



North & West Queensland Primary Health Care E-Newsletter

20 August 2010

INFORMATION AND ALERTS

ALERT—PANDEMIC (H1N1)

Free antiviral medication for high risk groups and those with moderate or severe influenza remains available via community pharmacies. Communique attached.

GPS TO DRIVE AUSTRALIAN LUNG CENSUS

General Practitioners are being urged to assess the lung health of 50,000 adults as part of the largest single screening of lung function to be undertaken in Australia. The Lung Census will be conducted from 4 -15 October 2010 to support and promote Global Test Your Lungs Day (14 October) and the Year of the Lung. GPs can find out more about the Lung Census and register to take part in this landmark initiative by visiting www.lungcensus.com.au.

MENTORS REQUIRED URGENTLY

The John Flynn Placement Program urgently needs 50 GP Mentors to provide clinical mentoring for students keen for rural and remote experience. Information attached.

NORTH WEST COMMUNITY REHABILITATION

Residents who have a neurological condition may be eligible to participate in the NWCR project.

WORKSHOPS

QUEENSLAND INJURY PREVENTION COUNCIL

Queensland Injury Prevention Council is conducting an Evidence to Action Symposium at James Cook University, Townsville on 18 & 19 November, 2010. Submissions close Friday 27 August. Flyer attached

SURGERY AND PROCEDURES WORKSHOP IN 2011

A two day Dermatological Surgery and Procedures Workshop will be held February 25-27: Flyer attached

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE

To be held at John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU, Canberra will be held from 1-4 November, 2010. The full program of the conference can be found on <http://jcsmr.anu.edu.au/conferences/nov/speakers.php>

NEWSLETTERS

RURAL DOCTORS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

Topics include Views sought on Medical Local Boundaries; RDAA Election Update; Forthcoming RFA Conferences

RAPAD NEWS

Topics include "What needs to be done for the Bush"; Mayoral Masterchef Challenge; RAPAD Skilling. Link to newsletter: www.rapad.com.au

GPQ UPDATE

Topics include NAHSSS Update; Launch of Family Planning Queensland eNews

Primary health care excellence in north and west Queensland

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COMMUNIQUÉ FOR QUEENSLAND GPs (#11) 03 August 2010 PANDEMIC (H1N1) 2009

Access to antivirals for high risk groups and those with moderate/severe influenza

Free antiviral medication for high risk groups and those with moderate or severe influenza remains available via community pharmacies. Eligibility for free antivirals (oseltamivir 75 mg capsules) is detailed in Appendix 1.

To access oseltamivir 75mg capsules for eligible people where clinically indicated with an influenza like illness:

- Prescriptions must only be written for those who meet the PROTECT Phase criteria (Appendix 1)
 - The prescription MUST state person has an acute febrile influenza like illness; and
 - is member of a vulnerable group; or
 - has moderate /severe disease,
- AND
- be endorsed with the following wording: “THIS SCRIPT IS TO BE FILLED FROM THE ANTIVIRAL PANDEMIC STOCKPILE”

Adult and paediatric capsules are available in the private market for anyone not eligible for the free antiviral medication.

30mg, 45mg or 60mg oseltamivir doses for people eligible for free antivirals

The Tamiflu manufacturer (Roche) has provided information on preparing an extemporaneous dose of oseltamivir from 75 mg capsules, in the absence of available solution. A flyer containing instructions on the preparation of a 30mg, 45mg or 60mg dose from a 75mg capsule is available on the Queensland Health and GPQ websites and is attached.

Where the GP determines that the patient’s parents/carers are capable of making up the prescribed dose:

1. GP determines carer is capable to convert Tamiflu 75mg to paediatric dose;
2. GP to provide prescription and specify prescription is for pandemic stock (Tamiflu 75mg) for conversion to the required dose;
3. GP to provide Tamiflu® “How to make the correct dose for my child” flyer to client;
4. Pharmacist to discuss with person collecting the prescription the process for converting the 75 mg capsules to the prescribed dose. Pharmacist to ensure instruction flyer has been supplied; if not pharmacist to provide this;
5. Prescription dispensed at no cost to the patient.

If the parent/carer is thought not to be capable of safely preparing the appropriate dose and there are no commercial paediatric capsules available at a local community pharmacy, the GP should contact their local public hospital emergency department to arrange access to paediatric Tamiflu® from the hospital supply.

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 vaccination

To date over 930,000 notifications of administration of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 vaccine in Queensland have been received; this is over 21 % of the Queensland population. Please note that Panvax® remains free. Vaccine can be reordered in the usual way from the Queensland Health Immunisation Program (QHIP).

