



General Practice Resource Newsletter

March 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 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Digital Health Update](#)
- [General Information](#)
- [Webinars](#)
- [Reminders](#)
- [Resources](#)

The Month Ahead:

1 Mar – 31 Mar	National Epilepsy Awareness Month	Epilepsy Action Australia
1 Mar – 7 Mar	Hearing Awareness Week	World Hearing Forum
5 Mar	March Into Yellow	Endometriosis Australia
7 Mar – 13 Mar	World Glaucoma Week	World Glaucoma Organisation
9 Mar	National Day of Women Living with HIV	Positive Life NSW
10 Mar – 14 Mar	World's Greatest Shave	Leukemia Foundation
11 Mar	World Kidney Day	WorldKidneyDay.org
13 Mar – 20 Mar	Coeliac Awareness Week	Coeliac Australia
21 Mar – 28 Mar	Multiple Birth Awareness Week	Australian Multiple Birth Association
21 Mar	World Down Syndrome Day	Down Syndrome Australia
24 Mar	World Tuberculosis Day	World Health Organisation
25 Mar	FND Australia Awareness Day	FND Australia

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](#)

➤ Updated COVID-19 Vaccination Resources

The Commonwealth Department of Health and NSW Health are continually updating its range of COVID-19 Information resources, including information for providers and patients, site requirements, consent, and clinical posters.

Updated Resources:

- [Phase 1B COVID-19 Vaccine roll-out Information for GPs](#)
- [MBS COVID-19 Vaccine Suitability Assessment Service](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination decision guide for frail older people](#)
- [Adult Vaccination Record for Adults](#)

[Access the Department of Health COVID-19 Information Resources here](#)

➤ New MBS Items Allow for Increased Role of Nurses in Vaccination Roll-out

The commencement of the COVID-19 Vaccination Roll-out has seen the removal of some of the barriers that would have constrained the role of practice nurses in this next phase of Australia's COVID-19 response. This will give greater flexibility to general practices and similar services and facilitate improved access to vaccines for our community.

The updated MBS COVID-19 Vaccine Suitability Assessment defines activities associated with the claiming of the MBS items that may be undertaken by suitably qualified health professionals, including registered nurses, who are working within their scope of practice and has undertaken the required COVID-19 vaccine training.

[Access the MBS COVID-19 Vaccine Suitability Assessment Service Fact Sheet here](#)

➤ MBS Telehealth Patient Eligibility Requirements

The Australian Department of Health's Benefits Integrity and Digital Health Division has been monitoring the claiming of COVID-19 telehealth items, and the Division has noted that instances of non-compliance are increasing in frequency over time, especially failures to meet the requirement for the provider to be the patient's usual medical practitioner.

To be defined as the patient's usual medical practitioner, the medical practitioner or other health practitioner located at the practice must meet the "existing relationship" requirement as set out on [the Department's website](#).

The Department intends to introduce a "tiered compliance treatment strategy" that will commence in March and April with letters to practitioners to raise awareness and may "widen its compliance approach" and enact "escalated compliance interventions" depending on the outcome of its activities and the continued monitoring of claims.

Practice Managers are encouraged to review the factsheets including the [COVID-19 Telehealth Items Guide](#) and re-assess their processes to confirm ongoing compliance in their practices.

➤ COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Using CAT Plus

COVID-19 vaccine administration can now be managed in CAT Plus.

- Find priority patients
- Send SMS to recall patients for vaccine administration
- Set notifications for opportunistic vaccine reminders
- Monitor vaccine uptake

Matthias Merzenich, Pen CS' Clinical Quality Assurance Manager, demonstrates how to use CAT Plus to identify priority populations matched to the COVID-19 vaccine Australian guidelines.

[Watch the video here](#)

DIGITAL HEALTH UPDATE

In this month's Digital Health Update:

- COVID-19 Vaccinations: Are you ready?
- NASH PKI Certificate renewals
- Specialist Digital Health Toolkit
- Electronic Prescribing

[Download the Digital Health Update for March 2021 here](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

➤ Pain Management Health Practitioner Education Strategy

The Faculty of Pain Medicine, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists is leading a project to develop a pain management education strategy for Australian health practitioners. The project is funded by the federal Department of Health and supports Goal Three of the [National Strategic Action Plan for Pain Management](#).

The Faculty of Pain Medicine is holding a series of consultation workshops for pain management stakeholders across Australia in March 2021. The aim of the workshops is to gain consensus with regard to the key principles and goals which will headline the strategy. In addition, the workshops will inform strategy implementation recommendations.

An online Zoom meeting for those based in rural and remote areas will be held on Tuesday March 30th from 11:30am AEST.

[Access the Pain Management Education Strategy details here](#)

[Download the Pain Management Education Strategy Project Introduction here](#)

➤ Forensic Examiners for On-Call S.A. Service

The Western NSW Local Health District (WNSW LHD) is seeking GPs that may be interested in applying to become a forensic examiner with the on-call sexual assault service. Successful applicants will then become a VMO for Dubbo Hospital.

