



General Practice Resource Newsletter

March 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:

- Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- General Information
- Immunisations
- Vaccinations
- Webinars

What's On This Month

1 Mar – 31 Mar	Epilepsy Awareness Month	https://epilepsy.org.au/
1 Mar – 31 Mar	Endometriosis Awareness Month	https://www.marchintoyellow.org.au/
12 Mar	World Kidney Day	https://kidney.org.au/
13 Mar – 20 Mar	Coeliac Awareness Week	https://www.coeliac.org.au/
21 Mar	World Down Syndrome Day	https://www.downsyndrome.org.au/

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, RSCGP, WHO and more.

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

Masks

The Australian Government has announced a new round of supply of Surgical Masks for General Practices. WNSW PHN is distributing the allocation of Masks to General Practices in our region.

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

Coronavirus Health Information Line: 1800 020 080

Public Health Unit & Communicable Diseases Team: [wnswphn.org.au](https://www.wnswphn.org.au)

GENERAL INFORMATION

❖ New Practice Technology and Management Resources from RACGP

- Drugs of Dependence: Responding to Requests Fact Sheet

Drugs of dependence can make a valuable contribution to patient care. However, problematic or risky use of these medicines, along with harmful outcomes, is now more prevalent, and GP's are likely to be exposed to increased requests for prescriptions.

To assist GPs and practice teams, the RACGP has developed the fact sheet [Drugs of dependence: Responding to requests](#), which outlines behaviours suggesting problematic or risky use of these medicines, considerations for responding to requests, available prescription monitoring services and resources and practice wide approaches which may assist in managing requests for drugs of dependence.

- Using Email in General Practice Fact Sheet

Email is one of the most prevalent and convenient forms of communication. GPs and general practices often receive requests from patients, other clinicians and third parties to send health information via email.

As all health information is sensitive by nature, all communication of health information, including via electronic means, must adequately protect the patient's privacy. GPs, patients, and other healthcare providers may not always appreciate the risks associated with using standard unencrypted emails in the healthcare environment.

The RACGP has developed the fact sheet [Using email in general practice](#) to provide information for general practices about using email to communicate health information with patients, health organisations, and third parties, and to support practices to make an informed decision whether to use email at their practice.

Both new resources are available via the [RACGP Website](#).

❖ Change of Details for Strong Minds and NewAccess

Please be advised that Strong Minds and NewAccess have had a change of Fax Number.

Developed by Beyond Blue, NewAccess is a free and confidential mental health coaching program for anyone aged 16 and over who's stressed, feeling anxious or overwhelmed. NewAccess coaches are local people trained in Low Intensity Cognitive Behaviour Therapy.

The program is designed to:

- Improve psychological well-being for adults experiencing mild to moderate anxiety and depression.
- Provide direct and immediate access to mental health services via simple referral pathways, like self-referral
- Have a high level of measurability with clear metrics and reporting systems to assess progress and effectiveness.
- Provide a referral pathway to those requiring more intensive treatment.

[Updated NewAccess Program Registration Form](#)

[Updated Strong Minds Program Western GP Referral & Mental Health Treatment Plan](#)

❖ **NACCHO leads PBS listing of medication to improve eye health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.**

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) is proud to have led a successful submission to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) for an expansion to the listing of Prednefrin Forte on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

This item can now be prescribed on the PBS for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients as of 1 March 2020.

NACCHO worked with a range of experts and stakeholders to seek listing of Prednefrin Forte on the PBS for treatment of post-operative eye-inflammation. This listing will mean that there is a greater range and better affordability of anti-inflammatory eye drops for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

[NACCHO Media Statement – PBAC Listing 28-2-2020](#)

❖ **Practice Owners Symposium 2020**

Being held at Novotel Olympic park Sydney on March 28, the Heath Practice Owners Symposium compliments the annual BFD Conference by providing industry-specific information on Successful practice establishment and practice acquisition.

Having sourced trusted industry experts, the presenters and exhibitors attend on an invitation-only basis.

[Practice Owners Symposium 2020 Program](#)

❖ **Marrabinya Quarterly Newsletter – March 2020**

Marrabinya's latest quarterly Newsletter covers details on the Federal Government's ITC Program, secure messaging service, the latest promotional campaign and more.

[Marrabinya News March 2020](#)

❖ **RFDS Stroke Survey**

The RFDS is working with the Australian Stroke Alliance to look at better, and faster, ways of identifying and treating stroke.

To understand more about the impact of stroke on people in Australia, the RFDS is inviting people to complete a brief online survey. If you are 18 years of age or older, we invite you to participate in this survey by [clicking here](#). People living in all geographic areas can complete the survey. You do not need to have had a stroke to participate in the survey. It should take less than ten minutes of your time.

The survey is open until March 20, 2020.

IMMUNISATIONS

❖ Nurse Immunisation Conference

The 2020 Nurse Immunisation Conference, planned for May 6 in Orange and May 7 in Dubbo, has been cancelled due to the potential risks posed by Coronavirus in the event of large gatherings.

The Conference will be replaced with a series of webinars. Details of these webinars will be released and made available to you in due course.

❖ Western NSW remains National Leader of Childhood Immunisations.

Western NSW children are amongst the most prepared in the country to combat vaccine-preventable diseases. According to the latest Australian Immunisation Register Coverage Report, immunisation rates in Western NSW are remaining amongst the very best anywhere in the nation.

Read more at the [WNSW PHN Website](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/measles/Pages/default.aspx)

❖ 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](#)

VACCINATIONS

Influenza seasons and their severity are unpredictable. However, what we do know is that vaccination is the most important measure we have to prevent influenza and its complications and is recommended for all people aged 6 months and over. To meet the anticipated demand for seasonal influenza vaccines in 2020, the Australian Government will be securing the largest supply of seasonal influenza vaccines for the NIP ever for people most at risk.

NIP influenza vaccines will be available from mid-April 2020, subject to local vaccine supply.

What's new for 2020? [Ataqi Advice on Seasonal Influenza Vaccines in 2020](#)

[Clinical Update: 2020 Seasonal Influenza Vaccines – Early Advice for Providers](#)

WEBINARS

Name	Date	About	Link	Cost
NCIRS: 2020 Influenza program Update	Tuesday March 17 at 1pm	In this seminar/webinar, Professor Kanta Subbarao, Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza, will provide an update on influenza disease worldwide, challenges and future opportunities for prevention and control.	https://bit.ly/330ZTdG	Free
Working with Interpreters in General Practice	Wednesday March 18 at 12:30pm	This webinar will provide the practice team, including Nurses, GPs, Practice Managers and Reception staff with an overview of the role of interpreters in General Practice including when and why they are needed, how to access services and ensuring that 5th edition standards are being adhered to.	https://bit.ly/2TRgBrF	Free
Cancer Council Life Changes After Cancer: When it all Falls Apart	Thursday March 26 from 7pm	In this free webinar, we will explore the complexities of significant life changes and managing every day when it feels like nobody understands. We will outline strategies for getting through and provide insight into support that is available.	https://bit.ly/3cK221F	Free
Understanding Your Employment Foundations in Private Practice	Wednesday April 1 at 12:30pm	This webinar will provide the practice team with a summary of the key HR trends impacting Australian private practice. George will also run through some HR strategies private practices can use to build a successful business through an engaged team.	https://bit.ly/2QezHav	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>