



GENERAL PRACTICE

tasmania MONTHLY REPORT TO MEMBERS september 2008

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[Listed in alphabetical order...]

ADVOCACY

A significant piece of work this month related to the preparation of statewide network feedback in relation to the draft Primary Health Care Position Statement issued by AGPN. The Network Policy Group was used as a forum to discuss the feedback received from member Boards and this was subsequently consolidated into a single submission provided to AGPN on 22 September.

It was a relatively quiet month in relation to other advocacy activities given the absence of the CEO on annual leave for much of September.

Contact: Sarah Male

AGED CARE

The program plan for the Aged Care Access Initiative (ACAI) has been approved by DoHA. GPT have produced a flyer for the Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) and entitlement to invoice vouchers (each to the value of \$50.00) which will allow the RACFs to engage allied health professionals (AHP) for services to the value of the vouchers.

AHPs will forward vouchers to GPT along with an invoice for payment. This process gives GPT control over funding, avoiding the possibility of runover of budget. Vouchers have been distributed to RACFs dependent on the number of low care beds in each facility. The type of services available to RACFs in each region have been determined based on needs assessments conducted by Divisions. The flyer and voucher, along with a covering letter, have been forwarded to RACFs advising them of the procedures and GPT has met with Aged Care Services Tasmania (ACST) to ensure lines of communication about this initiative are maintained. The meeting with ACST provided positive feedback on the way that GPT will be administering the ACAI.

A videoconference has been arranged for the Allied Health Taskforce to advise AHPs of the process.

Contact: Sarah Male / Jane Harrison

AUSTRALIAN BETTER HEALTH INITIATIVE (ABHI)

The General Practice Tasmania network has continued to progress ABHI PCIP work and interact with the State under the auspice of the MoU Monitoring Group.

During the reporting period:

- the ABHI PCIP coordinators from each of the Divisions and the SBO prepared the 12-month report against the 2007-08 workplan.
- DoHA approved the 2008-09 ABHI workplan.

Contact: Sarah Male / David Gardiner

CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

Chronic Disease Self Management Network

GPT has received and executed the Chronic Disease Self Management (CDSM) Network contract for 2008-09. This contract forms Schedule 9 of the MPFA and SBOs from other jurisdictions have also entered into similar contracts with DoHA, as has AGPN. The contract indicates reduced funds by around \$25,000 per year for the next two years. Similar reductions in contract funds have occurred across all SBOs and AGPN, and is being followed up nationally.

The main activity around CDSM has been in building relationships with stakeholders. Regular CDSM "updates" have been circulated via email and recruitment of interested program staff for teleconferences and face-to-face meetings to establish a statewide interest and action group has begun.

Diabetes Type 2 Prevention Project

One Health Professional from each of the Divisions has now attended Baker-ID 'RESET Your Life' training to be able to provide Lifestyle Modification Programs (LMPs) in their region. Both the South and the North West will be looking to start recruiting patients soon for a program to begin in the period following the New Year. Due to the smaller numbers in Tasmania, there is some concern that it may be difficult to recruit enough eligible patients to make running the LMPs viable. Patients must be aged between 40-49 years and at high risk of Type 2 Diabetes, but not have Diabetes to be eligible for a subsidised LMP.

Divisions will be undertaking GP-engagement and support on use of the MBS items for referring patients to LMPs in the interim. It is anticipated that service contracts for GP engagement will be executed shortly.

Health Checks

GPT have not yet received a contract from DoHA for the 2008-09 Health Checks Project. Carrying out the Expression of Interest Process for Divisions to apply for funds held by GPT for GP training and engagement on use of the MBS Health Checks items is dependent upon sign-off from DoHA and advice on funding for the next phase of this project. All SBOs have advised DoHA that Divisions are waiting on these funds in order to progress GP-engagement. This has been progressed at GPNLG level and there appears to be some uncertainty over the funding initially expected for this project.

Contact: Tessa Saunders

COMMUNICATIONS

With the assistance of Corporate Communications an electronic newsletter has been developed which has been forwarded to all staff in the Network. This newsletter provides a snapshot of internal and external issues, dates and current health issues.

The first issue of the GPT newsletter entitled "the paperclip" was distributed in the week commencing 22 September. We are awaiting feedback from recipients to guide the publication of future issues.

Contact: Sarah Male / Jane Harrison

GENERAL PRACTICE IMMUNISATION INCENTIVES SCHEME (GP II)

The SBO Immunisation Coordinator attended the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) Immunisation conference this month. GPT was amongst one of three SBOs to win first prize for a joint-entry in the PHAA Immunisation conference poster competition! The poster outlined the way that General Practice NSW, GPT and the ACT Division of General Practice had collaborated to produce updated versions of the Common Side Effects pads for use in immunisation encounters. GPNSW and ACT adapted the pads that our network have been producing for some time in Tasmania, which were originally developed by the Central Australian Division to be appropriate for indigenous patients. The new look pads have been popular across all the jurisdictions using them, in general practice, councils and in aboriginal medical services.

GPT has been focusing on the get ready for school campaign and has been working with the Department of Education to develop a 'get set for school' pamphlet highlighting the importance and the myths and realities of 4 year old immunisations.

Contact: Ange Patras

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND EHEALTH (IMEH)

Richard Wylie was approached during the month to take up a position with AGPN in the IM and eHealth program. Richard has accepted this position and will be on secondment from DHHS to AGPN until 30 June 2009. Richard will spend approximately two weeks per month working from AGPN offices in Canberra and will continue to be provided with accommodation at GPT while he is in Hobart.

