

Gippsland Medicare Local - Latest News

General practice will continue its major role in the delivery of primary care, according to experts and those who have already been involved in the roll out of the Medicare Local system.

A number of Representatives from the Gippsland Medicare Local Formation Committee had the opportunity in mid November to attend the Australian General Practice Network National Forum, where the theme was Medicare Locals.

Nicola Roxon, the Minister for Health and Ageing, addressed the forum and commended the Divisions of General Practice as playing an integral role in providing a systematic way for GPs to participate in planning at a local, regional and national level.

With the Gippsland Medicare Local now approved and set to begin in July 2012, it should be regarded as the 'polyfiller' of the Gippsland health system; finding and filling the service gaps without disturbing the solid planks of service delivery that already exist. 'The role for the Medicare Local will be to link different primary care services, and the acute and aged care sectors, identify service gaps initially focusing on after hours care then mental health and aged care' said Nicola Roxon.

In large regions like Gippsland, there is a general agreement on what is required but no single body has been tasked with acting on those needs – until now. Once the principles of what are required are established, the Medicare Local will have the resources and opportunities to put those principles into practical strategies.

Another key speaker, Mr David Butt, Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Ageing expressed a view that continuity of service, especially general practice support, is the priority. He informed the forum that Medicare Local implementation was instructive: in the first one to two years, focus on establishing the structure and system for primary care engagement; in years two, three and four build capacity working closely with the Local Hospital Networks; and in five years and beyond apply for new funding to implement new models of care.

Facilitator for much of the AGPN Forum was Dr Norman Swan, from the Health Report on ABC Radio National. His summary was based around the fact that all primary care starts as a relationship with "one". Therefore planning by the Medicare Local needed to start with the interaction between one person and one GP. He posed the question, what difference will the Medicare Local make to the interaction when that one person sees the GP? GP engagement is based on this.

PIP Indigenous Health Incentive Registered Practices

It has been identified that some patients are having difficulty locating PIP Indigenous Health Incentive registered practices when they are away from their regular practice area.

As a result, Medicare Australia are developing a register of PIP Indigenous Health Incentive registered practices. The register will include the name, phone number and location of the practice. This register will only disclose basic practice contact details to assist patients locating a practice they can visit to receive treatment and Closing the Gap annotated scripts. This is an opt-in register.

The list of PIP IHI registered practices will not be published for public use. Practices can have their name removed from the practice register at any time.

Update on Telehealth

GPs are encouraged to take advantage of telehealth by implementing the appropriate system to allow patients to consult with specialists via videoconference.

Benefits of telehealth:

- **\$6,000 incentive payment per GP until June 2012**
- Increased consultation fees
- Existing internet connection and equipment appropriate for many consultations
- No sign up process

The RACGP has developed telehealth resources to assist general practices with implementing and managing video consultations. Click [here](#) to find factsheets on implementation guidelines, patient information, video consultation etiquette and post video consultation patient evaluation tools.

The Gippsland Black Pages

Close the Gap Black Pages Launch

The Division supports the Commonwealth Government's 'Closing the Gap' initiatives directed at addressing the inequalities in health status between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians and focuses on improving Aboriginal access to mainstream primary healthcare services.

GPs, practice nurses and other health service providers have identified that they have difficulty in identifying culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders people.

The Division has recognised this is a significant barrier for providing effective chronic disease management for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Community. **On the 12 December 2011 the Division will officially launch The Gippsland Black Pages.**

The Gippsland black pages aims to provide information about the Aboriginal specific services across the Baw Baw Shire, Latrobe City and Wellington Shire catchments. It will serve as a reference point for GPs and practice nurses to assist with facilitating culturally appropriate referrals.

Over the coming weeks Practice Support Coordinators will deliver a hard copy to each practice. If further copies are required please contact the Indigenous Outreach Worker at the Division or alternatively an electronically copy will be made available for download via our website www.cwgdogp.com.au

Gambler's Help Gippsland

Gambler's Help Gippsland have released their December newsletter in preparation for a potentially difficult time of year for patients and families.

The issue includes:

- A case study
- Christmas budgeting tips
- New program for support for local government on gaming policy
- A warning about online casinos
- The Dealing with Christmas flyer

[You can find the complete newsletter here](#)

NPS RADAR December 2011

**NPS Rational Assessment of Drugs and Research
December 2011 Issue**
[Available to read online here](#)

Education and Training

Professional Development Day for Practice Managers

The Australian Association of Practice Managers Inc invites all Practice Managers and Staff to attend their professional development day.

Date: Wednesday 14 December 2011

Venue: Novotel Glen Waverley

Cost: \$70 non members \$40 members

[Click here for details and registration](#)

Rural Matters Gippsland Acute Care Symposium

A one day conference looking at the management of acutely ill patients in a rural setting. Topics include:

- Toxicology (Envenomation)
- Deteriorating patient
- Massive haemorrhage
- Paediatric emergency
- Obstetric emergency

Date: Friday 9 December 2011

Venue: Monash University Churchill

Cost: \$100

Contact: Wendy Wilson 5173 8007

[Click here for details and registration](#)

Accredited through RACGP QI & CPD program for 13 Category 2 points and 1 day Emergency Medicine Grant, ACRRM accreditation pending

Cultural Awareness Training

Attending this 3 hour session will enable those practices already registered for the **Indigenous Health Practice Incentive Program (IH PIP)** to meet the minimum standards of training required.

One doctor and one other staff member must attend for your practice to stay eligible.

Date: Wednesday 14 December 2011 10.00am—1.30pm

Venue: Division Training Room 16 Kirk Street Moe

Cost: Free—morning tea provided

[Click here for details and registration](#)

For further information or to register please contact Paula 5126 2899 or email ppearce@cwgdogp.com.au

