



# Nursing Network

Feb. 2008  
Volume 25

*Welcome to our first edition in 2008 of 'Nursing Network',  
the newsletter for Practice Nurses.*

## **NURSING IN GENERAL PRACTICE LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES**

The role of the general practice nurse has evolved in the last decade and today sees the nurse as a valuable team member with diverse skills and knowledge supporting GPs to provide quality primary health care. (Nursing Review, 2007)

There has been a substantial increase in government funding in areas such as chronic disease management with the implementation of the GP Management plans and Team Care Arrangements. The last decade has also seen general practice adopt a more team based approach in the challenge against chronic illnesses particularly diabetes, asthma and cardiovascular disease.

These recent changes have brought the practice nurses' role to the forefront and this is evidenced by the significant funding provided by the Federal government to support the employment of nurses in the general practice setting to deal with issues such as the ageing population, time poor GPs and the escalating chronic disease burden.

Nurses who come into general practice from more acute settings face the transition into a very different working environment. Nurses may find themselves grappling with lack of comradeship e.g. handover rituals such as "counting drugs" and having other nurses around to discuss issues around best practice. They may also find themselves craving some semblance of structure that is found within the hospital system. The nurse may also feel like "the new kid on the block" when joining an established practice as patients and staff may have developed a good relationship and the new nurse has to foster trust and acceptance within the practice.

However, these feelings soon translate from feeling 'directionless' to being 'proactive' and carving a niche that they can comfortably function within. These factors can be viewed as a negative thing but on the positive side, nurses enjoy the rapport that is allowed to develop between staff and patients which is quite unique to general practice.

Nursing in general practice is an emerging specialty which has successfully proved that nurses have a very viable future in general practice and the primary health sector.

Organisations such as the Australian Practice Nurse Association and local Divisions of General Practice have recognised the need to provide education, networking opportunities and support to practice nurses. The practice nurse needs to be well supported and equipped to provide successful contribution to the general practice team and the wider community.

For any practice nurse related enquiry, please feel free to contact Palee Kaur, Practice nurse and Immunisation Program Officer on 9319 0555 or e-mail [paleek@fremantlegpnetwork.com.au](mailto:paleek@fremantlegpnetwork.com.au)

## **NEW NURSE LED CLINIC TRIAL AT THE DIABETES CLINIC AT THE SIR CHARLES GARDNER HOSPITAL**

Patients with type 2 diabetes who have been referred to the clinic will continue to be seen by the specialist. However, patients who have uncontrolled risk factors for cardiovascular disease and who are seen by Dr Joey Kaye, will also be offered extra follow up appointments with Alison Jones, who is a clinical nurse specialist and diabetes educator with Ambulatory Care.

Research shows that many patients who attend Out Patient Department appointments do not achieve their targets and the aim of the nurse-led clinic is to help improve this outcome.

It is important therefore that practice staff are aware that GPs will be receiving additional correspondence from Alison Jones, who will send GP's a summary each time the patient is seen in her clinic. She can be contacted on 93464712, mobile 0433899870 or email [Alison.jones@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Alison.jones@health.wa.gov.au)

## **JOIN THE FREMANTLE NURSES AND PRACTICE MANAGERS E-MAIL LISTS**

There has been a great response from those who are already on the e-mail list and I encourage all nurses and practice managers to join! It's a quick and easy way for information to reach you.

Here are some updates you can expect to receive on the list,

- ⇒ education events and seminars
- ⇒ latest Medicare developments
- ⇒ Interesting journal articles
- ⇒ local information
- ⇒ generally anything with regards to practice nursing and immunisations

Please contact Palee Kaur on 9319 0555 to join today!

## STAFF IMMUNISATION REQUIREMENTS

Information from the RACGP infection control standards (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.) and the 8<sup>th</sup> edition Immunisation handbook

The following vaccines are recommended for healthcare workers.

### Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B levels should be measured in all practice staff members with direct clinical contact or who manage clinical waste, process dirty instruments or body fluids.

### Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis

Adult dTpa (e.g. Boostrix) should be considered if the staff member has not received a booster in the last 5 years as some may have poor immunity.

### Measles, mumps and rubella

Rubella vaccines should be offered to all potentially fertile female staff members whose immune status is unknown or negative. The MMR vaccine is generally used instead of the individual components.

### Polio

Polio vaccine should be offered to staff who have not received a booster in the last 10 years.

### Varicella

Immunisation or serology is recommended with staff members in direct clinical contact.

### Influenza

Influenza vaccination annually is recommended to prevent transmission.

### Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A may be considered in communities where it is endemic e.g. some indigenous populations.

## FINDING ALLIED HEALTH PROVIDERS IN YOUR LOCAL AREA IS A CLICK AWAY!

Many of the allied health professional associations now have searchable member databases on their websites. This allows you to locate providers in your local area easily, providing you with updated information each time.

