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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



PrimaryCare Sidebar™ helps GPs to implement e-health

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is committed to helping GPs implement e-health initiatives in their practices.

The RACGP is offering a free 12 month licence[^] of the PrimaryCare Sidebar™ to the first 1,500 Australian GPs (excluding registrars)[†] who sign up as RACGP members by 30 June 2010 and who request this tool.

The PrimaryCare Sidebar™ is described by its creators as a user-friendly, time-saving, interactive panel displayed on a GP's clinical desktop system that has the facility to host a range of products that GPs and practices can select from to suit their needs.

RACGP President Dr Chris Mitchell said that the PrimaryCare Sidebar™ will help streamline information in general practices and lead to improved outcomes for patients.

“General practice is in an ideal position to be at the forefront of e-health. There are now around 115 million GP consultations taking place annually and computers are now used by 98 per cent of GPs for clinical purposes.

“The PrimaryCare Sidebar™ is a great e-health initiative and provides GPs with essential preventive health tools at their fingertips,” he said.

The RACGP has been working with Pen Computer Systems Pty Ltd, who have created the PrimaryCare Sidebar™, to incorporate important e-health tools for GPs into this panel. These tools include the online version of the RACGP's *Guidelines for preventive activities in general practice* (known as the e-‘red book’) and the Australian Medicines Handbook (AMH) Online (single user licence).

The e-‘red book’ provides best practice recommendations for long and short term preventive care, which GPs can easily access and search from their clinical desktop at the point of care. By having the e-‘red book’ as part of the PrimaryCare Sidebar™, GPs are automatically notified about which preventive care activities are outstanding, up-to-date, or unknown for the patient record they have opened. The preventive activities are based on the latest evidence based recommendations from the e-‘red book’.

AMH Online is an interactive and quick to search format, which enables GPs to access independent evidence based drug information at the point of care. Having AMH Online as part of the PrimaryCare Sidebar™ means that GPs can easily access this important tool when they need it most – that is, at the point of care.

The e-‘red book’ and AMH Online are included in the RACGP member version of PrimaryCare Sidebar™ and are offered to RACGP members* for a significantly reduced subscription fee.

For more information regarding RACGP membership or the PrimaryCare Sidebar™ offer, visit www.racgp.org.au/membership.

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* Australian registered medical practitioners only

† General practice registrars are excluded from this ‘early bird’ offer as they are offered a separate ‘early bird’ incentive

^ Each PrimaryCare Sidebar™ licence is valid until 30 June 2011, with an option for members to extend the licence and select which products they wish to subscribe to at that stage. Only 1,500 licences are available through the early bird incentive

About the RACGP

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) sets and maintains the standards for quality clinical practice, education and training, and research in Australian general practice, and represents Australia's urban and rural general practitioners. Visit www.racgp.org.au.