

Volume 22, April 2007

# Nursing Network



*Welcome to the Autumn edition of "Nursing Network", the newsletter for Practice Nurses.*

*We would like to draw your attention to the Mental Health First Aid Course INVITATION on page 3. This course is filling fast, so if you are interested in attending please contact us as soon as possible to register.*

*As a way of getting to know each other—practice staff and staff of Fremantle GP Network—we are profiling someone in each edition of the newsletter. The first person to be profiled is me!! See Page 4.*

*And, please remember our SKILLS FAIR on 28 April; there are some extremely interesting workshops for Practice Nurses. As these workshops have a limited number of places available if you are interested please register today!*

The results of the latest Roy Morgan Image of Professions Survey, showed yet again that Australians rate their health professionals as the most honest and ethical.

The top three professions, in order, were

**nurses** (91 per cent, up 2 per cent),  
pharmacists (85 per cent, up 1 per cent), and  
doctors (81 per cent, up 2 per cent).

So, as you can see we are still the best!!

Kind regards



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION INFANRIX IPV® VACCINE SHORTAGE

Please be advised as immunisation providers that there is a critical shortage of the government funded InfanrixIPV® vaccine.

InfanrixIPV® vaccine is funded as part of the National Immunisation Program as a booster dose at four years of age.

Recommendations: To ensure that there is sufficient vaccine available all vaccine orders are being closely monitored. Where necessary vaccine orders may be reduced. All vaccine orders must complete the 'Number of Doses in Stock' column. No vaccine order will be filled unless this information is supplied.

The Immunisation Program encourages all immunisation providers to:

- minimise the quantity of vaccine ordered
- minimise the amount of vaccine lost due to problems with vaccine storage temperatures - remember daily monitoring of vaccine refrigerators is extremely important.

If you have any queries regarding this matter please contact Gae or the Government Immunisation Program on 1300 882 008.

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## Fremantle GP Network Events

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**May 2** New Electronic Medicare Claiming  
**June 8 & 9** Mental Health First Aid Course  
**June 20** Domestic Violence Workshop  
**August 26** City to Surf Fun Run

# WA CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION PROGRAM

## CERVICAL CYTOLOGY REGISTER (CCR) Changes to Operational Procedures

Recent changes to the operational procedures within the WA CCR **may impact upon the way your practice requests information** from the WA CCR.

WA CCR is a confidential computerised database of West Australian women's Pap smear and cervical biopsy results.

The CCR serves as a 'safety net' for all women by:

- sending a reminder letter if Pap smears or follow-ups are overdue
- keeping a confidential history of results
- facilitating the follow-up of abnormal results
- assisting in improving the care of women who have serious changes detected in their smears.

Some women are concerned about confidentiality, however, it is reassuring to know that all the information on the Register is protected by law. The WA CCR staff are required to keep cervical screening test results confidential and may only disclose information to the extent authorised by the *Health (Cervical Cytology Register) Regulations 1991 (WA)*.

A person shall not disclose information on the register other than -

- (a) with the written consent of any woman to whom the information relates
- (b) to a medical practitioner or person in charge of a laboratory, engaged by, or on behalf of, the woman to whom the information relates in order to assist those persons
  - (i) in diagnosis and treatment of the woman; or
  - (ii) to determine when the woman should have her next cervical test.

In summary, information can only be given to the woman, the laboratory or medical practitioner engaged by the woman (i.e. current medical practitioner) and **cannot be given to other medical support staff**. E.g. **Practice Nurse**, Practice Manager or receptionist.

To ensure the WA CCR operates within its legislative requirements and to improve management of information held within the register a number of **new procedures** which formalise the request and release of information, have been introduced.

