



*The Benchmark Group*  
excellence in education



Edition 21 - March 2011

# enewsletter

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Australia's First Carbon  
Neutral Registered  
Training Organisation

## from the ceo

Welcome to Edition 21 of The Benchmark Group Newsletter.

Although it is hard to believe the end of March is near. We have 3 new courses being delivered over the next few weeks. It is always satisfying to have the ability to offer new programs for the first time, particularly when we have invested so many months and sometimes years in their development.

Our first Graduate Certificate in Advising on Chronic Disease Self Management commenced yesterday and we are delighted to finally see the course delivered. The development for the course started back in 2009 and it has been a long and enjoyable road in the preparation for the final program.

In the next few days we have the launch of our Health Coaching in Primary Care Program being delivered in Victoria and are looking forward to the seeing the feedback from our participants.

At the end of next week, we look forward to the delivery of our Wound Management Program. This program has been 2 years in development and is the result of a three way collaboration between ourselves, La Trobe University and World of Wounds.

We look forward to seeing you at a course over the coming months and have a few more exciting courses in the pipeline for 2011. If you would like any more information about these courses or upcoming courses, feel free to contact me on 1300 855 568.

## continence course review

We are currently putting the finishing touches on our revised Graduate Certificate in Continence Management and Promotion. We had originally hoped to have the new course available for registration in the early part of this year but have had some delays in completing a couple of aspects of the program.

We would like to apologise to everyone interested in undertaking the qualification and waiting for the new program to be released. While the delays are frustrating for us as well - we are 100% committed to ensuring the program is complete prior to accepting our first registration. We anticipate it will be another 16 weeks before we announce the final program and commence around July or August 2011.

**Upcoming Events** - New Wound Management Program - Melbourne March 29 and 30

## wound management program launch

We are very excited to announce the launch of our **Wound Management Program**.

The Wound Management Programs (Complex Issues and Management) offers successful participants a Nationally Accredited Qualification in Wound Management.

The program is a collaboration between La Trobe University, World of Wounds and The Benchmark Group. The course is now available for delivery and we are excited to be delivering the FIRST program in Melbourne at impetus™ in Coburg on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

impetus™ are strong supporters of accredited training for registered and enrolled nurses and have taken on a leadership role in their commitment to workforce development. The division has demonstrated its capacity to engage local health professionals, encouraging and supporting their professional development. We look forward to the opportunity to work with impetus™ to deliver this program.

The Nationally Accredited Wound Management Program is a course designed to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies required for Nurses & relevant allied healthcare workers in the prevention, assessment and management of complex wounds.

Day 1 covers the following topics:

- Understanding skin, infection issues and hand washing
- Normal Wound Healing Physiology
- Factors Influencing Healing
- Known physiological differences between acute and chronic wounds
- Understanding factors that may have an impact on normal healing physiology
- Identifying what the wound tissues require in order to restore the correct healing pathway
- Reviewing Wound Products within Australia
- Skin tears and Skin Abrasions
- Superficial partial thickness burn management
- Small deeper partial thickness and full thickness burns
- Pressure injuries and Ulceration of lower legs
- Common skin conditions
- Wound Assessment and Wound Classification
- Photo Documentation

20 CPD  
Hours

For Day 2, participants need to be prepared to roll up their sleeves as we spend the day undertaking practical application of a comprehensive range of wound management products and dressings. The dressings include:

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Common skin conditions                     | • Charcoal Dressings                  |
| • Impregnated mesh wound contact layers      | • Compression Short Stretch Bandaging |
| • Non-adherent absorbent primary             | • Compression Long Stretch Bandaging  |
| • Non-adherent secondary dressings           | • Zinc Oxide Bandaging                |
| • Polyurethane films, wipes and sheets       | • Multi Layer Compression Bandaging   |
| • Polyurethane foams and cavity products     | • Under bandage padding               |
| • Hydrocolloids wafers, pastes and powders   | • Retention Bandaging                 |
| • Hydrogels both amorphous and sheets        | • Support Stockings                   |
| • Calcium alginates sheets and rope          | • Skin Adhesives                      |
| • Hydrofibre sheets and rope                 | • Barrier Wipes                       |
| • Cadexomer Iodine ointment, sheets & powder | • Applicators                         |
| • Hypertonic saline both dry and moist       | • Protective Memory Foams             |
| • Enzyme/alginate product                    | • Scar Management Products            |
| • Silver based product                       | • Gel Devices                         |

This program presents a unique opportunity for the participant to enter the higher degree programs in wound management at Latrobe University.

