



# General Practice Resource Newsletter

## August 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](#)

## The Month Ahead:

1 Sep – 30 Sep	Childhood Cancer Awareness Month	<a href="http://www.thekidscancerproject.org.au">www.thekidscancerproject.org.au</a>
1 Sep – 30 Sep	Dementia Awareness Month	<a href="http://www.dementia.org.au">www.dementia.org.au</a>
1 Sep – 30 Sep	Liptember	<a href="http://www.liptember.com.au">www.liptember.com.au</a>
1 Sep – 30 Sep	Steptember	<a href="http://www.steptember.org.au">www.steptember.org.au</a>
1 Sep – 7 Sep	National Stroke Week	<a href="http://strokefoundation.org.au">strokefoundation.org.au</a>
1 Sep – 7 Sep	Asthma Week	<a href="http://asthma.org.au">asthma.org.au</a>
10 Sep	R U OK Day	<a href="http://ruok.org.au">ruok.org.au</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 at the Workplace

Safe Work Australia has developed an easy-to-follow infographic on keeping workplaces COVID-Safe in scenarios involving confirmed or suspected cases.

[Access the Safe Work Australia Infographic here](#)

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## ❖ **Accruing Paid Sick & Carer's Leave**

On 13 August 2020, the High Court of Australia handed down a decision clarifying how paid personal/carer's leave is accrued and taken under the National Employment Standards (NES).

In the decision of Mondelez Australia Pty Ltd v AMWU & Ors [2020] HCA 29, the High Court clarified that: the entitlement to 10 days of personal/carer's leave under the NES is calculated based on an employee's ordinary hours of work, not working days

10 days of personal/carer's leave is calculated as 1/26 of an employee's ordinary hours of work in a year.

The High Court's decision overturns a decision made by the Full Federal Court of Australia in August 2019. In that decision, the Full Federal Court held that personal/carer's leave accrues in working days, not hours.

### - **Updated Tools & Information**

[Updated Leave Calculator](#)

[Paid Sick & Carer's Leave Information](#)

[Payment for Sick & Carer's Leave Information](#)

[Fair Work Information](#)

[High Court Decision: Accrual of Personal/Carer's Leave](#)

## ❖ **National Minimum Wage Increase**

The Fair Work Commission has announced a 1.75% increase to the National Minimum Wage (NMW) following its 2020 Annual Wage Review.

The increase applies to awards in 3 stages, which start from the first full pay period on or after:

- 1 July 2020
- 1 November 2020
- 1 February 2021.

For anyone not covered by an award or an enterprise agreement, the new national minimum wage will be \$753.80 per week or \$19.84 per hour. This applies from the first full pay period on or after 1 July 2020

[Find My Award](#)

[Find More Information](#)

## ❖ Digital Health: Electronic Prescriptions

The Australian Digital Health Agency has tasked the Western NSW Primary Health Network with assisting prescribers and dispensers of prescription medications with a coordinated roll out of Electronic Prescriptions (eScripts) throughout our region.

We have been informed by the Digital Health Agency that the roll out strategy needs to reflect the pharmacy readiness principle, whereby local pharmacies should be ready to dispense before GPs in the area start issuing electronic prescriptions. This will avoid a situation where a consumer presents at a pharmacy with an electronic prescription and is unable to get their medicine dispensed because the pharmacy is not yet ready.

The Digital Health team is actively working with our local pharmacies to assess their readiness for eScripts, and to aid pharmacies to become ready to accept them.

We will be communicating this information to your practice as soon as it becomes available; and will continue to update you as other local pharmacies come onboard.

Best Practice Software has released the Bp Premier Jade Service Pack 3 update but has suspended access to a utility file that enables ePrescribing functionality. We would recommend that you update to SP3 in preparation for access to the utility when access resumes.

**NOTE: If you're currently on BP Indigo (SP1) or any older version than Jade SP2, you will first need to upgrade to Jade before you can download and install Jade SP3.**

We would also recommend that you ensure that you have the following configurations in place:

1. eRX must be installed and registered for all providers; you can assess this by printing a paper prescription for each provider and ensuring there is a bar code at the base of the prescription.
2. Organisation HPI-O must be recorded in your software
3. Providers' HPI-I, Prescriber number and AHPRA number must be recorded in the "User" settings for each provider.
4. Patient IHI demographics need to be able to be validated.

Where this information is missing, eScripts functionality will not be visible.

[Find more information here](#)

## ❖ NDSS Workshops for Practice Nurses

As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, Practice Nurses can sign NDSS forms using their APHRA Number.

