methods for dealing with this complex general practice challenge. A series of interactive case studies will help refine the optimal care you offer to your patients. Find out more at: [http://education.australiandoctor.com.au/event/cardio-metabolic-disease-brisbane/?utm\\_source=02-Sessions](http://education.australiandoctor.com.au/event/cardio-metabolic-disease-brisbane/?utm_source=02-Sessions)

### GP required for Arundel practice

GP required for a busy doctor-owned practice in Arundel (opposite Harbour Town).

- private billing
- onsite parking
- stunning new building
- full-time RN support and amazing admin staff
- great life/work balance

**Contact:** Trudi Hughes on 07 5661 9188 or email [info@188medical.com](mailto:info@188medical.com)

### VR GP position available in Upper Coomera

A VR GP position is available in Upper Coomera (start July/August 2017).

- brand new state-of-the-art Haan Health Medical Centre in Upper Coomera (based on our practice in Broadbeach)
- DWS area
- mixed billing
- thorough care - 15 minute appointments
- fully accredited
- full nurse support
- excellent remuneration
- onsite dentists, allied health (audiology, dietitian, ex phys, OT, podiatry, physio, paediatric, physio, speech pathology, sleep health), pathology

**Contact:** Raj Haikerwal. Email [raj.haikerwal@gmail.com](mailto:raj.haikerwal@gmail.com) or phone: 0433 588 563

### Female VR GP required at Benowa

Myhealth Benowa requires a female vocationally registered general practitioner to join their busy medical centre. The successful applicant will receive 90 per cent remuneration for the first two months.

**Contact:** Lesley Aberdeen by emailing a CV to [lesley.berdeen@myhealth.net.au](mailto:lesley.berdeen@myhealth.net.au) or phoning 0410 944 856.

### Casual receptionist wanted at 188 Medical

Casual receptionist required for immediate start.

- BP skills are imperative
- beautiful new busy practice
- excellent working environment

**Contact:** Trudi Hughes on 07 5661 9188 or email [info@188medical.com](mailto:info@188medical.com)

### VR GP required at Robina

VR doctor required for Robina Bulk Billing Medical Centre.

- 70 per cent of billings (three month guarantee)
- DWS - strong patient demand
- very experienced/doctor owned - team of experienced staff
- full patient base with patients being turned away
- centrally located, work life balance
- onsite nursing/admin staff, pathology and pharmacy

#### Essential Criteria

Doctor with specialty or general registration AHPRA - FRACGP or equivalent - Unrestricted Provider Number

Contact: [lizz.csanyi@robinamedicalcentre.com.au](mailto:lizz.csanyi@robinamedicalcentre.com.au) or call 0404 283 371

## Asthma management guidelines

World Asthma Day on May 2, is a timely reminder this month, about strategies GPs can employ, to assist patients affected by asthma.

The National Asthma Council of Australia, has an Australian Asthma Handbook that provides best-practice, evidence-based guidance translated into practical advice for primary care health professionals. To download a copy, visit:

[www.astmahandbook.org.au](http://www.astmahandbook.org.au)

## Place a free job notification

To place your listing on the HealthyGC website. Go to [www.healthygc.com.au/professionaljobs](http://www.healthygc.com.au/professionaljobs)

(Listing also included in *Generally Speaking*.)

Alternatively email [communications@gcphn.com.au](mailto:communications@gcphn.com.au)

**Word Count:** 75 words **Layout:** Dot points

# What's On

Gold Coast Primary Health Network does not endorse any events listed below that are provided by external agencies. Details are provided for information to practices and patients. Full details available at [www.healthycg.com.au/events](http://www.healthycg.com.au/events)



## PLEASE NOTE

Events organised/supported by GCPHN for practices are highlighted in the blue boxes. Details are available at:

[www.healthycg.com.au/professionalevents](http://www.healthycg.com.au/professionalevents)

**May 4**  
**GCPHN Professional Event**  
Practice Nurse and GP Forum  
Cancer screening in General Practice  
6.30-8.30pm, Arts Centre, Bundall

Dementia Essentials (day 3 of 3)

