



General Practice Resource Newsletter

February 2020

Welcome to the General Practice Resources produced once a month to keep you and your practice up-to-date with the latest information from government, associations in the Primary Health Space.

The following includes information on:

- Infectious Disease Alerts
- General Information
- Immunisations
- Webinars

What's On This Month

1 Feb – 29 Feb	Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month	https://ovariancancer.net.au/
1 Feb – 29 Feb	Feb Fast	https://febfast.org.au/
1 Feb – 29 Feb	Feb Unplugged	https://www.heartkids.org.au/
14 Feb	Wear Red Day	https://www.heartresearch.com.au/wrd/
18 Feb	International Asperger's Day	https://asperger.asn.au/
26 Feb	Teal Ribbon Day	https://ovariancancer.net.au/trd2020/

Infectious Disease Alerts

[NSW Health Infectious Disease Alerts](#)

[RACGP Emergency Planning and Response Factsheets](#)

❖ Novel Coronavirus

2019 n-CoV is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. The novel coronavirus is closely related to SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) coronavirus and in the same family as MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) coronavirus.

The novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) can be spread from person to person most likely by coughing or contact with respiratory secretions.

- [Access the latest information here](#)
- [Updated advice for GPs](#)
- [Information for Clinicians and EDs](#)
- [Information for Primary & Community Health Workers](#)
- [Coronavirus ED Poster](#)
- [NSW Health Novel Coronavirus facts & updates](#)

P2 Mask Information

- [Patient Alert](#)
- [Putting on a Mask](#)
- [Removing a Mask](#)

Coronavirus Health Information Line: 1800 020 080

❖ Measles

Six Measles cases have presented since New Year's Eve, with all infections likely to have been acquired in Sydney. Most cases were in young adults, between 20 and 34 years of age, some had been vaccinated and none were known contacts of recent cases.

- [Measles Alert GP information](#)
- [Measles Alert ED information](#)
- [NSW Health Measles Resources & Information](#)

Details on the NCIRS Measles Webinar can be found below.

GENERAL INFORMATION

❖ Practical & Emotional Support for Bushfire Affected Communities.

The *Life in Mind* team at *Everymind* has worked with the suicide prevention and mental health sectors, and in collaboration with the National Mental Health Commission, to provide a comprehensive list of resources to support bushfire affected communities and the general public.

[Find General Information, Trauma Support and Infographic information here.](#)

❖ NSW Government IVF Affordability Package

The NSW Government announced late last year, a \$42 million package to improve affordability and access to IVF services across NSW. The package expands access to lower-cost IVF treatment, assists with out-of-pocket medical expenses and gives hope to young cancer survivors wanting to start a family in the future.

IVF treatment can be expensive and challenging. Prior to IVF commencing, testing is required to ascertain suitability for IVF treatment. From 1 January this year, a woman with a fertility issue can apply for a \$500 rebate for out-of-pocket expenses related to pre-IVF fertility testing, available through [Service NSW](#). Fertility issues are defined as: under 35 years, having not conceived in 12 months or longer; or over 35 years, having not conceived in 6 months or longer.

GPs play a vital role as they are often the first point of contact for people commencing their fertility journey, including to order initial testing. GPs are encouraged to refer patients who would benefit from the rebate to the following fertility specialists; to endorse eligibility for the rebate: Specialist Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecological Ultrasound, Specialist in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Specialist Urologist and Specialist Endocrinologist.

- [Access the Lower Cost IVF details here.](#)
- [Access the Fertility Preservation details here](#)
- [Access the IVF Rebate details here](#)
- [Access Affordable IVF FAQ's here](#)
- [Access the Affordable IVF Poster here](#)
- [Access the Service NSW Pre-IVF Fertility Testing Rebate Information and Application page here](#)

❖ **Communication After Trauma – eLearning**

Practice Coach is inviting Medical Practices to elevate their compassionate communication with the Communication After Trauma e-Learning modules. The modules are offered free of charge.