Feedback to DHHS regarding the DHHS Patient Discharge Medication Record (PDMR) was provided during the month with a final format for the NeHTA compliant template agreed.

SECCI started to show positive messaging volumes in August but unfortunately this trend did not continue during September. The lack of messaging volume appears to be as a result of delays in the provision of training for GPs and specialists following the installation of the software.

There are now 260 (199 GPs and 61 specialists) registered users of the SECCI messaging software. Of these, only 80 (70 GPs and 15 specialists) or 30% have been trained in the use of the software.

Divisions have reported increased effort in getting more specialists on board in order to give GPs a base to refer to and also are aware of the urgent need to increase efforts in training users.

Contact: Gabriel Gossage

INFORMATION SERVICES

The emphasis for the month has been in collating and analysing the results of the 2008 GP Census and preparing the second issue of Quarterly Indicators due for release by 30 September. Regular mechanisms for updating the core data in Quarterly Indicators will be established following the September issue.

Contact: Gabriel Gossage / Sarah Male

MENTAL HEALTH

Ms Lesley McBride attended the Primary Mental Health Care Network meeting in Melbourne at which the new DoHA Mental Health/Drug and Alcohol Comorbidity initiatives were tabled. On Friday 19 September Ms McBride and Mr Gardiner participated in a teleconference which was convened by AGPN to identify jurisdictional issues and preferences regarding the comorbidity initiative.

Mid-month Ms McBride convened a meeting of all Divisional Mental Health Program Officers. Other activities for the period included:

- participation as a member of the Southern Region Mental Health Week "Participate 08" Planning Committee
- participation in the Suicide Prevention Conference Steering Committee
- representation of the Network at meetings with DHHS in relation to peri-natal mental health the Mental Health Nurse Practitioner implementation.

Further negotiations with Divisions to deliver GP Level 2 training in Focused Psychological Strategies in both the North and South of the State were also undertaken.

Contact: Lesley McBride

MEDICATION MANAGEMENT REVIEW (MMR)

September saw the MMR facilitator attend the GPT chronic disease forum in Hobart. At the same time we held a short statewide MMR meeting with all facilitators and the Pharmacy Guild Facilitator to discuss 2007-2008 activity, progress so far in 2008-2009. It was also an opportunity to share ideas to increase HMR uptake in each region.

A statistical summary of HMR figures for each division was prepared and disseminated. This collated both GP and pharmacy claiming figures for each region and the state as a whole. General Practice South is leading the way with over 500 GP and 700 Pharmacy claims for the 2007 financial year.

Contact: Anne Todd / David Gardiner

NURSING IN GENERAL PRACTICE (NIGP)

The SBO has met with representatives from DHHS in the context of working together with the Child Health and Parenting Service (CHAPS) on the development of education/training for the healthy kids check and appropriate referral pathways for general practice. The SBO followed up by participating in national meetings on this issue.

Another major focus for the SBO this month has been on the development of the budget estimate for DoHA as well as developing guidelines and reporting proforma for the Divisions for the distribution of funds within the Nursing in General Practice budget.

The SBO attended the APEC accreditation workshop conducted by the Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA) which will enable the SBO to endorse education/training events with CNE points for nurses.

Contact: Ange Patras

POLICY

A meeting of the Network Policy Group (NPG) was held via videoconference on 9 September. The two major items for discussion included progress with Integrated Care Centres and our network's feedback on the AGPN redrafted Primary Health Care Position Statement.

Contact: David Gardiner / Sarah Male

ACRONYMS

ABHI	Australian Better Health Initiative
ACAI	Aged Care Access Initiative
ACST	Aged Care Services Tasmania
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AGPN	Australian General Practice Network
AHP	Allied Health Professional
CDSM	Chronic Disease Self Management
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CHAPS	Child Health and Parenting Services
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DoHA	Department of Health and Ageing
GPII	General Practice Immunisation Incentives Scheme
GPNLG	General Practice Network Leadership Group
GPNSW	General Practice New South Wales
GPT	General Practice Tasmania
HMR	Home Medicines Review
IM	Information Management
IMEH	Information Management and EHealth
LMP	Lifestyle Modification Program
MBS	Medicare Benefits Schedule
MMR	Medication Management Review
MPFA	Multi Program Funding Agreement
NEHTA	National EHealth Transition Authority
NiGP	Nursing in General Practice
NPG	Network Policy Group
PCIP	Primary Care Integration Program
PDMR	Patient Discharge Medication Record
PHHA	Public Health Association of Australia
QIC	Quality Improvement Council
RACF	Residential Aged Care Facility
RCNA	Royal College of Nursing Australia
SBO	State Based Organisation
SECCI	Secure Electronic Clinical Communications Initiative

DIARY DATES

October *

3	Public Holiday, Burnie
8	Executive Officers Meeting, Videocon
9	Public Holiday, Launceston
10	DHHS/GP MoU Monitoring Group Meeting
23	Public Holiday, Hobart

November *

7	NPG (former SGPPG) meeting, Hobart
7	GPACT, Hobart
13	Executive Officers Meeting, Hobart
21	DHHS/GP MoU Planning Group, Telecon
28	GPT AGM and Ordinary Board Meeting, Burnie

December **

11	Executive Officers Meeting, Videocon
19	DHHS/GP MoU Planning Group, Telecon
25	Public Holiday
26	Public Holiday

* Australian General Practice Network Forum 29 Oct 08 to 1 Nov 08 in Darwin

** GPT Christmas office closure 25 Dec 08 to 1 Jan 08 (inclusive)