

Mid Week Memo

Wednesday: 10 December 2008

Issue: 44/08

Integration of 4-year-old health check with the Statewide Eyesight Preschooler Screening

The 4-year-old health check is a Medicare rebateable, basic health check and the Statewide Eyesight Preschooler Screening (StEPS) program is a population based vision screening program administered by the Area Health Service. An agreement has been set up between the Division and HNEAHS whereby the StEPS program and the 4-year-old health check can be integrated and undertaken by GPs or Practice Nurses in conjunction with the 4-year-old immunisation. The Health Service will recompense general practice for each StEPS visual acuity screen undertaken. A training ½ day for practice nurses will be held this Saturday 9th December from 7.30am-12.30pm and details of this have already been circulated to Practice Nurses. If you would like details of the integration proposal, together with Financial Models, please complete the faxback below.

Division response to Discussion Paper "Towards a National Primary Health Care Strategy"

The Australian Government has released a discussion paper "Towards a National Primary Health Care Strategy". This could have serious repercussions for general practice and a well prepared, representative response needs to be submitted to the Department of Health and Ageing prior to the closing date of 27 February, 2009. A meeting for all GPs will be held at the Division at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 10th February and a copy of the discussion paper will be sent to each GP shortly. In the meantime, an electronic version of this document can be found at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/PHS-DiscussionPaper>

Exercise Physiology Resumes at Club Synergy

Further to an item in the MWM of 26 November, 2008, we can report that Club Synergy has secured a replacement Accredited Exercise Physiologist who is able to accept referrals for chronic disease team care, Workcover and DVA. Michael Hughes has had 3 years experience in exercise physiology and 5 years experience in musculo-skeletal rehabilitation. He can be contacted on 6766 8388 and referrals can be faxed to Club Synergy on 6766 8588.

University of Newcastle 3rd year Medical Students

Professor Dimity Pond from the Faculty of Medicine, Discipline of General Practice, will be in Tamworth next week and is offering a brief presentation and discussion with GPs about the Joint Medical Program 3rd Year Medical Student placements. This will occur on Monday 15th December 2008 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the Division. Please indicate with on the faxback below whether you are interested in attending this session.

Candidate required for Certificate in Sexual & Reproductive Health for pilot program

Dr Barbara Moritz is an accredited External Clinical Instructor with Family Planning Association (FPA) NSW and is involved in a pilot project to deliver the clinical component of their Certificate in Sexual & Reproductive Health outside of the metropolitan area. While many of the potential candidates (in the future) are likely to be GP registrars, they are also hoping that this may benefit Area of Need doctors or any other doctor working in rural NSW who wants to increase their skills in sexual health. Barb is seeking a candidate for the Certificate who is willing to be part of the pilot program. If you have any interest in this and would like further information, please contact her on 0407 254569.

Fax Back information

Fax Back to Trish on 6766 1372

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, I would like to attend the information session with Professor Dimity Pond regarding 3 rd Year Medical Student placements on Monday 15 th December from 6:30 – 7:30 pm.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, please send me details of the proposal to integrate the Medicare funded General Practice Healthy Kids Check with the Statewide Eyesight Preschooler program

GP / Practice Name: _____