



North East Valley DGP eNews

No 0944: December 17, 2009

eNews is a weekly electronic newsletter sent to all GP practices (with email addresses) within the NEV catchment. The aim is to provide up to date information relevant to GPs and to disseminate the latest activities and resources from the division. All feedback and enquiries welcome and should be addressed

to [Patty Marshall](#). You can also visit our website at: <http://www.nevdgp.org.au/>. To subscribe to eNews click on [subscribe](#). To be removed from the **eNews** distribution list click on [Unsubscribe](#)



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A Word from the Editor

[Merry Christmas from the division](#)

On behalf of the CEO, Mr Ken Mansbridge and all the staff of the division we wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. **eNews** will be in recess until January 28, 2010. We have added 9 favourite film clips to the [Homepage](#) of the division website. Can you find them all - and yes the same one is there twice.

[Christmas Closing Dates - Correction](#)

The Division office will be closing for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 18th December and will reopen on Monday 11th January 2010.

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Continuing Professional Development

[Foundation House](#)

The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (VFST), or 'Foundation House' as it is also known, provides a range of services to people from refugee backgrounds whom have survived torture or war

related trauma. Foundation House provides direct services to clients in the form of counselling, advocacy, family support, group work, psycho-education, information sessions and complementary therapies.

There is a number of training courses and seminars available next year for anyone interested in, or involved with refugees. Click [here](#).

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Home Medicines Review

Medication inexperience linked to poor adherence

Patients who are medication naïve have a higher risk of discontinuation during the first 30 days of therapy than medication experienced patients regardless of the drug class prescribed, a new study has found. The study, published in Clinical Therapeutics, 2009; 31:2626-2652 analysed data from 2.17 million patients who received prescriptions from 3,821 pharmacies in the US. It found that during the first 30 days of therapy, rates of discontinuation for medication naïve patients were 17.4 per cent to 42.6 per cent higher than for medication-experienced patients. Paper available on the [website](#)

Starting a new medication is a great time to initiate a HMR (Item 903) - even at Christmas time and holidays our pharmacists are available to assist with management of your patients. Check with Item 900 – HMR. Contact Jenny Gowan on [0417 506 944](tel:0417506944) or [03 8480 4600](tel:0384804600) if you need any help with actioning your HMRs

Opioid Conversion Ratios - Guide to Practice

This Guide to Practice was compiled by the Eastern Metropolitan Region Palliative Care Consortium (Victoria) clinical working party and was amended on Dec 1 2009. Electronic copies of the guide are available at their [website](#) or from the Centre of Palliative Care Education and Research (CPCER) [resources](#). These guidelines are due for review in 2010 and the above websites will have updated versions. The Consortium encourages health professionals to use the electronic links to the guides rather than using hard copies (which may be out of date). Please note that Syringe Driver Medication Compatibilities Practice Guidelines (October 2008) are also available at the above websites. These may be useful also to compare with eTG (New edition of Pall care eTG coming out next year)

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Immunisation

Extension of Free Boostrix vaccine for parents

Free Boostrix vaccine is available to the end of June 2010 for parents with a baby born since 15 June 2009 in Victoria.

Please let your new parents know they can have the free Boostrix vaccine by requesting it from their GP, maternity hospital and some local councils. For information and order form see [here](#).

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Information Management

Medical Director Tip – Printing a patient’s measurements (BP, Ht/Wt, BMI etc)

When you click on the BP or Ht/Wt buttons the **Measurements toolbox** is opened and you can record the measurements. There are also two buttons to display the cumulative measurements – **Data** and **Graph**. When you view the measurements in **Data** format there is no **Print** button. By clicking on the **Graph** button, the measurements graph and a **Print** button appear. By clicking on **Print** a patient record is created that displays:

- Name of record (e.g. Blood Pressure Sitting record), treating doctor and date
- Patient information – name, age, height and weight, gender, smoker and asthma status
- The data measurements – date, time, measurement
- The graph of the measurements

This can be then handed to the patient.

This weeks IM problem - Changing uppercase to lower case

Question: Because my typing skills are not great and because of that the damned Caps Lock key I often accidently type my letters in LetterWriter IN ALL CAPITALS!! Is there a way of changing the case and obviate the need for retyping.

Answer: No. LetterWriter is little more than a text editor. If you did it in Word the answer would be YES as you simply highlight the offending text and press Shift + <F3> and this toggles between UPPERCASE, lowercase and Sentence case.

