

Mid Week Memo

Wednesday: 6 May 2009

Issue: 18/09

“Providing relevant updates for the information of GPs and their staff”

Date for your diary – 15 August 2009 Annual NWSGDP CPD Weekend

Please ensure you mark this date in your diary – our annual CPD weekend will be a 1 day event to be held on Saturday 15 August 2009. Further details will be advised to all GPs shortly.

Referrals to Specialist – please include relevant test results

A local specialist has written to the Board of the Division asking if all GPs could include appropriate and relevant test results when referring patients to them.

Expressions of Interest – Area Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee

If any local GP is interested in sitting on this Area Health Service Committee which meets 4 times each year, please contact Graeme Kershaw on 6766 1394.

Latest Swine Flu Update

The latest information for GPs from NSW Health on the status of the Human Swine Flu 'imminent' pandemic is attached. HNEH Public Health describes the situation as "dynamic" and the Division is meeting regularly with them. There are two suspected cases in the Hunter New England Area Health Service at present. For medical historians there is an excellent Rear Vision special on the 1918 Influenza outbreak on Radio National. The link is <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/rearvision/>

New Positions – University of New England

The UNE are recruiting for 2 new positions, Associate Professor (General Practice) - *Part-time* & Clinical Dean - JMP - Tablelands Clinical School - *Part-time, Fixed term*. To view the positions click on either <http://www.une.edu.au/recruit/2009/2009-051-100/209-059.php> or <http://www.une.edu.au/recruit/2009/2009-051-100/209-060.php>

Free Flu & Pneumococcal Vaccinations for over 65's and for ATSI people

On the 20th April 2009, the Australian Government officially launched its annual free flu vaccination program for people aged 65+ and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people aged 50+, and ATSI people aged 15-49 years who fit the criteria for high risk groups. Please refer to the current edition of *The Australian Immunisation Handbook 9th Edition* for guidance on pneumococcal vaccinations, particularly for adults who have received the vaccine prior to turning 65 years of age. The Influenza Vaccine Order Form can be downloaded from the NSW Health Website at

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/publichealth/immunisation/2009_GP_Flu_Order_Form_pdf.asp A copy is also attached.