These new procedures cover instances as follows:

- *Where a medical practitioner calls and requests information on an individual woman (including date of last Pap smear or entire patient screen profile).*

- *Where medical practice support staff e.g. practice manager, **practice nurse** or practice receptionist ring to request individual patient history details (such as date of last pap smear or more recent address).*
- *Where a list (i.e. more than 2 patients) of women is faxed to the CCR requesting patient history details (such as date of the last Pap smear or more recent address).*

A letter, detailing the changes to procedures, was recently sent to Practice Managers. The letter from Gillian Mangan, Program Manager, WA Cervical Cancer Prevention Program, also included a copy of the Release of Patient Details form and Request for Client History Details form.

Please contact Gillian on 9323 6788 if you did not receive a copy or call Suzanne Badham at Fremantle GP Network on 9319 0555 to request a copy.

### NOT FOR REGISTRY (NFR) PATIENTS

As registration with the CCR is voluntary, all Western Australian women have the right to opt out.

If a woman decides not to have her smear results forwarded to the CCR the practitioner should either clearly mark NFR on the request form, or use the stickers provided by CCR. This will prevent the automatic transfer of data to the CCR.

An order form for the stickers is available online via [www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au)



### PRACTICE INCENTIVE PROGRAM (PIP) Cervical Screening Program

The CCR, in conjunction with WA GP Network, has developed a *PIP Data Request Form* to assist with the Cervical Screening component of the Commonwealth PIP initiatives.

Submission of a completed form enables the CCR to provide a GP with a list of women (name, date of birth, last known address and date of last known Pap smear) for whom they were the last known care provider and who have not had a Pap smear in the last 4 years.

Using the following Cervical Screening Incentive item numbers on women 20-69yrs who have not had a cervical smear in the last 4 years, is the trigger for the SIP (\$40 per patient) to be paid via your next quarterly PIP cycle.

Item	2501	\$ 32.10	Level A
	2504	60.95	Level B
	2507	89.75	Level C

The *PIP Data Request Form* can be downloaded from [www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au)



We have had many requests for advice on how to deal with difficult patients. In order to address some aspects of this we would like to invite you to attend the following training sessions.

**INVITATION TO ATTEND**

**MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE FOR PRACTICE NURSES, PRACTICE MANAGERS and PRACTICE STAFF**

**Date:** Friday 8 and Saturday 9 June 2007  
**Venue:** Fremantle GP Network, East Fremantle  
**Time:** 9.00am to 4.00pm



**The usual course fee is \$175.00 per person, however, we are offering this training to you FREE OF CHARGE**

One in five Australian adults will experience a mental health disorder every year. Mental Health First Aid is a two day course developed at The Centre for Mental Health Research at ANU; Greenapple Development have specifically structured this course for General Practice Managers, Practice Staff and **Practice Nurses**.

We have limited places available so please contact Suzanne Badham, telephone 9319 0555 or email [sueb@frdgp.com.au](mailto:sueb@frdgp.com.au) to reserve your place.

**POSITIONS VACANT**

I am aware of several Practice Nurse positions available in our region. If you know of any nurses who may be interested in the wonderful world of Practice Nursing please encourage them to give Gae a call on 9319 0555 for further information.

Please remember I am available to provide 1:1 orientation and education to nurses new to General Practice. As you are aware ongoing support and education is also a part of our program.

**MBS Items 871 and 872**

In November 2006 two new MBS Items numbers were introduced providing rebates for participation by medical practitioners (including a specialist, consultant physician or a **GP**) in multidisciplinary treatment planning meetings for cancer patients.

Item 871	\$71.00	\$60.35—85%
Item 872	\$33.00	\$28.05—85%

For a comprehensive explanation on these item numbers please see: MBS Book 2006: Pages 81 & 115.

The National Breast Cancer Centre (NBCC) has also developed an information sheet which is available to download from their website [www.nbcc.org.au](http://www.nbcc.org.au).

**Are you looking for an opportunity to work in a unique setting ?**

Freo Street Doctor is a mobile street-based health service for homeless and at risk marginalised people that provides easily accessible & non-judgemental healthcare.