The program gives the participant the nationally accredited units of competency:

- HLTEN506A Apply principles of wound management in the clinical environment
- HLTEN406A Undertake basic wound care

For more information - contact us on 1300 855 568 or email at [courses@benchmarkgroup.com.au](mailto:courses@benchmarkgroup.com.au)

The Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship and Support Scheme: Continuing Professional Development (NAHSSS CPD) has opened applications for nurses to apply for scholarships.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

The scheme is NOW OPEN and closes on 8th April 2011. The online applications will not be accessible after 5.00pm AEST on the closing date.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

The application period is now open. You can [click here](#) to access the online application form.

### **WHO CAN APPLY**

Applications will be considered from applicants who are:

- Australian citizens or permanent residents
- A registered or enrolled nurse and/or registered midwife with a current practicing certificate
- Participating in an activity that is eligible to accrue CPD points as prescribed by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
- Delivering clinical services in Australia

Scholarships will be awarded as a contribution toward the cost of accessing:

- Short courses
- Workshops
- Conferences/seminar

### **VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIPS**

The scheme provides financial assistance for Continuing Professional Development in the form of a scholarship worth up to a total of \$1,500 per applicant. These funds are intended to assist scholars in meeting the cost of their chosen CPD activity.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Scholarships will be awarded on the recommendation of a selection committee and will be based on how you address the following criteria:

- How the scholarship will benefit you in furthering your career
- Commitment to clinical practice in your chosen professional field
- How life experiences and/or professional career to date demonstrates your commitment to furthering your nursing career in chosen professional field

Practice nurses are invited to apply for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scholarships within the following specialities:

- Competency based clinical skills (e.g. suturing, plastering, ear irrigation, medication administration)
- Wound management
- Women's health
- Immunisation
- Diabetes Management
- Chronic Disease Management and Illness
- Mental Health
- Asthma
- Cardiovascular Care
- Obesity and food/nutrition
- Health and clinical assessment

Application forms are available from the RCNA.

The web link for the CPD scholarships is <http://www.rcna.org.au/scholarships/nahssscpd> and the closing date is April 8th 2011.

## continuing professional development standards

Effective from the 1st July 2010 **ALL** nurses and midwives in Australia must meet the industry continuing professional development (CPD) standards.

This standard sets out the minimum requirements for Continuous Professional Development. CPD must be directly relevant to the nurse or midwife's context of practice.

This standard applies to registered and enrolled nurses, registered nurses endorsed as nurse practitioners, registered midwives and registered midwives endorsed as midwife practitioners.

It does not apply to students or nurses and midwives who have non-practising registration.

### Requirements

1. Nurses on the nurses' register will participate in at least 20 hours of continuing nursing professional development per year.
2. Midwives on the midwives' register will participate in at least 20 hours of continuing midwifery professional development per year.
3. Registered nurses and midwives who hold scheduled medicines endorsements or endorsements as nurse or midwife practitioners under the National Law must complete at least 10 hours per year in education related to their endorsement.
4. One hour of active learning will equal one hour of CPD. It is the nurse or midwife's responsibility to calculate how many hours of active learning have taken place. If CPD activities are relevant to both nursing and midwifery professions, those activities may be counted in each portfolio of professional development.
5. The CPD must be relevant to the nurse or midwife's context of practice.
6. Nurses and midwives must keep written documentation of CPD that demonstrates evidence of completion of a minimum of 20 hours of CPD per year.
7. Documentation of self-directed CPD must include dates, a brief description of the outcomes, and the number of hours spent in each activity. All evidence should be verified. It must demonstrate that the nurse or midwife has:
  - a) Identified and prioritised their learning needs, based on an evaluation of their practice against the relevant competency or professional practice standards
  - b) Developed a learning plan based on identified learning needs
  - c) Participated in effective learning activities relevant to their learning needs
  - d) Reflected on the value of the learning activities or the effect that participation will have on their practice.
8. Participation in mandatory skills acquisition may be counted as CPD.
9. The Board's role includes monitoring the competence of nurses and midwives. The Board will therefore conduct an annual audit of a number of nurses and midwives registered in Australia.

The Benchmarque Group are a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and an Authorised Provider of Endorsed Courses on behalf of the Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA).

Our courses require successful participants to engage in a range of active learning including professional reading, self directed learning, online and distance based learning, supervised practice, peer supervision and classroom based, face to face hours of learning.

When allocating CPD Hours, The Benchmarque Group have incorporated an average of the above types of active learning to provide an accurate assessment of CPD Hours.

We have now updated all of our course materials, course schedules brochures and printed materials to reflect the new CPD Hours. If you would like more information, we have a CPD Hours Flyer detailing our complete list of courses, Frequently Asked Questions and Course Hours available. Simply email us at [courses@benchmarquegroup.com.au](mailto:courses@benchmarquegroup.com.au) and use the subject line CPD and we will forward you a copy.