<b>Dieticians</b>	<b>Dieticians Association of Australia</b> <a href="http://www.daa.asn.au">www.daa.asn.au</a>
<b>Exercise physiologists</b>	<b>Australian association for exercise sport science</b> <a href="http://www.aaess.com.au">www.aaess.com.au</a>
<b>Osteopaths:</b>	<b>Australian Osteopathic Association</b> <a href="http://www.osteopathic.com.au">www.osteopathic.com.au</a>
<b>Physiotherapists:</b>	<b>Australian Physiotherapy Association</b> <a href="http://apa.advsol.com.au">http://apa.advsol.com.au</a>
<b>Podiatrists:</b>	<b>Australian Podiatry Council</b> <a href="http://www.findapodiatrist.org">www.findapodiatrist.org</a>
<b>Psychologists:</b>	<b>Australian Psychological Society</b> <a href="http://www.psychology.org.au">www.psychology.org.au</a>
<b>Social workers:</b>	<b>Australian Association of social workers</b> <a href="http://www.aasw.asn.au">www.aasw.asn.au</a>

## IMMUNISATION CERTIFICATION COURSE

Accredited by the Royal College of Nursing Australia

The Department of Health and Aging has developed an Accredited Immunisation Certification Course designed to support rural and remote, general and community nurses in their expanding and demanding practice role.

This program has been developed to meet the training needs of nurses by standardising the education component of immunisation.

It is designed to assist nurses in gaining the knowledge and skills necessary to become certified to give immunisation competently in areas of work where there may not be a medical officer on site.

The course includes both theoretical and clinical practice components. This self paced, distance education program is designed as a flexible learning program.

- **The theoretical component** of the immunisation certification training program will be 5 weeks in length. This is an external approach meaning you can complete this training manual at work or home.

Following the completion of reading the immunisation training manual, students are assessed via an open book multiple choice and short answer exam.

- **The clinical practice component** will be dependant on the student's knowledge and previous clinical experience.

The evaluation of clinical competence is undertaken by a suitably qualified supervisor and is based on a set of Competency Immunisation Standards. Clinical competence is an integral component of the program and assessment tools are included in the package.

Nurses are expected to complete the theory (training Manual), clinical practice requirements and assessment components of the course.

Applicants must be registered in Division 1 or 2 of the Nurses Board of WA Register and practicing in a clinical area.

The Immunisation Certification Course costs \$50.00. For those nurses who do not wish to undertake the course, immunisation module materials may also be purchased for use as a resource at a cost of \$50.00 with no requirement to do the course.

**To enrol in the Immunisation Certification Course, or for further information, please contact Palee Kaur on 9319 0555 or email [paleek@fremanglegpnetwork.com.au](mailto:paleek@fremanglegpnetwork.com.au)**



## CHECKING ON YOUR CHILDS' IMMUNISATION HISTORY - CHILD'S PLAY -

In this technologically advanced age, parents can directly check their child's immunisation status from the comfort of their own home. An opportunity to remind parents of this would be when they come in to get their child immunised.

The Australian Childhood Immunisation register records details of vaccinations given to all children who live in Australia and are under the age of seven.

Parents who are already registered with Medicare online services can view and print a copy by visiting [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online) Statements are available at Medicare offices or by ringing 1800 653 809.

Parents who are NOT registered with Medicare Online services can sign up either online or by visiting a Medicare office.

### HPV REMINDER

The funded HPV vaccine will be available for 18 to 26 year old women until June 30 2009. As the course of the immunisation takes 6 months it is important to remind women in that age group to take advantage of the offer of the free vaccine as soon as possible.

### TGA UPDATE ON HPV VACCINE (Gardasil®)

The TGA has recently updated their information sheet on the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (Gardasil®). It can be found online at [www.tga.gov.au/alerts/medicines/gardasil.htm](http://www.tga.gov.au/alerts/medicines/gardasil.htm).

Source: AGPN Finer Point

## PROFILE

**Palee Kaur**

**Practice Nurse and  
Immunisation Program  
Officer**

**Fremantle GP Network  
9319 0555**



**How long have you worked at Fremantle GP Network?**  
Three months.

**What is your role at Fremantle GP Network?**  
Practice nurse and Immunisation Program Officer

**What is your next planned project at Fremantle GP Network?**  
A structured, practical immunisation education model for practice nurses.

**Where would you *like* to go on your next holiday?**  
India or Africa.

**Where are you *actually* going on your next holiday?**  
Singapore.

**What/who is your favourite?**

<b>Car</b>	<b>Volkswagen Bora</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>L.M. Montgomery</b>
<b>Shop</b>	<b>Bookstores</b>
<b>Drink</b>	<b>Vodka sunrise</b>

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

**3 people** John Travolta, my sister and John Travolta (just making sure!!)

**2 foods** Wine (grape's a food isn't it?) and beautiful cheeses

**2 books** "Pride and prejudice" and "Q&A".

**Thank You Palee.**

**Who will be featured in the next issue?**

To nominate someone from your Practice please contact Suzanne Badham or Palee Kaur on 9319 0555 or email [sueb@fremantlegpnetwork.com.au](mailto:sueb@fremantlegpnetwork.com.au). OR [paleek@fremantlegpnetwork.com.au](mailto:paleek@fremantlegpnetwork.com.au)

## FGPN EDUCATION EVENTS FOR 2008

**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

## ASTHMA FOUNDATION COURSES

2008 Asthma Foundation of WA training courses

Asthma Educators course: \$600

- Four day course
  - Update asthma knowledge and gain skills to plan, develop and implement asthma education programs
- ⇒ Available dates:
- ⇒ 31<sup>st</sup> March-3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008
  - ⇒ 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> June 2008
  - ⇒ 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> August 2008
  - ⇒ 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008

Asthma seminar for health professional: \$99

- One full day seminar
  - To increase awareness of current asthma management in various settings
- ⇒ Available dates:
- ⇒ 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008
  - ⇒ 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008
  - ⇒ 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008
  - ⇒ 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008

**To register, contact the project support officer on 9289 3602. For help with queries contact Asthma Foundation Training Officer on 9289 3649**

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