Registration forms, medication change for insulin or non-insulin injectables and blood glucose test strip 6-month approval forms.

If you contact Angela Blair Diabetes NSW/ACT they are organising virtual workshops for practice nurses and pharmacists to educate and build relationships in each region if you would like to be involved.

[Access the FAQs for Practice Nurses here](#)

## ❖ Health Workforce Scholarship Program

The Health Workforce Scholarship Program (HWSP) provides scholarships and bursaries to help health professionals in rural and remote Australia retain and enhance their skills, capacity and scope of practice. The Program is an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Health, administered in New South Wales by NSW Rural Doctors Network (RDN).

The HWSP is available to medical, nursing, midwifery, allied health, dental and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals providing primary health care in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) sector, non-government organisations and private practice. Further information at <https://www.nswrdn.com.au/site/hwsp>

## ❖ WNSW PHN After-Hours Survey

The Western NSW primary Health Network is urging health professionals and members of the community to respond to its After-Hours Survey.

WNSW PHN is hoping to gauge the thoughts and expertise of locals and health professionals to develop optimum models of service delivery that provide access to After-Hours Services for all Western NSW communities for people whose health condition requires treatment outside of regular service delivery hours, while not being reliant upon local emergency departments.

[Access the WNSW PHN After-Hours Survey here](#)

[Access the WNSW PHN After-Hours Survey Flyer](#)

## ❖ Fitness to Drive Medical Assessments Online

Transport for NSW has improved the online Fitness to Drive medical assessment forms, making it easier for GPs and patients to complete the assessment form online.

Around 600,000 Fitness to Drive assessments are completed each year, with numbers increasing. Completing the forms online, rather than on paper, benefits doctors and their patients, and helps Transport for NSW manage this process.

GPs are being encouraged to use the online form.

[Transport for NSW Media Release](#)

# WEBINARS

Name	Date	About	Link	Cost
Australian Digital Health Agency: Improved Quality of Life Within the Aged Care Setting	Wednesday September 2 at 8:30am	Realise the benefits of My Health Record for residents within your facility. Understand your advantage in having accurate and relevant clinical information, to assist in improving quality of life, care coordination and ultimately reduce potential medication misadventures. All healthcare providers and care workers working across primary care and in aged care facilities are welcome to attend this session.	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free
Department of Health: Train the Trainer	Wednesday September 2 at 11am		<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free
Kidney Health Education: Applying Your Knowledge; Case Study Discussions	Wednesday September 2 at 7pm	Presented by Nephrologist, Dr Richard Phoon	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free
WNSW PHN: Top Ten Tips for Keeping Staff & Patients COVID-Safe	Thursday September 3 at 7am	A relaxed resources and idea sharing session to reiterate the basic principles of COVID-19 safety in General Practice.	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free
WNSW PHN: Top Ten Tips for Keeping Staff & Patients COVID-Safe	Thursday September 3 at 1pm	A relaxed resources and idea sharing session to reiterate the basic principles of COVID-19 safety in General Practice.	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free
AAPM: Reception/Admin Workshop	Wednesday September 9 at 9am	The 2020 AAPM Reception/Admin Workshop will feature expert presenters discussing the key topics to help you in your everyday practice and develop your personal and professional skills.  This half day virtual workshop will feature plenary sessions together with an opportunity to network and engage with our partners in a virtual space.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>	\$85 for members \$170 for non-members
Australian Digital Health Agency: Improved Quality of Life Within the Aged Care Setting	Wednesday September 9 at 6:30pm	Realise the benefits of My Health Record for residents within your facility. Understand your advantage in having accurate and relevant clinical information, to assist in improving quality of life, care coordination and ultimately reduce potential medication misadventures. All healthcare providers and care workers working across primary care and in aged care facilities are welcome to attend this session.	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free

Name	Date	About	Link	Cost
APNA: Psychological Distress in Primary Health Care	Wednesday September 16 at 7pm	<p>The World Health Organization defines mental health as 'a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community.</p> <p>With 10.6% of the Australian population receiving Medicare subsidised mental health-specific services in 2018-19, it is imperative that nurses working in primary health care can provide assessment and practical interventions in alignment with their individual scope of practice.</p>	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free
AMGEN: Why Osteoporosis Remains Critical	Thursday September 17 at 7:30pm	Participating in this CPD education will help you identify which of your patients are at risk of fragility fracture, and how to ensure on-going management to reduce debilitating fractures.	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free

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## REMINDERS

### ❖ Accreditation

Keep working through your Accreditation during the COVID-19 Freeze and contact your PSO for further support.

### ❖ 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.wnswphn.org.au/support/GP-Resources-Newsletter>