## upcoming course schedule

### Melbourne (Victoria)

22nd & 23rd March 2011  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Graduate Certificate in Advising on CDSM

25 CPD Hours  
Day 3 and 4 on June 22nd and 23rd 2011



### Mawson Lakes (South Australia)

with support from Adelaide Divisions of General Practice

21st March 2011  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Ear Irrigation

10 CPD Hours



21st March 2011  
6.00pm to 9.00pm

#### IV Cannulation & Line Management

6 CPD Hours



### Dingley (Victoria)

with support from the Southern Metropolitan General Practice Alliance

23rd & 30th March 2011  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Coaching in Primary Care

20 CPD Hours



### Newcastle (New South Wales)

with support from GP Access

25th March 2011  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Ear Irrigation

10 CPD Hours

*2 Places Remaining*



26th March 2011  
9.30am to 12.30pm

#### IV Cannulation & Line Management

6 CPD Hours

*Course Full*



### Sunshine Coast (Queensland)

with support from Sunshine Coast Division of GP

28th March 2011  
9.00am to 3.00pm

#### Course in Ear Irrigation

10 CPD Hours



28th March 2011  
3.00pm to 6.00pm

#### IV Cannulation & Line Management

6 CPD Hours



28th March 2011  
6.00pm to 9.00pm

#### IV Cannulation & Line Management

6 CPD Hours

*Course Full*



### Coburg (Victoria)

with support from impetus

29th & 30th March 2011  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Wound Management (Complex Issues & Management)

20 CPD Hours



### Brisbane (Queensland)

with support from the Brisbane Divisions of General Practice

4th April 2011  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Ear Irrigation

10 CPD Hours



4th April 2011  
6.00pm to 9.00pm

#### IV Cannulation & Line Management

6 CPD Hours

*Course Full*



5th April 2011  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Clinical Casting

10 CPD Hours



5th April 2011  
6.00pm to 9.00pm

#### IV Cannulation & Line Management

6 CPD Hours

*Limited Places*



6th & 7th April 2011  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Wound Closure & Suturing

20 CPD Hours

*1 Place Remaining*



### Port Macquarie (New South Wales)

with support from Hastings Macleay General Practice Network

13th April 2011  
10.00am to 5.00pm

#### Course in Ear Irrigation

10 CPD Hours



13th April 2011  
6.00pm to 9.00pm

#### IV Cannulation & Line Management

6 CPD Hours



## upcoming course schedule

### Sydney (New South Wales)

**19th & 20th April 2011**  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Graduate Certificate in Advising on CDSM

