

Welcome to the final edition of Nursing Network for 2007.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

In this newsletter you will find a articles on a free Chronic Disease Self Management Courses for practice patients that will be available in 2008, information on the Canning Extraction Tool and a 'showcase' on page 4 featuring the Practice Manager and Practice Nurse Networking dinner.

We are sad to announce the resignation of Gae Sawyer, Gae was the Practice Nurse and Immunisation Officer with FGPN for almost four years and her enthusiasm and strong devotion to staff and members will be sorely missed. Gae has taken up the position of Nursing in General Practice Program Officer with the WA General Practice Network. We welcome Palee Kaur who has taken on the role of Practice Nurse and Immunisation Officer with FGPN. Please contact Palee for all your nursing advice, she is looking forward to working with you.

INTRODUCING FGPN NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Palee Kaur
Practice Nurse & Immunisation Officer

Palee is a Registered Nurse and Midwife and an experienced Practice Nurse. She comes from Brisbane, Queensland where she worked in a Division of General Practice in a GP liaison role. Palee has also worked in hospitals in Singapore and Australia specializing in special care neonatology.

As FGPN practice nurse and immunization officer Palee can assist your practice with immunization, education, accreditation and general support. Please feel free to contact Palee on paleek@frdgp.com.au or call 9319 0555.



Susan Quin
Aged Care Program Officer

Susan began working at Fremantle GP Network in November in the role of Aged Care Program Officer. Susan has a Psychology background and an MSc in Health Promotion and Education. Arriving in Western Australia from Scotland 18 months ago she has most recently been working as GP Education Coordinator at The Cancer Council WA.

Susan can be contacted on 9319 0555 or email susanq@frdgp.com.au

VIRAL MENINGITIS IN WA

All Western Australian practices have been sent a fax regarding the spread of viral meningitis from the Northern Territory to WA.

The responsible strain of enterovirus was not previously known to occur in Australia and the subsequent lack of immunity may explain the significant number of cases seen.

Early November saw the first confirmed cases in the Kimberley region which signalled the entry of the virus in to WA. Three quarters of those affected are less than 15 years of age, and almost half are under 12 months.

Infants present with fever, vomiting, irritability and drowsiness. Recovery is prompt and no sequelae to date. Cases are most infectious during the first week of acute illness and the transmission mode is respiratory secretions and faecal-oral spread. Therefore, hand washing is vital in limiting the spread.

Cases are confirmed by enteroviral PCR or culture as there is no serology test available for enteroviral infections. In early cases, a dry throat swab (orange top) for PCR or swab into a viral transport medium (VTM) for enteroviral PCR and culture is recommended. A stool specimen is also appropriate as the virus will remain positive in the stool compared to the throat.

If you have a query regarding managing a case, please contact an infectious disease physician.

If you have any queries regarding public health concerns, please contact the Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) on 9388 4878.

GP REMUNERATION FOR HPV IMMUNISATIONS

A Bill to establish the HPV register was recently passed in the Federal Parliament and includes a provision to remunerate GPs for HPV vaccinations.

Originally the payment was for data for girls aged 12 – 18 years of age. This has been extended to cover the lodging of data for **all girls and women between the ages of 12 – 26** who receive the HPV vaccine Gardasil.

Although the register becomes operational in 2008, GPs are strongly encouraged to continue to record HPV vaccinations in their software records. Efforts will be rewarded when the Register is up and running as doctors will be paid the \$6 payment for all patients who are recorded as having received the funded HPV vaccine.

Points to remember:

- **Ensure patient has consented to the vaccination and also to logging their information on the HPV Register.**
- **Make a note of consent gained in medical records.**

The Canning Extraction Tool

The Canning Extraction tool was developed by Canning Division of General Practice to assist practices participating in the National Primary Care Collaboratives (NPCC) Program to collect data. The functionality of the tool has since expanded and it is now available to all practices within the Division.

The Canning Tool rapidly and easily presents a Practice with information about the "overall situation" of a particular cohort of patients, e.g. those with diabetes, CHD, incomplete pap smear results, asthma etc. Knowing the "overall situation" of a particular cohort of patients provides the Practice with insight into the mechanisms of care delivery at work within the practice. It can reveal opportunities to improve quality of care, streamline practice systems and enhance earning potential.

The Canning Extraction Tool is currently available to those practices that utilise;

- Medical Director 2
- Medical Director 3
- Medical Spectrum
- Best Practice
- MedTech 32
- Practix

Fremantle GP Network will be holding an information evening focusing on data management and the use of tools such as the Canning Tool in April 2008.

If you would like to learn more about the Canning Tool or have any other information management queries please do not hesitate to call me on 9319 0555 or email suzannev@frdgp.com.au.

RACGP WA FACULTY HAS MOVED

New street address: 328 Stirling Highway, Claremont.

New postal address: PO Box 737, Claremont WA 6910.

Fax and phone numbers remain the same.
Drop in anytime to say hello!

ABI DOPPLER EDUCATION AND NETWORKING EVENT

Our final Practice Manager and Practice Nurse Networking and Education Event for 2007 was held at the Red Herring Restaurant. It was a fun and informative evening and as you can see from the photos, enjoyed by all who attended!



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
AT OUR EVENTS IN 2008**

FGPN EDUCATION EVENTS FOR 2008

February 12

Osteoporosis Workshop

A workshop for GPs and Practice Nurses

February 27

Implementing Prevention Programs in General Practice

An active learning module for GPs, Practice Managers and Practice Nurses

March 11

Expression of Interest in Practice Nursing

An information evening for Practice Nurses

April 2

Information Management

A networking and education workshop for Practice Managers, Practice Nurses and Practice Staff

June 17

“Mind your Mind”

An interactive workshop on Dementia for Practice Managers, Practice Nurses and Practice Staff

August 20

Legal Issues

An interactive workshop on legal matters for Practice Managers, Practice Nurses and Practice Staff

November

Networking and Education Dinner for Practice Managers and Practice Nurses

**For further information please contact
Palee Kaur or Suzanne Badham on 9319
0555**

Fremantle GP Network constantly strives to improve the quality and range of services to our practices and welcomes positive feedback and complaints. We invite you to send your comments to reception@frdgp.com.au