



# General Practice Resource Newsletter

## February 2021

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 \(COVID-19\) + Telehealth Updates](#)
- [General Information](#)
- [Webinars](#)
- [Reminders](#)
- [Resources](#)

## The Month Ahead:

1 Feb – 28 Feb	Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month	<a href="#">Ovarian Cancer Australia</a>
1 Feb – 28 Feb	Heart Research Month	<a href="#">Heart Research Australia</a>
1 Feb – 28 Feb	FebFast	<a href="#">FebFast</a>
1 Feb – 7 Feb	Tinnitus Awareness Week	<a href="#">Ear Science Community</a>
4 Feb	World Cancer Day	<a href="#">World Cancer Day</a>
7 Feb – 13 Feb	Feeding Tube Awareness Week	<a href="#">ausEE Inc</a>
14 Feb	Sweetheart Day	<a href="#">Heart Kids</a>
14 Feb	Wear Red Day	<a href="#">Heart Research Australia</a>
14 Feb	National Condom Day	<a href="#">Sexual Health Quarters</a>
18 Feb	International Asperger's Day	<a href="#">Live Big</a>
24 Feb	Teal Ribbon Day	<a href="#">Ovarian Cancer Australia</a>
28 Feb	Rare Disease Day	<a href="#">Rare Disease Day</a>

# NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (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>

## ➤ Updated and new MBS Items for COVID-19

[Download the MBS Quick Guide to COVID-19 Items here](#)

[Download the MBS Quick Guide here](#)

## **Expanded Mental Health Support for Aged Care Residents during COVID-19**

Expanded access to the Australian Government's Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and General Practitioners through the Medicare Benefits Schedule initiative to Aged Care Residents was announced in late 2020.

[Download the full Release from The Department of Health here](#)

[Download the New MBS Items for Mental Health Services in RACFs information here](#)

## **New MBS Items for Chronic Disease Management in RACFs**

Patients in residential aged care facilities can now access Medicare benefits for chronic disease management services.

[Download the New MBS Items for Chronic Disease Management in RACFs information here](#)

## ➤ Medicare Clarifies "Existing Relationship" rule for GP Telehealth

Medicare has confirmed any patient in mandatory isolation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic does not have to see their regular GP to claim a telehealth rebate.

The federal health department has issued new guidance on when GPs can claim telehealth items for patients with whom they don't have an "existing relationship".

[Download the ASKMBS ADVISORY Existing Relationship clarification here](#)

[Download the WNSW PHN "Existing Relationship Rule" Quick Guide here](#)

## ➤ COVID-19 Safety Plans and COVID-Safe Registration

Having a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place will help minimise risk of transmission of COVID-19 on your premises.

You can either:

- use the provided COVID-19 Safety Plan to address the checklist of matters for general practice and other primary health service providers
- keep using your existing plan, if you have one, after making sure it includes all the items in the provided COVID-19 Safety Plan.

[Access the COVID-19 Safety Plan Information from NSW Government here](#)

### QR Codes

The NSW Chief Health Officer team and the Public Health orders mandate the Service NSW QR code for hospitality and hair dressing businesses.

It is not mandated, but strongly encouraged for all other businesses, including GP clinics/practices, particularly if they are not currently recording all visitors, including those accompanying patients to appointments electronically.

Practices are reminded that patient triaging should be occurring prior to the patient arriving at the clinic/practice, to use telehealth where possible, while social distancing and the use of hand sanitiser are imperative.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### ➤ PAT CAT 2021 Update

The latest version of PAT CAT has been released. Practices are requested to schedule the PAT CAT update in their PAT CAT window if not already complete.

The latest update includes error resolution in the MBS Item Count report where the category “GP-MHTP Consult” was reporting a lower than expected count due to a data discrepancy error in the extract file. Once updated, a report recalculation is required to apply the correction with the MBS Item Count report.

Please be advised that *Report Recalculation* is required for the **MBS Item Count** report in PAT CAT for the months of May 2020 until Jan 2021 inclusive. This report can be scheduled under PAT CAT / Support / Settings / Data Management / Report Recalculate.

[Download the PenCS PAT CAT Product Release Notes here](#)

[Further information about the latest PAT CAT update can be accessed here](#)

## ➤ **ePrescribing – eRx Script Exchange**

It is essential that each GP is registered with eRX to facilitate electronic prescribing and practice managers can assess this by looking at a printed script for the GP.

eRX registration for GP's is location specific, so a locum must register for the relevant practice address (or multiple addresses) before they are able to prescribe electronically.

Medical Director requires the practice to be registered with MD Exchange and for the eRX Identity ID to be entered into the user profile. Electronic prescribing is turned on by default.

[Access the eRx GP Registration Page here](#)

[Download the ePrescribing in BP Premier information guide here](#)

## ➤ **NDIS Partners in the Community Quick Guide for WNSW PHN Region**

NDIS Partners in the Community are community-based organisations that work with the NDIA to deliver the NDIS.

Partners provide Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) and Local Area Coordination (LAC) services.

[Download the WNSW PHN NDIS Partners in the Community Quick Contact Guide here](#)

## ➤ **Health Workforce Scholarship Program**

You may be eligible for Health Workforce Scholarship Program (HWSP) funding for online Chronic Disease Management training in your practice. This can be delivered individually or to the entire clinical team.

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. It 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.

The HWSP is an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Health, administered in NSW by NSW Rural Doctors Network

[Access more information on the Health Workforce Scholarship Program through NSW RDN here](#)

## ➤ **Chronic Disease Management in 2021 – CDM Plus**

CDM Plus is offering a range of training sessions throughout 2021.

