



Fremantle
GP Network

Weekly News

Thursday 29th April 2010

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 9319 0555

FGPN Counselling Service – A patient initiated service

A reminder to all GPs that this is a patient initiated service. We have received an increased number of referrals during March and April however many of these clients are yet to ring to make an appointment. For all recent and future referrals, please remind clients that they must ring to make the first appointment.

This information should also be given to the client at the time of the referral, in the form of the patient Service Information Sheet which is included in your GP Referral Kit and can also be photocopied. Please contact Julie Skevington or Isabella Underwood at FGPN if you would like more Service Information Sheets or a new GP Referral Kit. You will be notified in writing if your client has not contacted the service within a month of FGPN receiving the referral.

Australian Technical Advisory Group On Immunisation

Provides updated advice on flu vaccine use for children less than 10 years of age.

The document provides the latest recommendations on the required doses of the flu vaccine. Please note:

Influenza vaccine dosage

- Two doses of the seasonal influenza vaccine at least 28 days (1 month) apart are recommended for children aged <10 years who receive influenza vaccine for the first time. If a child ≥6 months to <10 years of age receiving the seasonal influenza vaccine for the first time does not receive the second dose in the same year, two doses are needed the following year.
- The 2010 seasonal influenza vaccine contains three strains: the influenza A pandemic (H1N1) strain; an influenza A (H3N2) strain; and an influenza B strain.

Pandemic influenza dosage

- Irrespective of the number of doses of pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine received, two doses of the seasonal influenza vaccine are required to achieve an adequate immune response to the influenza A (H3N2) strain and the influenza B component of the seasonal trivalent influenza vaccine unless ≥2 valid doses of seasonal vaccine have been received in previous years. Note: doses are considered to be “valid” if they are separated by ≥28 days.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/national-vaccination-program#atagi>

Community Prescribing of Opioid Pharmacotherapy (CPOP) Training

Saturday 29 May 2010

9.30 am – 4.00 pm

Next Step Drug & Alcohol Services, East Perth

General Practitioners who successfully complete this training can prescribe methadone and buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid dependence, offering greater treatment options for patients who may develop therapeutic dependence on opioid pain medication, such as oxycontin, or dependence on illicit drugs, like heroin. Please see attached flyer for more information.

Faxback Upcoming Events

Practice Nurse Kidney Health Event Change in Date

Please note that the date for the practice nurse kidney health event has been changed from the 5th May 2010 to 25th May 2010. This is to avoid clashing with the other events on the 5th.

Tuesday, 25th May 2010

6pm registration and refreshments,

6.30pm session begins

Fremantle GP Network

Training Room, 10, Silas Street, East Fremantle

YES, I would like to attend

Please place practice stamp or name here
for any of the above

**A reminder of your meeting attendance will
be made 1 week prior to the event.**

How would you like this reminder?

- Via email* _____
- Via SMS* _____
- Reminder not required

Finding Evidence, Recognising Hype : GP Workshop

**(Limited places available only five
places remaining – be quick!)**

Tuesday 11 May 2010

7.00-8.30 pm (supper from 6.30 pm)

Be better equipped to make choices about new medicines

This interactive small group meeting, facilitated by Deirdre Criddle our National Prescribing Service Consultant Pharmacist, will provide you with a valuable opportunity to discuss your information needs around new drugs, including how to access independent information to support evidence-based decision-making. Participation in the program will include identifying questions to ask about new drugs when prescribing one for the first time, exploring the potential limitations of commercial sources of information when making treatment decisions, identifying independent evidence-based sources of information and incorporating them into your approach to prescribing new drugs.

Please complete and return the attached flyer, as soon as possible. But be quick, there are only five places remaining!

Community Prescribing of Opioid Pharmacotherapy Training

The Community Program for Opioid Pharmacotherapy (CPOP)

The Community Program for Opioid Pharmacotherapy (CPOP) increases the availability of treatment for people dependent on heroin and other opioids (such as morphine and other prescribed painkillers) in the community. Involvement of GPs and pharmacies in CPOP is voluntary which means treatment is not available in all areas and there are often waiting times to access treatment.