APNA National Conference 2017

Intro to Motivational Interviewing for AOD

QC8 Best Practice Models of Supervision

Circle of Security Parenting Program ADHD/ASD

**May 5**  
Whiplash 2017: Meeting the Challenge

Turning Pain into Gain: Mindful Walking Group

'Bump' for young mums

Heart Week Workshop and Social Dinner

**May 6**  
Team Education Day - AAPM Queensland

**May 8**  
Queensland Optimal Cancer Care Pathways

**May 9**  
**GCPHN Professional Event**  
Otitis Media and Aural Health Care Program  
8:45am-4:30pm,  
GCPHN, Level 1, 14 Edgewater Court, Robina  
Assists professionals in Indigenous health to assess the aural health of individuals.

Obstetrics and Gynaecology GP education

**May 9**  
Early Parent Group, Harrison's Little Wings

**May 10**  
**GCPHN Professional Event**  
GP Trainer Workshop  
6.30pm - 9.30pm, Springwood  
For GP supervisors. *What you can do for the student - what the student can do for you.*

**May 10**  
Conference: Aged Care Nurse Managers, Dementia and Community Care Conference  
Facilities Management in Aged Care

Turning Pain into Gain Program - Robina

Galumph Play Community

Active and Healthy Recovery Water Exercise

**May 11**  
Circle of Security, Enriching Parenthood

Turning Pain into Gain - Northern Social Group

**May 13**  
**GCPHN Professional Events**  
Wound Management Active Learning Module  
For GPs - update on wound management  
9am - 4.15pm, GCPHN, Level 1, 14 Edgewater Court, Robina

**May 15**  
Cognitive Behavioural Treatment Eating Disorders

Sunshine Play Community

Australian and NZ Addiction Conference

**May 16**  
Readiness and Action for CQI

Early Parent Group, Harrison's Little Wings

2017 Residential Masterclass in Enhanced Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT-E)

**May 17**  
**GCPHN Professional Events**  
Immunisation Catch-up Workshop  
8.30am - 4pm GCPHN, Level 1, 14 Edgewater Court, Robina  
For GPs and practice nurses

**May 17**  
Galumph Play Community

**May 18**  
AOD Crash Course - One Day Introduction to AOD

**May 19**  
CPCRE Annual Palliative Care Research Conference

**May 22**  
Australian and New Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Conference

Culturally Secure AOD Practice

**May 24**  
Counselling Skills for the Accidental Counsellor

**May 25**  
**GCPHN Professional Event**  
Quality Improvement Collaborative Annual Meeting. For GPs and practice staff  
6pm, Sharks Event Centre, Southport

**May 25**  
Australian Breastfeeding Assoc Support Group

**May 26**  
Aust Diabetes Educators Assoc - Qld Branch Conference

**May 27**  
Cardio-Metabolic Disease

Medical Management of Type 2 Diabetes

**May 31**  
Dementia Essentials: (day 1 of 3)

Family Inclusive Practice in AOD Treatment

**June 1**  
Dementia Essentials: (day 1 of 3)

Youth Mental Health Forum

**June 2**  
Turning Pain into Gain: Mindful Walking Group

**June 4**  
Memory Walk and Jog

**June 6**  
Introduction to AOD Withdrawal for Allied Health

**June 8**  
**GCPHN Professional Event**  
Foot Health Assessment Program  
8.45am - 4.30pm, GCPHN, Level 1, Edgewater Court, Robina. Organised by the Benchmark Group, this program is for health professionals and others working within Indigenous Health.

[www.healthycg.com.au/events](http://www.healthycg.com.au/events)



Australian Government

**phn**  
GOLD COAST

An Australian Government Initiative

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Gold Coast Primary Health Network would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the Gold Coast and surrounding areas, the Yugambah, Yuggera and Bundjalung peoples.

Gold Coast Primary Health Network gratefully acknowledges the financial and other support from the Australian Government Department of Health

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Supporting GPs and General Practice  
**GPGC**  
Healthy General Practice Healthy Gold Coast

**Editorial deadline:**  
May 15, 2017