25 CPD Hours  
Day 3 and 4 on July 20th and 21st 2011



### Hobart (Tasmania)

with support from General Practice South

**2nd May 2011**  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Ear Irrigation

10 CPD Hours



**2nd May 2011**  
6.00pm to 9.00pm

#### IV Cannulation & Line Management

6 CPD Hours



**3rd May 2011**  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Clinical Casting

10 CPD Hours



**4th & 5th May 2011**  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Wound Closure & Suturing

20 CPD Hours



### Byaswater (Victoria)

with support from Tabulam and Templer Homes for the Aged

**4th May 2011**  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Ear Irrigation

10 CPD Hours



### Hoppers Crossing (Victoria)

with support from Westgate General Practice Network

**9th May 2011**  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Clinical Casting

10 CPD Hours



**10th & 11th May 2011**  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Wound Closure & Suturing

20 CPD Hours



### Footscray (Victoria)

with support from Pivot West

**10th May 2011**  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Ear Irrigation

10 CPD Hours



### Perth (Western Australia)

with support from West Australian Nursing Agency

**16th May 2011**  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Ear Irrigation

10 CPD Hours



**16th May 2011**  
6.00pm to 9.00pm

#### IV Cannulation & Line Management

6 CPD Hours



**17th May 2011**  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Clinical Casting

10 CPD Hours



**18th & 19th May 2011**  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Wound Closure & Suturing

20 CPD Hours



### Bundaberg (Queensland)

#### New Dates

with support from GP Links Wide Bay

**16th May 2011**  
1.00pm to 5.00pm

#### IV Cannulation & Line Management

6 CPD Hours



**16th May 2011**  
6.30pm to 9.00pm

#### Conflict Resolution

3 CPD Hours



**17th May 2011**  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Ear Irrigation

10 CPD Hours



**18th May 2011**  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Clinical Casting

10 CPD Hours
















**19th & 20th May 2011**  
9.00am to 4.30pm

#### Course in Wound Closure & Suturing





20 CPD Hours




## upcoming course schedule




<b>Nowra (New South Wales)</b>		with support from Shoalhaven Division of General Practice
<b>23rd May 2011</b> 6.00pm to 9.00pm	<b>IV Cannulation &amp; Line Management</b> 6 CPD Hours	
<b>24th May 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Course in Ear Irrigation</b> 10 CPD Hours	<i>2 Places Remaining</i> 
<b>Brisbane (Queensland)</b>		
<b>24th &amp; 25th May 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Graduate Certificate in Advising on CDSM</b> 25 CPD Hours Day 3 and 4 on 24th and 25th August 2011	
<b>Narooma (New South Wales)</b>		with support from the Southern GP Network
<b>25th May 2011</b> 9.00am to 12.30pm	<b>IV Cannulation &amp; Line Management</b> 6 CPD Hours	
<b>25th May 2011</b> 1.00pm to 3.30pm	<b>Perform ECG</b> 4 CPD Hours	
<b>Broken Hill (New South Wales)</b>		with support from the Riverina Division of GP
<b>28th May 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Course in Ear Irrigation</b> 10 CPD Hours	
<b>Mittagong (New South Wales)</b>		with support from the Southern Highlands Division of GP
<b>4th June 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Course in Ear Irrigation</b> 10 CPD Hours	
<b>Tamworth (New South Wales)</b>		with support from West Slopes(NSW), Barwon & New England Divisions of General Practice
<b>18th June 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Course in Ear Irrigation</b> 10 CPD Hours	
<b>Millicent (South Australia)</b>		with support from the Limestone Coast Division of GP
<b>18th June 2011</b> 10.30am to 4.00pm	<b>Course in Ear Irrigation</b> 10 CPD Hours	
<b>18th June 2011</b> 4.00pm to 7.00pm	<b>IV Cannulation &amp; Line Management</b> 6 CPD Hours	
<b>Parramatta (New South Wales)</b>		with support from WentWest
<b>20th June 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Course in Ear Irrigation</b> 10 CPD Hours	
<b>20th June 2011</b> 6.00pm to 9.00pm	<b>IV Cannulation &amp; Line Management</b> 6 CPD Hours	
<b>21st &amp; 22nd June 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Course in Wound Closure &amp; Suturing</b> 20 CPD Hours	
<b>23rd &amp; 24th June 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Wound Management (Complex Issues &amp; Management)</b> 20 CPD Hours	





## upcoming course schedule

<b>Brisbane (Queensland)</b>		with support from the Brisbane Divisions of GP
<b>18th July 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Course in Ear Irrigation</b> 10 CPD Hours	
<b>18th July 2011</b> 6.00pm to 9.00pm	<b>IV Cannulation &amp; Line Management</b> 6 CPD Hours	
<b>19th &amp; 20th July 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Course in Wound Closure &amp; Suturing</b> 20 CPD Hours	
<b>21st &amp; 22nd July 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Wound Management (Complex Issues &amp; Management)</b> 20 CPD Hours	

<b>Port Fairy (Victoria)</b>		with support from Otway Division of GP
<b>17th August 2011</b> 10.00am to 4.00pm	<b>Course in Ear Irrigation</b> 10 CPD Hours	
<b>17th August 2011</b> 4.30pm to 7.30pm	<b>IV Cannulation &amp; Line Management</b> 6 CPD Hours	

<b>Townsville (Queensland)</b>		with support from Townsville General Practice Network
<b>18th August 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Course in Ear Irrigation</b> 10 CPD Hours	

<b>Adelaide (South Australia)</b>		with support from GP partners Adelaide
<b>26th September 2011</b> 6.00pm to 9.00pm	<b>IV Cannulation &amp; Line Management</b> 6 CPD Hours	
<b>26th &amp; 27th September 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Course in Wound Closure &amp; Suturing</b> 20 CPD Hours	
<b>28th September 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Course in Ear Irrigation</b> 10 CPD Hours	

<b>Coburg (Victoria)</b>		with support from impetus
<b>14th November 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Course in Ear Irrigation</b> 10 CPD Hours	
<b>14th November 2011</b> 6.00pm to 9.00pm	<b>IV Cannulation &amp; Line Management</b> 6 CPD Hours	
<b>15th November 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Course in Clinical Casting</b> 10 CPD Hours	
<b>21st &amp; 22nd November 2011</b> 9.00am to 4.30pm	<b>Course in Wound Closure &amp; Suturing</b> 20 CPD Hours	

### Comments

If you are interested making a contribution or advertising in our newsletter, please contact us on 1300 855 568.

### Next Edition

Hydration Management Update

### The Benchmark Group

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