Learning Objectives:

- Build confidence when working with patients who have experienced trauma
- Understand the impact of trauma on the brain
- Examples of what to say and do to help communicate support for your patients
- Improve support for your community

[More information of the Communication After Trauma e-Learning Course is available here.](#)

❖ **Palliative Care Training**

The Australian College of Rural & Remote Medicine’s “Palliative Care – A Doctor’s Bag” Course aims to ensure participants are prepared and equipped to provide best practice palliative care management for patients in their place of choice. It is a redeveloped version of the course, developed in collaboration with the Brisbane South Palliative Care Collaborative.

[More information is available here.](#)

❖ **Three Rivers UDRH Telehealth Training & Rural Clinical Placements**

Telehealth is recognised as a growing adjunct to health service delivery, especially in rural areas. It is expected that all health professionals, and students graduating from health courses, should be familiar with the opportunities and challenges of telehealth services

[Three Rivers UDRH’s free online course](#) is designed to facilitate learning and understanding about telehealth services so that students and clinicians can begin to include it in their provision of healthcare and learn more about best practice in telehealth service delivery.

[The Rural Clinical Placements course](#) is focused on growing participants’ capacity as clinical supervisors to enhance learning experiences for students, with the intention they those students will return to practice rurally

[Telehealth Training Information and Enquiries are available here.](#)

[Rural Clinical Placements Course Information and Enquiries are available here.](#)

❖ **Breastscreen NSW Infographic for GP Waiting Rooms**

Breastscreen NSW has developed a new infographic video to raise awareness on Breast Cancer, the latest Australian figures and screenings.

Breastscreen NSW is hoping to have the short video hosted in as many GP and Medical Centre waiting rooms as possible.

[The Breastscreen NSW Infographic can be found here.](#)

IMMUNISATIONS

❖ **SAVE THE DATE: Nurse Immunisation Conference**

- Orange on Wednesday 6th May
- Dubbo on Thursday 7th May

❖ **Vaccine storage over summer:**

- Keep vaccine supplies to a minimum, you can order twice a month.
- Ensure your min/max thermometer and data logger are working correctly and activated – contact Michelle Droulers for support with battery change and testing
- In case of power failure, it may be more beneficial to leave vaccines in the fridge, (cover door, door taped closed).
- Download data logger and store recordings each week. Cold chain resources: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/cold-chain-management.aspx>
- Guidelines do recommend back up storage be available, however if vaccines are moved to an alternative facility, continuous data logging must be undertaken. Quarantine and call PHU
- Cold chain Management free online learning module (open for all Practice Staff): https://nswhealth.seertechsolutions.com.au/public_content/HETICP/HETI/CCMWebv3/story_html_5.html

❖ **Measles:**

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/measles/Pages/default.aspx>

NCIRS has a comprehensive and easy to read guide *Measles vaccination catch-up guide for Australian immunisation providers* (copy attached) .

Who should be immunised?

- Individuals born since 1966 who do not previously have two documented doses at least 1 month apart (check for contraindications).
- Infants from 6 months of age if they are travelling overseas - will need to be repeated at 12 & 18 months of age.
- It is safe to have another measles vaccine if not sure of previous doses, especially if travelling overseas. Measles vaccine is funded in NSW. Do not provide a script - use the vaccine in your fridge—remember MMRV vaccine is not recommended for people over 14 years of age and over, MMR should be used.

RACGP *Emergency planning and response in general practice* – Fact sheet and checklist: [Measles](#)

WEBINARS

Name	Date	About	Link	Cost
NCIRS Measles: a local, regional and global perspective	Tuesday February 18, 12pm-1pm (AEST)	Information and updates on the situation globally, clinical and health system impacts involved, the latest vaccination recommendations, how to protect our community and learning from regional and global experiences.	https://bit.ly/370gY86	Free

Resources

Please click on this link to our website to view all the latest information relating to General Practice:

<https://www.wnswphn.org.au/support/GP-Resources-Newsletter>