

# This Won't Hurt a Bit!

Fortnightly Electronic Newsletter for GPs, Practice Nurses and Staff

20 April 2011

Wheatbelt  
GP Network



Building healthy communities through General Practice.

## PIP Cervical Screen Incentive

As part of the 2010-11 Budget, the Australian Government announced that the screening target for the Cervical Screening Incentive Outcomes Payment will increase from 50 per cent to 65 per cent of a practice's eligible female patients.

By increasing the cervical screening target, the Australian Government is encouraging practices to screen a higher proportion of their female patients and improve the rate of early detection of cervical cancer.

The final Cervical Screening Incentive Outcomes Payment to practices screening 50 per cent of their eligible female patients will be made in May 2011. The first quarterly outcomes payments to practices who reach the new screening target of 65 per cent will be made in August 2011.

According to the Medicare website, practices will have received notification with their quarterly PIP statements - which are available online <http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/provider/incentives/pip/news-archive.jsp>.

*Would you be interested in the services of a Credentialed Pap Smear Provider? The Network is keen to make a nurse available to practices specifically to conduct pap smear and STI screening. If this service would be useful to your practice, please email Trisha Ellis at [alliedhealth@wheatbelt.com.au](mailto:alliedhealth@wheatbelt.com.au).*

## Cultural Awareness Training for the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive

The newly released RACGP training in cultural awareness that is endorsed for the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive has been made available. Those that have not yet undertaken their training as a requirement for the PIP are encouraged to utilise this free resource before the 12 month grace period expires. To participate in the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive, at least two staff members (one of whom must be a GP) must demonstrate that they will complete, or have completed, 'appropriate cultural awareness training' within 12 months of signing on to the Incentive.

Practice Managers/Nurses: <http://www.clined.com.au/activities/practice-managers>

GPs: <http://www.gplearning.com.au/>

or RACGP GP non-members and practice staff, the online cultural awareness activity on ClinEd can be located on the front page of ClinEd under 'new learning activities' further down the page. For GPs who are members of the College, they can access gplearning by their usual method of logging in and typing the title into the search field.

For logging in enquiries, please email [contactus@gplearning.com.au](mailto:contactus@gplearning.com.au) or freecall 1800 284 789. This is only available for free to PIP eligible GPs and practice staff.

For further information contact Kat at the Wheatbelt GP Network on (08) 9621 1530 or email [kat@wheatbelt.com.au](mailto:kat@wheatbelt.com.au).

## Identifying your Aboriginal Patients

Accurate identification of Aboriginal patients remains a significant barrier to Closing the Gap. To overcome this issue, the Network is producing posters and signage for practice reception desks, and conducting an advertising campaign. The campaign will encourage patients to notify GPs or practice staff if they are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

Identification is essential to ensuring Indigenous patients receive free health assessments and access to Medicare items for allied health. The PBS discounted or free medication is an incentive you can use to encourage identification by Aboriginal patients.

By correctly identifying your Indigenous patients, you can provide essential preventative health care and access to a range of services.

The Network's Aboriginal Outreach Worker, Michelle Yarran, is available to visit your Indigenous patients and help them understand their health issues and navigate the primary health system in the Wheatbelt. Michelle can be contacted on (08) 9621 1530 or email [outreach@wheatbelt.com.au](mailto:outreach@wheatbelt.com.au).

## National Peri-Natal Depression Initiative



Did you know 8-11% of women get depression during pregnancy and 13% will suffer postnatal depression?

Yet, in the period June to December 2010, the Network only received two referrals for women with Peri-Natal Depression (PND).

This raises the following questions:

- Are GPs screening for PND?
- If yes, where do GPs refer women for counselling association with PND?

As the woman's GP, the Network is asking you to screen for PND during pregnancy check-ups and following the birth. The statistics for women suffering PND is alarming and GPs are in a unique position to identify and address this illness early.

The Wheatbelt GP Network is funded to promote awareness of PND and counsel women suffering the illness. A Psychologist is available to assist you with education on screening and will be visiting mother's groups and playgroups throughout the region to promote awareness. It is hoped that by talking about the illness, the stigmas that come with PND can be reduced.

For more information, call Trisha Ellis on 9621 1530 or [alliedhealth@wheatbelt.com.au](mailto:alliedhealth@wheatbelt.com.au).



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Wheatbelt GP Network is an initiative of the Central Wheatbelt Division of General Practice Inc (ABN 73 639 952 959)

