



# General Practice Resource Newsletter

## October 2020

Welcome to the General Practice Resources, keeping you and your practice up to date with the latest information from government, associations in the Primary Health Space.

The following includes information on:

- [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [General Information](#)
- [Webinars](#)
- [Reminders](#)
- [Resources](#)

## The Month Ahead:

1 Oct – 31 Oct	Mental Health Month	<a href="#">Mental Health Australia</a>
1 Oct – 31 Oct	Polio Awareness Month	<a href="#">Polio NSW</a>
1 Oct – 31 Oct	Breast Cancer Awareness Month	<a href="#">BreastScreen NSW</a>
1 Oct – 7 Oct	Borderline Personality Disorder Awareness Week	<a href="#">BPD Awareness</a>
6 Oct	World Cerebral Palsy Day	<a href="#">World CP Day</a>
8 Oct	World Sight Day	<a href="#">Vision 2020 Australia</a>
10 Oct	World Mental Health Day	<a href="#">Mental Health Australia</a>
20 Oct	World Osteoporosis Day	<a href="#">World Osteoporosis Day</a>
28 Oct	Blue Knot Day	<a href="#">Blue Knot Foundation</a>

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

On February 27, the Prime Minister escalated the Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for COVID-19.

The WNSW PHN Website is updated daily with the latest information, including Information Lines, Self-Quarantine Guidelines, Patient Care and printable resources for GP's and ED's, as well as links to the Department of Health, NSW Health, RACGP, WHO and more.

<https://www.wnswphn.org.au/coronavirus>

## ➤ **COVID-19 Temporary MBS Telehealth Services Fact Sheets**

Following the announcement that temporary MBS Telehealth items have been extended until the end of March 2021, the Commonwealth Department of Health has released a comprehensive set of Fact Sheets, including for GPs, Specialists, Mental Health, Obstetrics and Midwifery, Allied Health and other services.

[Access the COVID-19 Temporary MBS Telehealth Services Fact Sheets Here](#)

## ➤ **Changes to Telehealth Bulk Billing Arrangements from October 1 2020**

From the 1st October 2020, amendments to telehealth and phone consultation bulk billing arrangements include the removal of the requirement to bulk-bill attendances for certain patients and an end to the temporary doubling of the schedule fees for bulk-billing incentive items. The schedule fees (\$12.95 in metro and \$19.60 in rural locations) will revert to the normal rate (\$6.50 or \$9.80 respectively) with GPs able to charge their usual fees for the items.

[Access the Telehealth Bulk Billing Arrangements Information here](#)

[Access the MBS Quick Guide here](#)

[Access the Telehealth Guide here](#)

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### ➤ **ACSQHC Announces Resumption of Accreditation Assessments for General Practices**

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has announced the resumption of onsite assessments from 26 October 2020 for practices under the National General Practice Accreditation (NGPA) Scheme.

The resumption of onsite assessments is for practices that present a low COVID-19 risk, therefore only onsite low risk assessments will be conducted. This excludes the assessment of practices in areas where there are active COVID-19 clusters or state or territory restrictions or lockdowns.

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care will work with accrediting agencies, using information from public health orders and advice from State and Territory health departments to determine exclusion zones.

Practices will receive 12 months benefits of accreditation from their expiry date. QPA will be in contact with practices to commence the planning of onsite assessments.

[FAQ's on GP Accreditations are available via the ASCQHC Website](#)

## ➤ Synergia Improvements (Primary Health Information Platform)

The Synergia platform that is used for QI has been re-named to Primary Health Information. The Primary Health Information platform (formerly known as Synergia) has had a complete overhaul and Improvements after listening to practices.

If you would like to register new or existing staff to have access to Primary Health Information platform, please find attached the current data privacy form to be completed and sent back to your Practice Support Officer.

WNSW PHN is hosting two training sessions, one for Practice Managers and one for GPs, to look at the platform in depth.