The 2010 seasonal influenza vaccine 2010 provides protection from the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 virus strain as well as an H3N2 strain and a B strain. It’s funded for high risk groups: <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/flu/facts/vaccination.asp>

Dr Jeannette Young
Chief Health Officer
Queensland Health



Queensland
Government



Appendix 1:-Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Protect Phase- High risk groups eligible for free antiviral medication.

1. People assessed by their doctor as having moderate or severe influenza (or if rapidly deteriorating); and
2. The following groups can be regarded as vulnerable groups at increased risk of severe disease from pH1N1 and/or seasonal influenza strains:
 - people with chronic respiratory conditions
 - pregnant women
 - people with morbid obesity
 - Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people of any age
 - people with other conditions predisposing to severe influenza such as:
 - cardiac disease (excluding simple hypertension)
 - diabetes mellitus
 - chronic metabolic diseases
 - chronic renal or liver disease
 - haemoglobinopathies
 - immunosuppression (including, cancers, HIV/AIDS infection, immunosuppressive drugs)
 - chronic neurological conditions

Considering pH1N1 cases reported in 2009, the elderly (as measured by case fatality rates) and children aged four years and under (as measured by hospitalisation rates) can also be considered to be at increased risk for severe disease, compared to other age groups.



50 GP MENTORS URGENTLY NEEDED

***Can you mentor a John Flynn student for 2 weeks per year over 4 years?
(Timing of placements by mutual agreement)***

The John Flynn Placement Program (JFPP) — managed by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) — is an Australian Government funded initiative to attract more doctors to rural and remote Australian communities. Students who develop bonds and friendships within a community are more likely to return to that or to a similar community as future qualified medical practitioners.

50 additional RA 2 to 5 doctors are needed this year to provide clinical mentoring for JFPP students, keen for rural and remote experience.

GP Rewards

- satisfaction of passing on your expertise and understanding of rural/remote medicine
- opportunity to play a vital role in addressing the rural medical crisis
- \$300 (+GST) per week per student
- ACRRM PDP and RACGP QA&CPD points for teaching medical students

Invaluable Practice Managers

- alert doctors to the importance of the JFPP and support their participation
- refer the ACRRM JFPP team to local community organisations, for student support
- are welcome to apply to participate as Community Contacts @ \$175 per week during placements

Unique Community Placement Program

- responsibility is shared between the mentor and a community representative, who supports the student socially during placements
- the program is focused on student enjoyment of your community and the opportunity to develop a bond with its people
- placements are not designed to provide the same level of clinical training as university accredited clinical attachments

To find out more

Email ACRRM jfpp@acrrm.org.au, or click [here](#) to fill out an application form. More information on Mentoring is available on our [website](#).

Be part of training the next generation of rural doctors



John Flynn Placement Program Team

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NORTH WEST COMMUNITY REHABILITATION

North & West Queensland Primary Health Care (NWQPHC), James Cook University (JCU), Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health (MICRRH) and Queensland Health (Mount Isa Hospital) combined are offering clients of North West Queensland a fantastic opportunity. Residents who have a neurological condition (e.g. Stroke, Parkinson's Disease) may be eligible to participate in the North West Community Rehabilitation (NWCR) project. The project will be run in Mt Isa for 5 weeks (30th August to 1st October 2010). A similar project was held in Townsville in 2007, with participants reporting a high level of satisfaction.

Participants will be managed by JCU Physiotherapy students under the supervision of a senior Lecturer in Neurological Physiotherapy and a local Physiotherapist. The service will offer different streams of rehabilitation, including:

- **Activity and education program** for people who have progressive neurological conditions (e.g. Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis);
- **Drive Your Own Recovery program** for people who have had a Stroke affecting their arm or balance and/or mobility;
- **Living with a Disability program** for people who are ageing with a disability (e.g. Polio, Cerebral Palsy).

To access this service, clients will need to be referred and participate in a screening process (over the phone, or face to face with a cultural liaison officer if appropriate). If patients meet the inclusion criteria, they will be offered an opportunity to participate, based on a 'first come, first served' policy. Participation in the project is free and where possible travel and accommodation may be subsidised.

Referral forms are available now.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Sarah Jackson on 0407 588 143

*Queensland Injury
Prevention Council*

Evidence to Action Symposium

James Cook University, Townsville



18 & 19 November 2010

Call for Abstracts

The goal of the Queensland Injury Prevention Council is to reduce injury rates and the severity of injuries in Queensland through promotion of injury prevention/ safety promotion initiatives and development of an evidence base for prevention.

