

Doctor's Notes




Clinical Communique

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Do you want to make a difference to your local community?

Western NSW Primary Health Network in collaboration with the Consumers Health Forum of Australia is running an exciting new program to help people in Western NSW make a difference to their local health system. Collaborative Pairs brings together a health care provider and a health service user to work on a shared health challenge, project or idea. **Applications are open now.**



Collaborative
Pairs Australia

A Consumers Health Forum Partnership

[Find out more >>](#)

Rate your experience with Marrabinya



Maari Ma is currently asking GPs and practices across the WNSW PHN region about their experience with Marrabinya, their ITC brokerage service. You are invited to complete a short five-question survey on the Marrabinya program which has been operating in the Western NSW PHN region since 01 November, 2016.

[Take the survey >>](#)

Webinars to help support your patients' mental health

As part of the aim to help GPs manage the care of mental health consumers, the GP Psychiatry Support Line is producing a series of online resources. Headed by renowned psychiatrist Dr Martin Cohen, these videos invite psychiatrists to present a topic they specialise in, followed by Q/A. In the first of the series topics include Adult ADHD; Bipolar Disorder; Gender Dysphoria. This activity is eligible for RACGP CPD points (Category 2), with participation by watching the video and completing the short quiz.



[Find out more >>](#)

Test for HIV in a diverse range of patients



NSW Health data shows a need to increase HIV testing among heterosexual men who have sex with men, and men at risk of HIV when having sex overseas. HIV infection in these men is often diagnosed late, which can lead to avoidable HIV-related illness. In the lead-up to World AIDs Day (December 1), NSW Health encourages health professional to test all patients at risk of HIV infection, and avoid assumptions about a patient's risk of acquiring the infection.

[Find out more >>](#)

The best, cheapest and most accessible medicine is exercise

Exercise Right for Doctors is a joint awareness campaign launched by Exercise and Sports Science Australia (ESSA) and Exercise is Medicine® Australia. The aim is to educate doctors and nurses about the role that exercise and physical activity play in the prevention, management and treatment of chronic illness and to encourage general practitioners to include a physical activity or exercise assessment as part of their interaction with every patient on each visit.



Free CPD education is also on offer in the form of both online training and in-practice workshops (which are approved by both the RACGP and APNA).

[Find out more >>](#)



Share your views on cardiac arrhythmias

Atrial fibrillation and other arrhythmias are associated with higher morbidities and mortality. Should you screen asymptomatic patients? What is the role of mobile ECG devices? What is your need for ECG interpretation training? University of Sydney is conducting a short survey to explore the views, knowledge and practices of general practitioners with respect to cardiac arrhythmias.

[Take the survey >>](#)

In Brief

- Changes have been made to Medicare to provide mental health support to individuals in drought-affected regions. Learn more [here](#).
- The opt-out date for My Health Record has been extended to 31 January, 2019. Learn more [here](#).
- A survey is being undertaken about the understanding, attitudes and responses of Australian clinicians and women to changes in the National Cervical Screening program. Learn more [here](#).
- An online learning module has been created for GPs to help early identification of paediatric neuromuscular disorders. Learn more [here](#).
- The Department of Health has released a new booklet **Questions about vaccination**, this replaces the former Myths and Realities: responding to arguments about vaccination.
- New Best Practice and Medical Director templates have been created for the WNSW LHD Geriatric Medicine Clinic Referral Form. Find them [here](#).

Training and Events

WNSW PHN organises regular CPD events for doctors and health professionals. These are listed on our [website](#). Upcoming events organised or supported by WNSW PHN include:

- **Lung Cancer Symposium** - December 8, Dubbo
- **Hot Topics GP Update webinar** - January 23
- **Spirometry training course** - February 19, Mudgee
- **Hot Topics GP Update workshop** - February 24, Sydney



Contact Western NSW PHN

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While the Australian Government helped fund this document, it has not reviewed the content and is not responsible for any injury, loss or damage however arising from the use of or reliance on the information provide herein.

We acknowledge that we work on the traditional lands of many Aboriginal clans, tribes and nations. We commit to working in collaboration with our region's Aboriginal communities and peoples to improve their health, emotional and social wellbeing in the spirit of partnership.

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