[The events are the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October and can be found on the WNSW PHN Events Page.](#)

[Access the October 27<sup>th</sup> Event Flyer here](#)

[Access the October 28<sup>th</sup> Event Flyer here](#)

## ➤ PIP Eligible Data Set Submission

Formerly 'PIP QI exempt' practices are now able to submit the PIP Eligible Data Set using CAT4 and the PHN 'PAT CAT' Portal.

Pen CS is launching a new feature mid-September which will enable these practices in your catchment area to submit the PIP Eligible Data Set, matched to the Department of Health [Technical Specifications](#).

The CAT4 PIP Eligible Data Set JSON file only contains consented, de-identified, aggregated data. It does not include patients who have opted out of de-identified data sharing in the practices' patient management systems.

Pen CS has communicated with practices that they are required to contact their PHN for Data Sharing Agreements, in advance of submitting data.

Share with your PIP QI Exempt practices, the new [PIP Eligible Data Set Submission Booklet](#), available in General Practice Resources Portal.

[Learn More via the PenCS Website](#)

## ➤ Immunisation Sites Resource Update

Developed by Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network and Murrumbidgee Local Health District, the 2020 Recommended Sites for Childhood Vaccinations in NSW Resource is now available through WNSW PHN.

[Download the Recommended Sites for Childhood Vaccinations in NSW Resource here](#)

## ➤ **Heart Health Check Toolkit**

The Heart Foundation has launched a Heart Health Check Toolkit to support GPs, practice nurses and practice managers in their efforts to undertake Heart Health Checks. The toolkit is a one-stop shop for information, tools and resources to help practices implement Heart Health Checks in the simplest and most impactful way possible.

Broad consultation was undertaken with many health professionals in the development of the toolkit. The toolkit will include templates, factsheets, posters, quality improvement activities and much more.

[You can register your interest via the Heart Foundation Website](#)

## ➤ **RACGP Fact Sheet: Responding to Online Reviews**

Online consumer reviews are the new 'word of mouth' for recommending goods and services, allowing users to find and post ratings and comments about medical practitioners. General business review sites such as Google reviews and Yelp are also used by patients to review general practices.

RACGP has developed a Fact Sheet to assist Practices with responding to online reviews.

[Access the RACGP Responding to Online Reviews Fact Sheet here](#)

## ➤ **Avant/AAPM Scholarship Program 2020 Applications Open**

Avant has partnered with the Australian Association of Practice Management (AAPM) to offer five partially funded scholarships up to the value of \$4,000\* to study practice management at University of New England Partnerships.

[Applications are available via the AAPM Website](#)

## ➤ **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an annual international health campaign held every October to increase awareness of breast cancer.

This is a great time to promote the importance of routine breast screening to women aged 50 – 74 years, and reassure the public that BreastScreen NSW clinics and mobile vans are COVID-19 safe.

[Access the BreastScreen NSW Breast Cancer Awareness Month information here](#)

## ➤ **Mental Health Training for Health Professionals**

CRANaplus has recently been funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health to deliver the Mental Health Training for Health Professionals in Drought and Bushfire Affected Areas Project.

The aim of the project is to support health workers and to provide short webinars/zoom sessions to start a conversation regarding their own mental health and wellbeing.

Workshop training content has been developed across the following topics:

- Effects of disaster, long term stress, common reactions and helpful responses.
- Potential for secondary trauma and burnout in health professionals and other carers.
- Resilience and self-care strategies to reduce the potential long-term effect on personal health and wellbeing.
- Increasing confidence with conversation about mental health using basic listening, counselling and communication skills
- In addition to these general topics, workshops are available for specific skills training on a variety of topics

The education is free.

[Access the CRANaplus Mental Health Training Project Summary here](#)

## ➤ **Wellmob Mental Health Resources**

The Western NSW PHN is pleased to share the following information regarding a new website from the Australian Indigenous Health InfoNet.

**Wellmob - Healing Our Way** is a new online digital hub with resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Wellmob brings together online resources made by and designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and their communities. The digital hub includes websites, apps, podcasts, videos, helplines, social media and online programs all with a focus on social and emotional well-being.

