General Practice Resource Newsletter

March 2022

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 and Events
- Reminders
- Resources

The Month Ahead:

20 March	International Day of Happiness	United Nations
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	United Nations
21 March	World Down Syndrome Day	United Nations
22 March	World Water Day	United Nations
24 March	World TB Day	World Health Organisation

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The WNSW PHN Website is regularly updated 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

https://www.wnswphn.org.au/covid19vaccinations

WNSW PHN COVID-19 Vaccination Matters Quick Contact Guide

COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Manual (October 2021)

Handling consent refusal by people presenting for vaccination

COVID -19 in Children: Resources for Primary Care

[Emergency department assessment and management of COVID-19 in adults (Delta variant) NSW quick reference guide](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccines in Australia – Comparison Poster](#)

[Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Primary Care Update – Jan 14 2022](#)

➢ COVID-19 MBS Telehealth Services

[COVID-19 Temporary MBS Telehealth Services Factsheet](#)

[MBS Quick Guide to COVID-19 Items (updated March 2022)](#)

[MBS Quick Guide (updated March 2022)](#)

[RACGP MBS Aged Care guide (updated September 2021)](#)

[MBS Factsheet - Continuing MBS Telehealth Services](#)

[MBS COVID-19 telehealth 'existing relationship' requirement - Clarification of exemptions](#)

➢ NSW Health COVID-19 Updates

[NSW Government Face Mask Rules](#)

[COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Manual, Version 2.1, 1 March 2022 (See page 74 for the summary of current recommendations during Amber Alert)](#)

The "COVID-19 Active Case Management" page on Western NSW HealthPathways has been updated to include guidance on use of the new COVID-19 oral antivirals.

➢ HealthPathways COVID-19 Update

The "COVID-19 Active Case Management" page on Western NSW HealthPathways has been updated to include guidance on use of the new COVID-19 oral antivirals.

https://westernnsw.communityhealthpathways.org/728651.htm

Username = westernnsw

Password = healthcare

➢ Requesting and Viewing the COVID-19 Vaccination Status Report (AIR042A)

Some vaccination providers and organisations providing vaccination services can request reports from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) site to help them identify individuals who are overdue for immunisation. The COVID-19 Vaccination Status Report (AIR042A) identifies individuals who have not yet received a COVID-19 vaccine or who have completed their primary course and are now due for a booster.

[Requesting and viewing the COVID-19 Vaccination Status Report (AIR042A) User Guide](#)

➢ Managing COVID-19 Patients at Home

The NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation has two new information sheets for GPs and other clinicians in NSW caring for patients managing themselves or a child at home. They cover how to monitor symptoms, isolating and when to get help.

Managing COVID-19 patients at home ACI Factsheets

➢ On Demand: GP Guidance on Anti-Viral Prescribing for Patients

The RACGP and NSW Health webinar held on Wednesday February 9 covered:

- An update on COVID-19 in NSW
- Pharmacology considerations with the anti-viral medications
- Prescribing pathway and flowchart
- GP notification of COVID-19 positive patients

RACGP Webinar - GP Guidance on Anti-Viral Prescribing for Patients

➢ Medicines for COVID-19 Treatment - Oral Antivirals

The following documents have been published on the CEC Medication Safety Updates page:

Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®) specific resources

- Drug Guideline – Use of molnupiravir capsules for COVID-19
- Patient consent form – Molnupiravir
- Information for patients, family and carers – Molnupiravir [Factsheet]

Nirmatrelvir and ritonavir (Paxlovid™) specific resources

- Drug Guideline – Use of nirmatrelvir and ritonavir tablets for COVID-19
- Patient consent form – Nirmatrelvir and ritonavir
- Information for patients, family and carers – Nirmatrelvir and ritonavir [Factsheet]

Resources relevant to both medicines

- Factsheet – Accessing medicines from NSW Health stockpile for COVID-19
- Information for NSW Health Pharmacy Departments – Oral antiviral medicines for COVID-19
- Prescriber Declaration – Oral antiviral medicines for COVID-19 [FOR USE BY RCFs]
- Prescriber Declaration – Oral antiviral medicines for COVID-19 [FOR USE BY NSW HEALTH PRESCRIBERS]
  - o Note this is also available as an online QARS form – if used, data will be accessible by the CEC and therefore no need to be reported weekly.**
  - o An eMR PowerForm version of the prescriber declaration is also in development.

The below documents are only accessible to GPs via the Service NSW app, Health Pathways and internally to NSW Health Directors of Pharmacy. These have not placed these on the public website to protect them from inappropriate use by the general public.

