

Computers

Keeping it simple

New software helps keep clinical records accurate and up-to-date.

A NEW software program, written by Melbourne GP Dr Anton Knieriemen, has a pop-up at the bottom of the clinical software screen to alert GPs to preventive care items that need to be addressed.

The program, called the Doctor's Control Panel, has colour-coded 'tablets' that alert you if nothing is recorded (red), it needs updating (orange) or is up-to-date (green) for the clinical, medication, measurement and required tests of preventive care in each patient file.

These items are also linked to the relevant section of the RACGP Red Book.

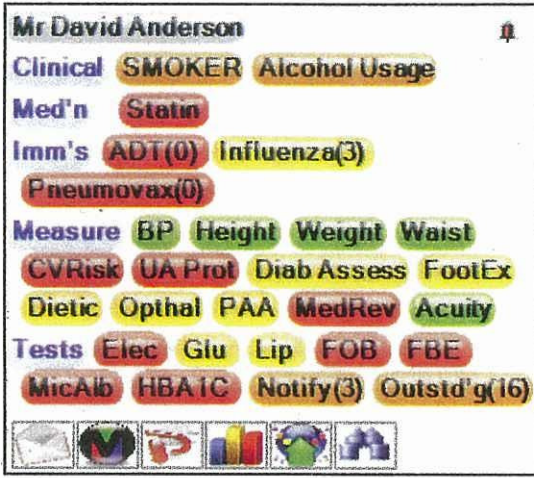
There is a version of the program for Medical Director that links to Pracsoft so item number use is monitored.

Dr Knieriemen says if GPs

like the program they can buy it by making a donation to UNICEF or a charity of choice.

Dr Knieriemen is passionate about preventive care and change principles. He began writing the control panel software in April 2008 because of the limitations of preventive care prompts in the clinical software used by GPs. The presentation of the prompts reflects in the way he practises medicine. So far, more than 500 GPs have taken on the program.

Dr Knieriemen says most GPs want an uncomplicated software program. The design of the Doctor's Control Panel is guided by this notion. The interface simply requires a left click on a 'tablet' to see what needs to be done and why. The



Mr David Anderson

Clinical SMOKER Alcohol Usage

Med'n Statin

Imm's ADT(0) Influenza(3)

Pneumovax(0)

Measure BP Height Weight Waist

CVRisk UA Prot Diab Assess FootEx

Dietic Ophthal PAA MedRev Acuity

Tests Elec Glu Lip FOB FBE

MicAlb HBA1C Notify(3) Outstd'g(16)

CVRisk [Requires updating].
No previous CVRisk recorded in clinical software.
Based on Criteria: Age>18&Age<70, Hypertension
→ Measurement of CVRisk is recommended every Six Months
MDW Keyboard Shortcut: Ctrl+Alt+C

Left Click – status of the measurement with criteria and recommendations

colour coding allows the GP to instantly see if there are gaps in the clinical recording and immediately do something about it.

A right click on the relevant clinical guidelines, including the Red Book and the *Immunisation Handbook*, provides

access via the Internet and take a few seconds to appear on the screen.

Improvements in the clinical record can be made quickly in three areas:

- Prompting to record measurements electronically and accurately.



NOEL STEWART

is the information management program officer for the North East Valley Division of General Practice, Melbourne.

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Google map of the route between the patient's home and the specialist's surgery.

Dr Knieriemen is continually updating and improving the program, particularly in response to suggestions from GP users. Program updates (which are available almost daily) are downloaded automatically to the user via the Internet.

The program works with Medical Director 3 (either stand-alone or with Pracsoft) and Best Practice and there are plans to provide a ZedMed version in the future. Where he finds the time for this I do not know.

Since meeting with Dr Knieriemen I have demonstrated the Doctor's Control Panel to the North East Valley Division of General Practice board, an immunisation CPD seminar and a practice managers' meeting, with interest from all groups, especially GPs.

Further information about the program is available at www.pracsoftutilities.com. ●

- Improved compliance with clinical guidelines.
- Improved billing and workflow.

Another feature allows you to choose a specialist (from the clinical software address book) and by clicking on 'Map' you can print a