You are invited to submit an abstract to be presented at the Queensland Injury Prevention Council – Evidence to Action Symposium.

The theme of the symposium is Evidence to Action.

The streams of the symposium are aligned with the five priority areas of the Queensland Injury Prevention Council. These are:

Safe childhood, safe youth, safe old age, safe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and safe Rural and Remote Communities.

Submissions Close 27 August 2010

Submission Procedure

To be considered for presentation your abstract must:

- Include at the top of the abstract, the title, in BOLD CAPITALS
- Include directly beneath the title, up to 3 key words from the list below:

Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders
Children Safety
Older People Safety
Vehicles
Rural and remote
Surveillance and Data
Spinal Injuries
Sporting Injuries
Injury Prevention
Marine Stingers
Recreational Activities

Falls Prevention
Youth Safety
Drowning Prevention
Burns
Safe Communities
Animals and Human interface
Home Safety
Accidental poisoning
Product Safety
Boat Safety
Other

- Be typed in English using Arial Font, 12 point with single line spacing
- Include the names, organisations, states and email addresses for each author
- Indicate the presenting author in bold
- Follow the format: – Background, Purpose, Methodology, Results; Conclusions
- Not exceed 300 words
- Be relevant to one of the injury prevention/safety promotion streams of the symposium

Please note that all presenters are required to register for the symposium and pay the appropriate registration fee, associated travel and accommodation costs.

Important Dates

Abstract Due: Friday 27 August 2010

Notice of outcome of abstracts will be emailed by Friday 17 September 2010.

Presenter's registration due on or before Thursday 30 September 2010

Provisional program available Friday 29 October 2010

Notification of Accepted Abstracts

You will be notified by email regarding the outcome of your abstract submission.

Once successful notification has been made you must confirm attendance with the organising committee and pay the appropriate registration fee.

The committee reserves the right to reject unsuitable abstracts.

Abstracts must be **emailed** to Dr Kerriane Watt, Scientific Co-Ordinator, with the symposium theme in the subject title of the email.

Email: k.watt@uq.edu.au by **Friday 27 August, 2010**

Contact: 07 33655416

*Queensland Injury
Prevention Council*

Certificate in Primary Care Dermatology Workshop

Surgery and Procedures Workshop

A two-day **Dermatological Surgery and Procedures Workshop** is available from 6.00pm Friday 25 to Sunday 27 February 2011.

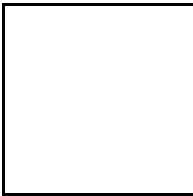
This popular workshop is part of the **Certificate in Primary Care Dermatology** course (Module 5) offered by ACRRM in partnership with the Australasian College of Dermatology.

Register your interest early by completing the [online form](#) on the ACRRM website. A discount is available if you register in Module 4 (prerequisite module) and Module 5 together. There are a total of 23 online modules and 2 practical modules on offer.

**Visit the [ACRRM Courses and Events webpage](#)
for further information.**

<http://www.acrrm.org.au>

<http://www.rmeo.com>



RuralDoc.com - Issue 181

An update from the Rural Doctors Association of Australia

13 August 2010

RDA sends RuralDoc.com regularly to RDA members

Contact us for further information or to update your email address:
t: (02) 6239 7730 | e: office@rdaa.com.au | w: www.rdaa.com.au

VIEWS SOUGHT ON MEDICAL LOCAL BOUNDARIES

The Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) has invited comments and submissions on potential boundaries for Primary Health Care Organisations or Medicare Locals, as they will be more commonly known. The deadline for submissions and comments is 30 September 2010. Some key questions up for discussion include:

- What principles should be applied for determining boundaries or catchment areas for Medicare Locals, including potential differences between metropolitan, rural and remote areas?
- What suggestions can be made about the optimum number of Medicare Locals in a particular state, territory or region, including potential boundaries in each area?
- How should boundaries be defined in cross border areas?
- What potential barriers or difficulties will need to be addressed in establishing new boundaries and catchment areas for Medicare Locals?

The Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) has commissioned its own independent modelling work (by Carla Cranny & Associates) on potential boundaries which canvasses many of the above issues. A RDA overview of the options presented in the modelling report is available at www.rdaa.com.au. The full text of the modelling report is available at www.yourhealth.gov.au/medicarelocal.

You can have your say on this importance issue by providing feedback directly to DoHA (www.yourhealth.gov.au/medicarelocal) or by providing comments for inclusion in the RDA submission (email policy@rdaa.com.au). The deadline for comments to be included in the RDA submission is Monday, 13 September 2010. If you wish to provide feedback directly to DoHA, RDA would be interested in hearing your views, particularly about the options set out in the modelling report. Your views can be shared with RDA by sending a copy of your submission or comments to policy@rdaa.com.au.