[Access the Wellmob – Healing Our Way website here.](#)

## ➤ **Psychological Services in Residential Aged Care Facilities**

Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN) is developing a Regional Service Delivery Model for Psychological Services in RACFs. To combat high rates of residents' common mental illness, and the added stress and anxiety resulting from COVID-19. We are embarking on a short co-design process to develop the Regional Service Delivery Model, and we are eager for you to provide your input.

[Please share your thoughts by completing this short survey](#)

For more information regarding this program, please contact us at [admin@wnswphn.org.au](mailto:admin@wnswphn.org.au)

## ➤ Chronic Disease Management and Prevention Program

Western NSW PHN is currently developing a Chronic Disease Management and Prevention Regional Service Delivery Model to guide the provision of services for high needs people with two or more chronic diseases, and for the prevention of chronic disease for people at high risk, aged 15 years and over.

Chronic diseases are conditions that require ongoing medical attention, and they are often the result of a complex mix of factors. Chronic diseases include conditions such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, arthritis, asthma, diabetes, cancer, and lung and respiratory conditions.

We are embarking on a short co-design process to develop the Regional Service Delivery Model, and we are eager for you to provide your input.

[Please share your thoughts by completing this short survey](#)

For further information regarding this program, please contact us at [admin@wnswphn.org.au](mailto:admin@wnswphn.org.au)

## WEBINARS

Name	Date	About	Link	Cost
Exercise is Medicine	Wednesday October 14 at 7pm	Exercise is the best, cheapest, most accessible medicine available and in order to improve chronic disease mortality rates, people need to move more. Each patient encounter is an opportunity for you to make a difference, and brief interventions in primary care settings are an effective way of increasing physical activity among adults. This two-part webinar will detail the role of physical activity in the prevention and management of chronic disease by treating physical activity as a vital sign.	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free
Understanding Resilience in your System	Thursday October 15 at 12pm	Understanding resilience in your system.  Using the iceberg model to understand system change and talking through cycles of change.  30 mins presentation, followed by Q & A session & discussion.	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free

Name	Date	About	Link	Cost
Exercise is Medicine	Wednesday October 21 at 7pm	Exercise is the best, cheapest, most accessible medicine available and in order to improve chronic disease mortality rates, people need to move more. Each patient encounter is an opportunity for you to make a difference, and brief interventions in primary care settings are an effective way of increasing physical activity among adults. This two-part webinar will detail the role of physical activity in the prevention and management of chronic disease by treating physical activity as a vital sign.	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free
Introduction to the Primary Health Information Platform - For Practice Managers & Staff	Tuesday October 27 1pm	This information session will provide an update on the changes to the Primary Health Reporting Dashboard for Practice Managers and Practice Staff. It will include a practical demonstration of the Primary Health Information Platform and explains how the platform relates to the PIP QI and clinical management of patients, with a population perspective.	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free
Introduction to the Primary Health Information Platform – For GPs and GP Registrars	Wednesday October 28 1pm	This information session will provide an update on the changes to the Primary Health Reporting Dashboard for GPs and GP Registrars. It will include a practical demonstration of the Primary Health Information Platform and explains how the platform relates to the PIP QI and clinical management of patients, with a population perspective.	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free
Designing Resilient Futures	Thursday October 29 12pm	To explore resilience concepts and equip participants with tools to help them think about and approach complex issues we all face in our communities.  Designing Resilient Futures - Discussing resilience design principles and implementing them.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>	Free
3rd Australian Consensus Conference on the Prevention of Osteoporotic Fractures in Residential Aged Care Facilities	Friday October 30 9am-1pm	The aim of this important meeting is to update current guidelines on The Prevention of Osteoporotic Fractures in RACFs.  As in the first and second conferences, a group of health professionals with experience in the field of Aged Care will meet with experts in the field of osteoporosis to discuss several aspects of the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis in residential aged care facilities (RACFs).	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free

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## REMINDERS

### ➤ QI PIP

WNSW PHN looks forward to seeing Practices during the current August-October PIP Quarter to continue working on your Quality Improvement. You can contact us anytime for QI support. For inspiration head to <https://help.pencs.com.au/display/CR> for Pen Cat recipes.

## RESOURCES

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

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