- Information for General Practitioners – Oral antiviral medicines for COVID-19
- Prescription and Declaration form – Oral antiviral medicines for COVID-19 [FOR USE BY GPs]

CEC Medication Safety Updates page

ACI Model of Care

GENERAL INFORMATION

➢ **Renewing your NASH PKI certificate**

The security of people's health information is critical, which is why healthcare organisations must have a current NASH certificate to continue delivering crucial digital health services to their patients.

Renewing your NASH PKI Certificate information

➢ **Up to $10,000 for Professional Development**

The NSW RDN Health Workforce Scholarship Program (HWSP) provides bursaries and scholarships to help health professionals in rural and remote Australia retain and enhance their skills, capacity and scope of practice.

The Health Workforce Scholarship Program information

➢ **NSW RDN Practice Management Group February Webinar**

NSW RDN Breakfast With Gary Webinar – On Demand

Resources discussed during the webinar:

- **AMA welcomes the restored telehealth services to meet pandemic demand**
- **AMA welcomes Medicare-funded telehealth as a permanent part of the health system**
- **Changes to the Rural Veterans' Access Payment Incentive**
- **2021 HR roundup and what to expect in 2022**
- **Best Practice users given three-month Medicare Web Services extension**
- **HELP debt reduction for rural doctors and nurse practitioners**
- **RDN Recruitment & Retention**

➢ **Practice Owners National Conference 2022**

The RACGP Practice Owners National Conference 2022 is being held in Hobart on the 14th and 15th of May, helping current practice owners to improve their practice, giving aspiring practice owners the tools to prepare, and ensuring practice viability through staff and technology.

Practice Owners National Conference 2022 Website

Practice Owners National Conference 2022 Program

➢ **Is Your Service Environment Responsive to Health Literacy Needs of Patients?**

Health literacy includes so much more than medical information. Your physical premises, website, administration processes and staff are all parts of the health literacy environment that help or hinder people's ability to find, understand and use information and services to benefit their health.

Use our **Service Environment Checklist** to assess how responsive your practice is to health literacy needs and to identify areas you can work on. Our **Health Literacy Project Officers**, Kath and Karen, are also available to assist.

WEBINARS and EVENTS

Name	Date	About	Link	Cost
Healthed Webcast: COVID, Iron Deficiency in Chronic Disease, COPD, and Pertussis	Tuesday 15th March at 7:00pm	Healthed invites GPs and Practice Nurses to engage with our high-quality educational resources, including their fortnightly free Webcasts.	**Register here**	Free
11th Annual Australasian Healthcare Week Expo	March 16 and 17 2022	The 11th Annual Australian Healthcare Week Expo is returning to the International Convention Centre in Sydney on 16th - 17th March 2022.	**Register here**	Free
Embedding palliative care in aged care: A roadmap for success	Thursday March 17, 2022, at 11am	This event will explore how to progress measures to embed palliative care into aged care successfully, following the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care.	**Register here**	Free
Evidence-informed decision making: Using research evidence to inform practice	Wednesday March 23, 2022, at 1pm	This webinar is designed for program planners and practice managers involved in practice and organisational decision making. Practitioners looking for opportunities to strengthen evidence-informed decision making in their organisation, and researchers wanting to improve implementation of research findings will also find it useful.	**Register here**	Free
Influenza Masterclass 2022	Wednesday March 23, 2022, at 6pm	Join Prof Robert Booy and a suite of experts as they look at influenza and cardiovascular health.	**Register here**	Free
GSK Dinner Invitation - Parkes - COPD + Asthma Presentation and Q&A – Parkes	Wednesday, 23 March 2022 at 6:30pm	GSK invites you to a dinner presentation in Parkes on Wednesday March 23rd on earlier optimisation for Moderate or Severe COPD and a take on the fundamentals of Asthma control.	**Register here**	
Multimorbidity Webinar Series - Diabetes and Setting Priorities among Comorbidities	Wednesday March 23 from 7:30pm	In Vivo Academy, an accredited provider of independent medical education, present a series of four 1-hour live webinars entitled "Managing multimorbidity: navigating guidelines, polypharmacy, patient priorities and negative outcomes", covering topics including diabetes, cognitive decline, frailty, adjusting doses and drug burden index in a case-based, interactive format.	**Register here**	Free

Name	Date	About	Link	Cost
GSK Dinner Invitation - Cowra - COPD + Asthma Presentation and Q&A – Cowra	Thursday, 24 March 2022 at 6:30pm	GSK invites you to a dinner presentation in Cowra on Thursday March 24th on earlier optimisation for Moderate or Severe COPD and a take on the fundamentals of Asthma control.	**Register here**	
Blayney Wellbeing Health Fair	Thursday 31 March 2022 at 10am	Blayney Shire Council is hosting the Blayney Wellbeing Health Fair on Thursday 31 March at the Blayney Community Centre.	**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