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Items of Interest

Heat-related illness

Heat-related illness can range from mild conditions such as a rash or cramps to very serious conditions such as heat stroke, which can kill. Heat may worsen the condition of someone who already has a medical condition such as heart disease. Prevention is the best way to manage heat-related illness. For fact sheets that maybe printed on how to prevent heat related illness (which are also available in some community languages) please access the Department of Health [website](#).

Austin Health Christmas/New Year Closures 2009/10

Please note that during the forthcoming Christmas/New Year period there will be a reduction in some Austin Health services as follows:

Outpatients - will be closed from lunch time Wednesday 23/12/09 and re-opening on Monday 11/01/10. If patients need urgent medical care please refer them to the ED as normal.

Emergency Department - will be operating as normal for emergency cases during the Christmas/New Year period. If you would like to speak with an ED physician for management advice about a patient Ph: **9496 3368** and ask for the ED Physician In-charge.

Indigenous Health Incentive

The new Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Indigenous Health Incentive will commence in May 2010. This incentive will support general practices and Indigenous health services to provide better health care to Indigenous Australians, including best practice management of chronic disease. The Indigenous Health Incentive is a key part of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap: Tackling Indigenous Chronic Disease.

To join this new incentive, practices will need to be participating in the PIP and meet specific sign-on requirements. The first payments through the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive will be made to eligible practices in May 2010.

Medicare Australia will write to all PIP practices in December 2009 with information about the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive. Medicare Australia will write to PIP practices again early in 2010, inviting them to apply for the PIP Indigenous Health Incentive and providing them with the necessary documents.

Changes to Medicare Primary Care Items

The Federal Government announced changes to the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) in a first step to simplify the schedule, remove red tape and encourage preventative care. The changes will be introduced in May 2010. A factsheet outlining the changes to Medicare attendance items for vocationally-recognised GPs can be found at www.health.gov.au/mbsprimarycareitems. To read more see the [media release](#)

GP Network News

This [week's edition](#) includes: MBS Simplification – changes to apply from 1 May 2010, Time running out for free HPV vaccine.

BECC waiting times

Waiting times for new referrals to Bundoora Extended Care Centre Inpatient Admissions are currently approximately Gem >10 days and Rehab 3-5 days as of Wednesday 16th Dec. Any queries regarding our waiting times please contact Access BECC on **9495 3109**

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Men's Health

'Go for your life' forum: men's health and physical activity

This state-wide physical activity promotion forum, delivered through the 'Go for your life' Physical Activity Information Centre will cover the development of the National Men's Health Policy and wide variety of tools and strategies to engage men with health promoting programs.

Tuesday 16 February 9.30am to 3pm at William Angliss Institute Melbourne.

Full agenda and registration details will be available soon. To register your interest, contact Sarah-Jane Blunt (03) 8320 0105 or email sjblunt@kinectaustralia.org.au.

Agenda and registration form available on [website](#)

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Mental Health

Mum's Well Being Group

For pregnant women and mothers at risk of/or diagnosed with ante/postnatal depression. This has finished for the year, but it will start up again on 3/2/2010, 1pm– 3pm at Banyule Community Health, 21 Alamein Rd, West Heidelberg. For referrals please ask the clients to contact Rachel Avery on **9450 2613** or leave a message on **9450 2048**.

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News for Practice Staff

Follow-up from workshop on 3rd December 2009

For your information some of the resources from the IR awards evening held on the 3/12/09 are available on the [NEVDGP website](#) under the Practice Managers section. More resources will be uploaded next week when available.

Just to remind practices that if you don't have an agreement already in place, you are bound by the old awards until 31/12/09 and then the new awards from 1/1/2010. However rates of pay do not have to change until 1/7/2010

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Positions vacant/wanted

Please note: only new ads, paid ads or resubmitted ads will be posted here. All other ads can be found on the [website](#)

Positions vacant

Doctors

Northcote – F/t P/T VR GP or Subsequent Trainee GP position. Fully accredited, computerised, long established doctor owned practice in a new purpose built facility with a fabulous work environment. Ancillary Health, Pharmacy and Pathology services on site. Inquiries Diane Cronin (Practice Manager) 9481 1214. Visit our website www.doctorsofnorthcote.com

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Humour

For those of you with time to waste click [here](#).

For a selection of Christmas songs see the [website](#)

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And remember...

...Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses