

27 July 2011

WELL DONE to Wheatbelt General Practice—Aboriginal Health

Wheatbelt General Practice - Aboriginal Health (WGPAH) has been commended by the Canning Division for its outstanding Canning Data Extraction Tool (CDET) data for the month of June relating to Coronary Heart Disease. CDET developer Ian Peters commended the practice for the results and told the Network that this is the first time he has seen data with every patient at the Practice with Coronary Heart Disease having their blood pressure measured and recorded. WGPAH attribute these results to the diligent use of experienced Practice Nurses and a key focus on the management of chronic disease in an effort to Close The Gap for Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander people.

Canning Data extracted from Practices across the Wheatbelt shows an average 36% of patients recorded as having Coronary Heart Disease do not have a blood pressure result recorded. An alarming statistic considering that the monitoring of blood pressure is an essential part of managing Coronary Heart Disease by health professionals. Mr Peters explains that this data may not actually be a reflection of our practices not testing patients, but an indication that the data that the tool is reading has been entered into Medical Director or Best Practice incorrectly or is not clean.

Wheatbelt Practices are encouraged to contact Emma Host, Program Officer at WGPN, to assist their practice in easily cleaning their data and in the process creating an accurate reflection of the health of your patients. emmah@wheatbelt.com.au or 08 9621 1530.

GP Procedural Training Support Program (GPPTSP)

Round Two of the General practitioner Procedural Training Support Program are now open.

The GPPTSP is a workforce support program designed to improve access to obstetric and anaesthetic services for women living in rural and remote communities by supporting rural GPs to attain procedural skills in obstetrics or anaesthetics. Successful GP's are awarded \$40,000 to obtain either the Advanced Diploma of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (DRANZCOG Advanced) or Advanced Rural Skills Training in Anaesthesia. The initiative targets existing GPs in rural and remote areas and, accordingly, limits support to GPs practising in RA 2-5.

The application period for Round Two will run from **Friday, 1 July to Sunday, 31 July 2011**. Applications for the Obstetric Components of the Program can be made via the RANZCOG website <http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/gpdiploma/gpptsps.shtml> and applications for the Anaesthetics component of the program can be made via the ACRRM website <https://www.acrrm.org.au/gpptsps>. Application guidelines with further information about the application process are available to accompany the application forms. Should you have any queries or require further information, please contact:

Obstetrics Component
GPPTSP Coordinator, RANZCOG
Phone: (03) 9417 1699
Email : gpptsps@ranzcog.edu.au

Anaesthetics Component
ACRRM Vocational Training Team Administrator
Phone: (07) 3105 8200
Email : gpptsps@acrrm.org.au

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Multidisciplinary Team Obesity Program

The Wheatbelt GP Network is seeking an EOI from GPs and Practice Nurses to take part in a pilot multidisciplinary obesity program facilitated by a Dietitian and Psychologist.

To date the Network has received a great amount of interest from practices throughout the region.

The program consists of an initial 12 week program with individual appointments. Individuals are then reviewed at 3 months and 6 months following the cessation of the program.

- The program will be run from GP Practices where possible.
- Practices will need to upload relevant referral forms from the practice medical software.
- Practices agreeing to participate may be asked to complete blood tests prior to the program commencing.

For further information and EOI forms, please contact Emily Bennett or Clair Tait on 9621 1530 dietitian@wheatbelt.com.au or claire@wheatbelt.com.au

ONLINE SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS MANAGEMENT COURSE Developed for WA general practitioners and practice nurses

The majority of sexually transmitted infections, particularly chlamydia infections are diagnosed and managed by general practitioners in primary care settings within WA.

In recognition of the need for a skilled workforce within primary care settings, the Communicable Disease Control Directorate funded Edith Cowan University and the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) have developed and piloted a blended learning program on management of sexually transmitted infections.

The outline program is free and includes two simple modules. The online course has been approved for continuing professional development by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of Nursing Australia.

Access the program at [STI e-learning \(external link\)](#)

If you have any queries about the online course, email sirch@ecu.edu.au

The STI e-learning program complements the online training on [hepatitis B and C shared care programs \(external link\)](#)

Message from Clinical Director Wheatbelt Mental Health Service

You will be aware that flupenthixol and zuclopenthixol depot medications for the treatment of psychosis have been removed from the PBS list. This is causing some difficulties for patients using these medications. If you are having concerns or difficulties regarding this situation please phone us on 96210999 and ask to speak to one of the psychiatrists for advice. you do not need to complete a formal referral for this.

PIP Indigenous Health Incentive – CLOSING THE GAP PROGRAM CHANGES TO PATIENT CONSENT REQUIREMENTS as at 1st July 2011

From 1st July practices will no longer be required to retain the patient consent forms. They will however need to send these onto the PIP team along with the patient registration form. The PIP team advised that most practices already do this out of habit, so we do not envisage this to be a major issue for practices.

The PIP Team also have a new fax number: **1300 587 696. Effective immediately.** This new fax machine converts all faxes into an email and will solve all issues previously experienced by practices sending in bulk registration forms.

There has been information forwarded to all practices participating in PIP regarding this via mail out and information on our website.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Sarah Borlini—Indigenous Medicare Liaison Officer P) 08 9214 8253 M) 0421 097 624.

AUTISM IN THE YOUNG: FREE ONLINE TRAINING FOR RURAL GPs

"Managing autism is very challenging...like many chronic diseases we have to manage in general practice," says Dr James Best, the author of a new online module developed by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, especially for rural GPs. Dr Best has both a personal and professional interest in autism spectrum disorders.

The project has been funded by the Department of Health and Ageing as part of the *Helping Children with Autism* Package. It is free to ACRRM members, RRMEO subscribers, and other rural GPs.

The course includes case studies, video interviews with parents, researchers and practitioners, written information, links to other sources of information, and knowledge review using multiple choice questions. It's accredited for Professional Development Program points.

Members and subscribers can enrol using their RRMEO login and password at www.rrmeo.com.au or by calling 1800 223 226. For brochures, please contact Sharon St Pierre on 1800 223 226.

ALL REFERRALS TO THE NETWORK'S ALLIED HEALTH AND COUNSELLING SERVICE MUST BE ELECTRONIC (MMEx) as of 1 August 2011. The Network can assist you in your secure messaging systems please contact the Network on 9621 1530.

PERTH PNCE CONFERENCE

The Wheatbelt GP Network sponsored practice nurses to attend the annual Practice Nurse Continuing Education Conference at Burswood Entertainment Complex on 15-16th July 2011. The conference covered a range of different subjects to provide training on key topics and issues faced by primary care nurses. The high-quality conference program reflected the multi-faceted role of the practice nurse who sees patients with a wide range of clinical conditions – everything from immunisation and wound management to the ongoing prevention and management of chronic disease.