- Providing an Introduction to Chronic Disease Management, Prevention and Early Detection activities, Medicare (CDM Item Numbers, MBS Billing Combinations and New CDM Item Numbers), Care Planning, Health Assessments and Case Studies.
- Chronic Disease Management Tools and Templates: risk factors and screening tools for identifying Chronic Disease, Templates for Chronic Disease Management (Care Planning, Reviews & Health Assessments), auto-fills for progress notes in line with Medicare Requirements.
- Chronic Disease Management Online Modules, Digital and Hard Copy Resources
- Face to Face or Virtual Workshop Ticket

[Access more information on CDM Plus here](#)

## ➤ **New/Updated Referral Templates – Dept Veterans Affairs**

New Referral Forms have issued for the treatment of veterans

[DVA Referral Forms are available under NSW Templates on the WNSW PHN Referral Templates webpage](#)

## ➤ **RFDS SE Extends Outreach Services**

The Royal Flying Doctor Service, South Eastern Section is extending outreach Alcohol and Other Drug Services across NSW from the hubs of Dubbo, Cobar and Broken Hill.

The Program offers training and education opportunities to community and organisations:

- Positive Lifestyle Program
- Respecting the Difference Education
- Community Drug Awareness Training
- Discovery 2 Recovery Program
- GROW Aquaponics Community Project

[Download the RFDS SE Outreach Program Information Flyer here](#)

[Download the RFDS SE Outreach Program Referral Form here](#)

# WEBINARS

Name	Date	About	Link	Cost
Same Care Everywhere? Far From It!	Tuesday, February 2 2021 at 12:30pm	All Australians deserve safe, high-quality health care, so why don't they get the same care everywhere? Learn more about the causes of healthcare variation, how data about healthcare variation can improve health outcomes, and what it means for health service leaders, clinicians, consumers and the health system.	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free
Practice essentials - Improving patient data quality in your practice with CAT Plus	Tuesday, 2nd February 2021 at 1pm	Improving data quality in your practice helps to increase practice efficiency, improve patient care, and can be counted as a quality improvement activity as PIP QI. Join this webinar to learn more.	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free
Skin cancer in a rural setting: A practical guide for diagnosis	Thursday 4 February 2021 at 8pm	This instalment of the Rural Health Webinar Series will explore practical techniques that rural GPs can use to sample skin lesions and make accurate diagnoses. Through a series of case-based discussions of lesions seen in a week of general practice, participants will gain an understanding of the techniques that can be used to sample lesions in a rural practice (including their limitations), as well as which sampling techniques should be used for specific differential diagnoses.	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free
2021 Telehealth Summit for Mental Health and Allied Health professionals	February 6 & 7 2021	<p>The Digital Health CRC is proud to be supporting the 2021 State of Telehealth Summit, which features practical and informative presentations, discussion panels and Q&amp;A sessions from over twenty practitioners, researchers, educators, and thought leaders in telehealth – many of whom come from our CRC partners.</p> <p>The Summit is open to mental health and allied health professionals around Australia. Live sessions will run between 6-7 February, and recordings made available until the end of February (on-demand).</p>	<a href="#">Register here</a>	Free

Name	Date	About	Link	Cost
Stopping the habit: Opioid prescribing in general practice	Tuesday February 9, 2021 at 6pm	Opioid prescribing and harm continue to rise in Australia, but GPs and pain specialists can work together to 'stop the habit'. Find out when to avoid opioids altogether, how to deprescribe opioids, and how to manage difficult conversations with colleagues and consumers.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>	Free
Medicinal Cannabis - Answers to Your Questions	Wednesday February 10 at 6pm	The webinar will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicinal Cannabis: overview and evidence</li> <li>• Eligibility and prescribing process</li> <li>• Patient case studies</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Register Here</a>	Free
How to use CAT4 filters	Thursday, 11th February 2021 at 1pm	Learn how to use CAT4 reports and filters in your general practice.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>	Free
Vanishing variation: Practical tips for doing more of the same	Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 12:30pm	Cathy Balding and Cathy Jones of the No Harm Done podcast see managing unwarranted variation as a change management issue. In this recording of the podcast, they offer practical tips on managing change, and advice on how to make the investigation and management of healthcare variation part of your clinical governance framework.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>	Free
Overview of Cardiovascular Event Risk Report in CAT4	Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 1pm	Learn how to create Cardiovascular Event Risks reports in CAT4 that would be suitable for quality improvement activities related to PIP QI Quality Improvement measures.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>	Free
NSQHS Standards action 1.28: Your roadmap to better care	Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 12:30pm	The NSQHS Standards User Guide for the Review of Clinical Variation in Health Care is your roadmap to identify, investigate and address unwarranted variation. Real case studies will guide you through the six steps to drive change and deliver better care.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>	Free

Name	Date	About	Link	Cost
Cancer pain management in primary care + Asthma and the small airways: treating the entire lung	Tuesday, 23 February 2021 at 1pm	This Live National Webinar is presented by Mundipharma Cancer pain learning outcomes with Dr Erica Cameron-Taylor Asthma and small airways learning outcomes with Prof Bruce Thompson	<a href="#">Register Here</a>	Free
Cancer pain management in primary care + Asthma and the small airways: treating the entire lung	Tuesday, 23 February 2021 at 7pm	This Live National Webinar is presented by Mundipharma Cancer pain learning outcomes with Dr Erica Cameron-Taylor Asthma and small airways learning outcomes with Prof Bruce Thompson	<a href="#">Register Here</a>	Free
Practice Essentials - Topbar Overview	Thursday, 25th February 2021 at 1pm	Learn the basics of Topbar, our clinical decision support tool, and how it can be used to improve practice efficiency in general practice.	<a href="#">Register Here</a>	Free

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## REMINDERS

### ➤ QI PIP

WNSW PHN looks forward to seeing Practices during the current 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>