Staff can choose their own shifts, by advising when they are available. The Senior SA Counsellor will then put together a roster, based on everyone's availability. Shifts go for 24 hrs. weekdays, with weekend shifts being 48 hours, starting at 9am. e.g. 9am Monday until 9am Tuesday. Weekend shift starts at 9am Saturday and goes through until 9am Monday.

More information can be obtained by contacting Catherine Anderson, WNSW LHD Senior Sexual Assault Counsellor, via email at Catherine.Anderson1@health.nsw.gov.au or by calling (02) 5853 2500.

➤ New and amended PBS listings

Services Australia has released new and amended PBS listings today together with a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) document relating to access and use of the Online PBS Authorities System.

This information relates to the administration of these listings by Services Australia. For further information on broader PBS changes, please visit [the PBS website](#).

➤ **2021 Clinic Dates: Dubbo Public Eye Clinic, Outback Eye Service, Guide Dogs NSW and Vision Australia**

2021 clinic dates have been released for the Dubbo Public Eye Clinic, Outback Eye Service Clinics, and Low Vision Clinics provided by Guide Dogs and Vision Australia.

Patients are seen by appointment only.

Public Ophthalmology Services

- **Dubbo Public Eye Clinic**
 - [Download the 2021 Dubbo Public Eye Clinic Calendar here](#)
 - [Download the Dubbo Public Eye Clinic Referral here](#)

- **Outback Eye Service**
 - [Download the 2021 calendar for Bourke, Cobar, Brewarrina, Walgett and Lightning Ridge here](#)
 - [Download the Bourke, Cobar, Brewarrina, Walgett and Lightning Ridge Referral here](#)

Low Vision Clinics

- **Guide Dogs - 31-33 Church Street, Dubbo.**

Clinic dates: 20 & 21 April, 22 & 23 June

Guide Dogs also runs clinic day or provides home visits in other towns across Western NSW where referral indicates need.

Referrals are welcomed from individuals, family members and health professionals. Referrals can be completed online: <https://www.guidedogs.com.au/services/make-a-referral/> or [download the Guide Dogs referral form](#) and fax to 02 9412 9388, or call the intake team on: 02 9412 9300 or 1800 436 364

- **Vision Australia**

Patients are seen by appointment only. Call 02 6363 6900 between 8.30 am to 1:00 pm Monday to Friday to schedule an appointment or for further information.

Vision Australia visits towns in the central west area from Lithgow to the Dubbo region and can provide home visits.

Referrals are welcomed from individuals, family members in addition to health professionals. Health professionals can send an online referral at <https://www.visionaustralia.org/referral/medical-professionals/form>.

➤ **Low Vision Webinars**

Three Webinars hosted by Guide Dogs Dubbo in 2020 are now available for viewing via Rural Doctors Network's Rural Health Pro website.

- [Guide Dogs: More Than Just Dogs](#)
- [Guide Dogs: Low Vision Services](#)
- [Guide Dogs: Assistive Technology Services](#)

[Access the RDN Rural Health Pro Eye Coordination Webinar page here](#)

➤ **Positive Life NSW Support for People Living with HIV in Western NSW**

Positive Life NSW is the largest peer-led and peer-run agency of people living with HIV in NSW for people living with and affected by HIV across metropolitan and regional areas of NSW.

They provide a range of support, information, and targeted referrals for people diagnosed with HIV including [Treatments Support](#), [Ageing Support](#), [Partner Notification support](#), [Housing Support](#), [Vocational and Employment options](#) including [Aboriginal Health support](#) for people living with HIV.

Positive Life NSW also offers a range of social support groups targeting [heterosexual men and women living with HIV](#), gay and bisexual men living with HIV including broader support groups welcoming [all people affected by HIV such as partners and families](#).

[Access Positive Life NSW online here](#)

➤ **NSW Outback Blitz for 2021**

The NSW Office of Sport, Creative Community Concepts, Murdi Paaki Regional Rugby League, Outback Rugby League, NSW Rugby League and the NRL have teamed with the Black Dog Institute to present the Outback Blitz Week 2021.

Featuring former NRL top try scorer Nathan Blacklock, the week of events are focused on fun, fitness and wellbeing.

