

This Won't Hurt a Bit!

Fortnightly Electronic Newsletter for GPs, Practice Nurses and Staff

22 June 2011

Wheatbelt
GP Network



Building healthy communities through General Practice.

Medication Management Review Changes

The Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy has announced changes to both Home Medicine Reviews (HMRs) and Residential Medication Management Reviews (RMMRs).

HMR changes effective 1 October 2011

- GPs will be able to refer directly to accredited pharmacists as well as per existing arrangements (to their community pharmacists);
- Rural loading payments will be based on the location of the consumer, rather than the location of the Section 90 pharmacy and paid by the Guild.

RMMR changes effective from 1 October 2011:

- RMMR and QUM services will be separated and have separate payments
- All RMMRs must be collaborative
- QUM services may be conducted by registered pharmacists, who can contract separately with the Aged Care Facility.

The Wheatbelt GP Network employs an accredited HMR Pharmacist and referrals can be sent via MMEEx wheatbeltpharmacist@mmex.gsmhn.com.au. For further information contact Melita via email at pharmacist@wheatbelt.com.au.

Telehealth

From 1 July 2011, Medicare rebates for video consultations will:

- Link specialists and consultant physicians with patients in remote, regional and outer metropolitan areas and in eligible aged care facilities throughout Australia.
- Be available across the full range of medical specialities; and
- Be available for services provided by a health professional located with the patient.

New MBS items will allow a range of existing specialist consultation items to be provided via video conferencing. These items will enable practitioners to provide assistance where clinically appropriate, to the patient during a video consultation with a specialist.

An on-board incentive for eligible practitioners who make the necessary investment to provide at least one telehealth service:

2011-12	2012-13	20-13-14	2014-15
\$6,000	\$4,8000	\$3,900	\$3,300

Telehealth Service Incentives, paid each time an eligible practitioner provides a service for 2011-12

- Specialist services= \$60
- Patient-end services= \$40

For more information on Telehealth Incentives visit MBS online at www.mbsonline.gov.au

IMPORTANT: ALL REFERRALS MUST BE ELECTRONIC (MMEEx) as of 1 August 2011.

The Network will NOT be accepting faxed referrals from this date. If you need assistance with MMEEx please contact the Network on 9621 1530 or MMEEx on 1300 722 926. Electronic referral forms can be found on the website www.wheatbelt.com.au under electronic templates for import into MD3 and Best Practice.

Why do we need to have Secure Electronic Messaging?

It is a requirement of the eHealth PIP and the Network is working to ensure that all Wheatbelt practices have the capacity to implement eHealth changes (such as the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record). There has been a fundamental shift in the way information is accessed and shared in the health system. Secure electronic messaging systems are an important pillar in these advances and the foundations for the e-Health strategy need to be taken on at all levels of the health system.

What are the benefits of secure electronic messaging?

- Speed and accuracy of clinical information
- Minimises duplicate records
- Decrease in miscommunication and associated risks
- Coordination of services and treatments from diagnosis to interventions, leading to increasingly integrated care potentials nationwide.
- Helps in accreditation with confidentiality and information management quality procedures.

Private Dietitian Service

A Dietitian can help provide patients with expert nutrition advice to help achieve lifestyle goals and treat a range of conditions. This services is complimentary to the current services coverage by the Wheatbelt GP Network's publicly funded program through Rural Primary Health Services and the WA Country Health Service Dietetics services. It is for people who do not fit the referral category for chronic diseases or do not have access to other services.

Fees:

- ◆ Initial Consultation (1hour) \$80
- ◆ Follow up consultation (30min) \$50

If the patient has a chronic condition they may be referred on an EPC that is bulk-billed to Medicare. Clients with private health insurance funds HBF, HIF and Medibank are eligible for rebates (dependent on individual plans).

Referral process:

- ◆ GP referral to the Network Dietitian through MMEEx or via fax if the patient is eligible for a EPC plan. OR
- ◆ Alternatively, patients can call the Network direct and make an appointment.

Phone: 08 9621 1530 MMEEx: ebennett@mmex.gsmhn.com.au

Aboriginal Health Conference Scholarships

CONGRATULATIONS to:

- Dr Ullah from Kununoppin
- Dr Nufable-Ruiz from Merredin
- Dr Gray from Cunderdin
- Dr Mellick from Aboriginal Health, Northam

For their excellent applications to attend the 2011 Aboriginal Health Conference held by Rural Health West on 2-3 July 2011 at the pan Pacific in Perth.

These GPs will have the opportunity to broaden their knowledge on Aboriginal health matters, which will translate into a better understanding of how they can better engage the Indigenous population.

For further information on the conference visit

www.ruralhealthwest.com.au.