NSW LOCAL HOSPITAL NETWORK BOUNDARIES

The NSW Government has released a discussion paper proposing boundaries for Local Hospital Networks (LHNs) within NSW. The discussion paper proposes that 17 LHNs be created across the State in place of the current eight Area Health Services. It also discusses issues surrounding the governance structure of LHNs. A copy of the paper is available at www.health.nsw.gov.au. The deadline for submissions in response to the discussion paper is 1 September 2010.

RDA ELECTION UPDATE

RDA is continuing to work on raising the profile of rural health issues this election. With 7 million Australians living in the bush – many in marginal seats – we encourage you to lobby on a local level to raise awareness of the poor level of support rural health has received so far.

Here are links to the releases we have sent out since the last update:

[Rural health ignored by Coalition](#)

[Low cost rural doctor training should be a 'no brainer' for Labor](#)

[Rural Aussies urged to SHOUT! as polities give health the silent treatment](#)

[UGPA media release -- The silence has been deafening on Aboriginal health – let's hear about it 6 month wait for rural GP consults demonstrates need for urgent action](#)

And here is a sample of the media coverage we have received...

[Health plan no benefit to country](#)

Gladstone Observer

Great discounts for RDA members!

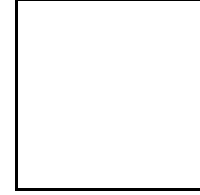
Visit www.rdaa.com.au and go to Member Discounts for more information.

Rural health vacancies / events

are now available on RDA's website. Go to www.rdaa.com.au and follow the links from the front page. Advertising vacancies is free to RDA members - email: media@rdaa.com.au.

RDA thanks Pfizer for its generous support in publishing RuralDoc.com.

[Rural patients left waiting](#)
SBS



RDAA Female Doctors Group meetings

RDAA's Female Doctors Group will hold a face-to-face meeting in Sydney on Thursday 26 August 2010. To join the Group and/or attend this meeting, please contact Linda Huf on (02) 6239 7730 or email: office@rdaa.com.au.

Forthcoming RDA Conferences

RDAA annual conference (with the Bogong Regional Training Network and Rural Medical Family Network Victoria), 8-10 October 2010, Wangaratta (see www.rdav.com.au)

Rural Medicine Australia 2010, 6th Scientific Forum, annual conference and AGMs of RDAA and ACRRM, 22-24 October 2010, Hobart (see www.acrrm.com.au)

RDASA annual conference (with the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency of SA), 12-14 November 2010, location TBC (see www.ruraldoc.com.au and go to What's On)

RDANSW annual conference (with the NSW Rural Doctors Network), 26-28 November 2010, Canberra (see www.nswrdn.com.au and go to Conferences)

See www.rdaa.com.au ([Health Conferences and Events](#)) for more details on these and other conferences.

Visit www.rhef.com.au for details of forthcoming broadcasts by the Rural Health Education Foundation.

RDAA welcomes feedback from rural doctors on any topic. Email president@rdaa.com.au.

Welcome to all new RDA members. Members are encouraged to invite fellow docs to join.

Please email member recruitment suggestions to office@rdaa.com.au.

To unsubscribe or to update your email address call (02) 6239 7730 or email: office@rdaa.com.au.

RDAA receives funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department.



Nursing & Allied Health Scholarship & Support Scheme (NAHSSS) Update

Applications open 14th August!

The Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA) has been appointed as administrator of nursing scholarships under the Dept of Health and Ageing NAHSSS program. Previously the Australian Practice Nurse Association (APNA) administered the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) category for Practice Nurses. Under the new arrangements, the nursing element of the scheme is administered in 4 streams, Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Clinical Placements and CPD. CPD for Practice nurses will fall under the CPD NAHSSS stream.

The scheme will invest more than \$100 million over four years to support undergraduate and postgraduate study, clinical placements and continuing professional development activities for nursing and allied health students and professionals.

The scholarships worth up to a total of \$1,500 per applicant for a one-year study period are intended to assist nurses in meeting the cost of their continuing professional development. This can include short courses, workshops and conferences.

Further information about the NAHSSS can be found at:

www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/work-pr-nahsss

<http://www.rcna.org.au/scholarships/nahssscpd>

Family Planning Queensland eNews

Family Planning Queensland has released their inaugural FPQ eNews.

It is available for download from our website -

<http://www.fpq.com.au/about/newsletters.php> Subscribe to receive the quarterly newsletter today!