In October 2006, Fremantle GP Network purchased a mobile van to operate the service. The vehicle is fully equipped as a mini-practice and can provide a range of services such as:

- general health check ups
- vaccinations
- substance abuse related care and screening
- lifestyle counselling and
- referral to other healthcare services within the community

The Freo Street Doctor is staffed by well trained professionals including Medical Practitioners, Registered Nurses & Outreach Workers.

We are seeking expressions of interest from experienced Registered Nurses who thrive on a challenge to join our casual pool of staff. You are welcome to:

- come and meet us
- take a tour of the van
- see if the work environment would interest you

For further information or to arrange a visit contact Julie Creighton, on 9319 0555 or email [juliec@frdgp.com.au](mailto:juliec@frdgp.com.au).

**APNA Online Learning**

The first online module of the **Certificate III in Diabetes Management** is now available through our online learning centre.

This is the first of nine modules designed to be accessible and affordable to all nurses. Completion of the nine modules and associated assessment will qualify for a Certificate III in Diabetes Management.

New modules are scheduled to roll-out each month - registration is quick and easy.

This is a unique Australian first both in content and accessibility.

For more details contact Khalil at APNA [khalil.sukkar@apna.asn.au](mailto:khalil.sukkar@apna.asn.au)



## PROFILE ON GAE SAWYER RN



**GPD Manager  
Practice Nurse and Immunisation  
Project Officer**

**How long have you worked at FGPN?**  
3 years and 2 months (who's counting!)

### **What is your role at FGPN?**

Currently half time GPD Manager (with the Fabulous Kelli Porter) and Practice Nurse Support and Immunisation Project Officer.

### **What is your next planned project at FGPN?**

A structured Practice Nurse orientation program.

### **How do you intend to celebrate the successful completion of this project? Swim to Rotto, walk the Bibbulmun Track?**

NO! Probably a well deserved glass of wine (or two).

### **What famous person would you like seated next to you at your next workshop?**

George Clooney.....obvious why!

### **Where would you like to go on your next holiday?**

Italy and France.

### **Where are you actually going on your next holiday?**

Italy and France in May this year—I know...I am a very lucky girl.

### **What/who is your favourite**

**Car** Mazda RX8  
**Author** Marian Keys  
**Shop** Anywhere with good coffee  
**Drink** A good white wine (outside working hours of course!)

### **And finally, Gae, if you were shipwrecked on a deserted island name what/who you would like with you.**

**3 people** Kelli Porter, Suzi Badham and George Clooney  
**2 foods** Tim Tams and vintage cheese  
**2 books** Darwin's Theory of Evolution and Jane Eyre  
**1 Pet** My Jack Russell cross "Ziggy".

## **WHO ARE WE PROFILING NEXT??**

**Well that is up to you.**

**Please call Gae or Suzanne Badham to nominate a work colleague or yourself. We will arrange an interview and a photo-shoot.....and 'reward' you with a box of chocolates!**

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## **Fremantle GP Network Events**

- April 28: Skills Fair**  
Notre Dame University  
This is a full day event for GPs, Practice Nurses and Practice Managers  
All details are on the enclosed flyer
- May 2 New Electronic Medicare Claiming**  
Presented by Ida Slabak from Medicare Australia  
10 Silas Street, East Fremantle
- June 20 Family & Domestic Violence Workshop**  
10 Silas St, East Fremantle  
See flyer enclosed
- August 26 City to Surf Fun Run**  
see below for details

Contact Gae, Suzanne or Kelli on 9319 0555 for further details on these events, or for assistance with any other queries.



**Sunday 26 August 2007**

**PLEASE JOIN US**

The staff from Fremantle GP Network – and their families and friends - are entering the 2007 City to Surf on Sunday 26 August and would love members of your practice to join us.

Fremantle GP Network will provide tee shirts, caps and other 'goodies' for the day and, if required, will help you organise a training schedule.

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@fdgp.com.au](mailto:reception@fdgp.com.au)