The week includes:

- Wilcannia Community Event, Burke Oval, Monday March 8 from 4pm
- High Schools Gala Day, Lamb Oval Broken Hill, Tuesday March 9 from 9:30am
- Broken Hill Community Event, Lamb Oval, Tuesday March 9 from 4pm
- Menindee Community Event, Burke & Wills Oval, Wednesday March 10 from 4pm
- Primary School Tag Gala Day, Alma Oval Broken Hill, Friday March 12 from 9am

Further details are available by emailing kyle.myers@creativecommunityconcepts.com.au

CPD, WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS

Name	Date	About	Link	Cost
COVID Vaccine Roll Out Q&A – What we know & what to expect	Wednesday March 3, 2021 at 12pm	Presented by HotDocs and hosted by Magali De Castro, This FREE webinar is useful for the entire General Practice team, including nurses, doctors, practice managers & reception staff.	Register here	Free
WNSW PHN: Mini Learning Set for General Practice – Establishing a Vaccination Clinic for COVID-19 vaccine roll out	Thursday 4 March 2021 at 7pm	Join our Panel for an informative discussion on preparedness for the COVID -19 Vaccine rollout. We will discuss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics of setting up and managing your immunisation clinic • Workforce preparation for Covid-19 vaccines • & More 	Register here	Free
Rural Health Webinar Series - Care of the critically unwell child	Thursday March 4 2021 at 8pm	This instalment of the Rural Health Webinar Series will explore care of the critically unwell child, including cardiac arrest, severe breathing difficulty, sepsis, neurological emergencies, neonatal emergencies, and red flags for severe illness.	Register here	Free
WNSW PHN: Mini Learning Set for General Practice – Establishing a Vaccination Clinic for COVID-19 vaccine roll out	Tuesday 9 March 2021 at 7:30pm	Join our Panel for an informative discussion on preparedness for the COVID -19 Vaccine rollout. We will discuss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics of setting up and managing your immunisation clinic • Workforce preparation for Covid-19 vaccines • & More 	Register here	Free
WNSW PHN: Mini Learning Set for General Practice – Establishing a Vaccination Clinic for COVID-19 vaccine roll out	Thursday 11 March 2021 at 1pm	Join our Panel for an informative discussion on preparedness for the COVID -19 Vaccine rollout. We will discuss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics of setting up and managing your immunisation clinic • Workforce preparation for Covid-19 vaccines • & More 	Register Here	Free

Name	Date	About	Link	Cost
Family Planning NSW Masterclass Webinar	Thursday March 11, 2021 at 6pm	This Masterclass webinar provides a deep focus on a single topic of clinical interest with presentations, challenging case studies and Q&A by experts selected for their specialist knowledge of each subject area. Real-time, online delivery enables you to participate in any location of your choice.	Register Here	Free
Webinar: Assessment and Management of Concussion	Tuesday March 16 2021 at 6pm	Learn about how to assess and manage concussion using the Sports Concussion Assessment Tool 5 in this webinar developed by ACSEP, Dr Sharon Stay and Dr Martin Raftery.	Register Here	Free
Australian Healthcare Week 2021 Expo	Wednesday 17 March 2021 and Thursday 18 March 2021	The 10th Australian Healthcare Week 2021 is the annual meeting place for the entire healthcare community to connect, network and explore the future of the design, delivery and operation of Australia's healthcare system.	Register Here	Free
Webinar: Assessment and Management of Concussion	Thursday March 18 2021 at 6pm	Learn about how to assess and manage concussion using the Sports Concussion Assessment Tool 5 in this webinar developed by ACSEP, Dr Sharon Stay and Dr Martin Raftery.	Register Here	Free
Webinar: Assessment and Management of Concussion	Tuesday March 23 2021 at 6pm	Learn about how to assess and manage concussion using the Sports Concussion Assessment Tool 5 in this webinar developed by ACSEP, Dr Sharon Stay and Dr Martin Raftery.	Register Here	Free
WNSW PHN Webinar: Primary Care CPD - Frailty Syndrome	Wednesday March 24, 2021 at 7:30pm	Frailty is a common syndrome in the elderly. It can be identified by phenotype, by disease burden or by overall functional presentation. Frailty carries a predictable risk burden for adverse outcomes. This session will address the management of frailty depending upon its cause/s and severity.	Register Here	Free
Webinar: Assessment and Management of Concussion	Thursday March 25 2021 at 6pm	Learn about how to assess and manage concussion using the Sports Concussion Assessment Tool 5 in this webinar developed by ACSEP, Dr Sharon Stay and Dr Martin Raftery.	Register Here	Free

Name	Date	About	Link	Cost
Decoding Osteoporosis	Friday March 26, 2021 at 1pm	Presented by Dr Weiwen Chen, this webinar will cover the latest clinical guidelines with practical updates to help you stay informed. This meeting addresses key questions in osteoporosis management.	Register Here	Free
Advanced Training in Suicide Prevention	Saturday 27 March 2021 at 9am	This workshop aims to increase health professionals' skill and confidence in taking a detailed suicide history and developing a collaborative management plan to increase the safety of people planning suicide. It also provides practical tools for health professionals managing the full spectrum of suicide risk presentations including the acute suicidal crisis, care after a suicide attempt and assisting families experiencing suicide bereavement.	Register Here	Free
Participate in the pain management health practitioner education strategy	Tuesday 30 March 2021 at 8:30am	The Faculty of Pain Medicine is holding a series of consultation workshops for pain management stakeholders across Australia in March 2021. The aim of the workshops is to gain consensus with regard to the key principles and goals which will headline the strategy. In addition, the workshops will inform strategy implementation recommendations.	Register Here	Free

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>