CPOP is coordinated through the Community Clinical Program (CCP) of Next Step Drug and Alcohol Services which provides training and support for:

- Medical practitioners (usually GPs) authorised to prescribe methadone and buprenorphine in WA
- Community pharmacists dispensing methadone and buprenorphine in WA
- Medical practice and pharmacy staff working in services that are involved in the program.

CPOP Training

CPOP training enables medical practitioners to appropriately assess opioid dependence, safely prescribe methadone and buprenorphine, and comply with CPOP policies and procedures.

Upon successful completion of the training program medical practitioners can obtain authority from the Department of Health allowing the prescription of methadone and buprenorphine to suitable patients. Individual prescribers decide the nature and extent of referrals accepted or can elect to only prescribe to suitable existing patients.

The benefits of becoming a CPOP Prescriber

Participation in CPOP allows GPs greater options to manage patients who are dependent on opioids (both illicit and prescribed) in a primary health care setting.

CPOP prescribers are supported by the Community Clinical Program and have access to direct clinical support from specialists experienced in the range of drug and alcohol treatment issues. CPOP Prescribers also have access to special educational events and resources focussed on the treatment of opioid dependence.

Training Dates

The next scheduled CPOP training program is:

- **Saturday May 29th, 2010**
- **Next Step Drug & Alcohol Services
32 Moore Street, East Perth**
- **9.30am to 4.00pm**

Training is provided free of charge. A light lunch will be provided and parking is available on-site. General Practitioners are eligible for Continuing Medical Education credits from the RACGP and ACRRM.

Payments are available to reimburse rural GPs to cover the costs of travel and accommodation from rural and remote areas.

Training Outline

CPOP training covers:

- Assessment of drug use, with a focus on opioid dependence, and treatment options
- Treatment planning and induction onto pharmacotherapies
- Management of co-existing conditions
- CPOP policies and procedures

Following CPOP training, prescribers are mentored by Next Step consultants for the induction of their initial patients receiving opioid pharmacotherapies. Community Clinical Program staff are also available to assist with patient issues.

Bookings

Please contact Craig Carmichael - Coordinator of Community Provider Support to register your booking, to discuss any aspects of the CPOP training program, or arrange alternative training programs in your area.

Phone: (08) 9219 1896 or

Email: craig.carmichael@health.wa.gov.au



Finding Evidence – Recognising Hype Workshop

Tuesday 11 May 2010

7.00 pm – 8.30 pm (supper from 6.30 pm)

Venue : Training Room, Fremantle GP Network, 10 Silas Street, East Fremantle

Facilitated by Ms Deirdre Criddle, NPS Facilitator

This interactive workshop provides a valuable opportunity to discuss your information needs around new drugs, including how to access independent information to support evidence-based decision-making. The program is designed to stimulate the exchange of ideas about prescribing practice.

Participation in the program includes:

- ☆ Identifying questions to ask about new drugs when deciding whether to prescribe one for the first time
- ☆ Exploring the potential limitations of commercial sources of information about new drugs when making treatment decisions
- ☆ Identifying independent, evidence-based sources of information and incorporating them into your approach to prescribing new drugs

What's in it for me?

- ✓ An opportunity to improve your ability to access independent sources of information to make informed, evidence-based decisions about new drugs
- ✓ Group interaction — the program has been designed to stimulate exchange of ideas about prescribing practice
- ✓ Relevant discussions and access to handy guides to support independent, evidence-based decision making
- ✓ Eligible for RACGP QA&CPD points and PSA points

Please enrol me in the *Finding Evidence - Recognising Hype* workshop on Tuesday 11 May 2010:

Name: _____

Practice: _____

Preferred phone no: _____

Email: _____

Special dietary requirements: _____

Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment!

Fax to Lorna Hurst on **9339 8355**, email lorna.hurst@fremantlegpnetwork.com.au

or call **9319 0555**