



PRACTICE NEWSLETTER (1)
January 2012



The Diabetes Care Project

We are searching for better and more flexible ways to care for and support people with diabetes, and **we would like you to be part of it!**

The Diabetes Care Project (DCP) is a three-year pilot which is part of the Australian Government's response to the growing incidence of chronic disease in Australia. The pilot will test new ways of providing more flexible, better coordinated care, to improve the management of care for people with diabetes.

A broad cross-section of Australian healthcare professionals, organisations and experts, including some of our own Bundaberg and Childers' practices, have participated in the consultation and design process. Approximately 150 General Practices and over 10,000 patients across three states will be participating in the pilot. GP Links Wide Bay is one of the divisions involved in the project and practice enrolment will be starting in early 2012, with the pilot running until mid-2014.

During January we will begin sending out invitations to register your interest in being part of this new initiative. So stay tuned. If you want to know more, contact Carolyn Wilson or John Gamlin at GP Links Wide Bay ph: 4151 0814.

Dominating Diabetes: Group Education Program

Dominating Diabetes is a Type 2 Diabetes group education program, delivered through GP Links and Ozcare. It provides a general overview of diabetes and covers strategies to improve BGL control. The focus of this 4 week program is on practical interventions that promote healthy lifestyle changes. It allows participants to understand what is happening in their body and encourages ways to improve diabetes control by making simple changes to daily life.

Participants are given resources to promote long term sustainable behaviour change, as well as ongoing professional education from allied health professionals including a dietitian (DT), exercise physiologist (EP) and credentialed diabetes educator (CDE). A reward scheme is also used to promote attendance and decrease dropout rates. Participants will be screened prior to commencing the program and after 1 week post completion of the program. The overall objective is to highlight simple strategies that help participants to Dominate Diabetes. The first group session will be held from 9.00am to 11.15am on Wednesday 1 February at Ozcare, Woongarra St, Bundaberg. Click [here](#) for further information, click [here](#) for the flyer, click [here](#) for the Dominating Diabetes referral pathway.

Diabetes Connect Online Training

GPQ is pleased to announce the launch of *Diabetes Connect* Online Modules for general practitioners (GPs) and other health professionals.

The *Diabetes Connect* online training resource has been designed to provide GPs, practice nurses and other health professionals with evidence based education to increase their capacity to meet the complex needs of patients with type 2 diabetes.

The Online Modules are designed to improve participants' knowledge and confidence in assessment and management techniques, as well as enhance knowledge of referral pathways – participants are introduced to the exciting new features of the iHealthCare+ Directory and invited to add their details

To learn more about *Diabetes Connect* Online Modules and Workshops in your local area, visit www.diabetesconnect.com.au or click [here](#) to register for the workshop in Bundaberg.

Wound Care Products

In response to a question regarding charging patients for dressing products, some Practices advised that their patients purchase the products from Chemists. This may result in a large out of pocket cost to the patient. A cheaper option is to purchase the dressings through a Brisbane base company call Independence Solution free call 1300 788 855, fax 1300 788 811 email is customerservice@independencesolutions.com.au and a web page on the internet. Practices who use this provider advise that their service is excellent, no cost of postage, delivery is within 1-2days and patients can ring them directly to order.

Vaccinations in the News 2011

There is a nice summary of Vaccinations in the news during 2011 by Dr Julie Leask. <http://theconversation.edu.au/vaccinations-in-the-news-in-2011-4696>

Seasonal Flu 2012.

Practices should have received a letter from QHealth Communicable Diseases Branch regarding the 2012 Flu season. This letter can also be accessed via the [GP Links Website](#).

A few other things to note:

- The 2012 Influenza Vaccination Program commences nationally on Thursday 15th March 2012.
- All 2011 Influenza vaccine stock should have now been discarded. Any remaining stock should be discarded immediately, as these vaccines have now passed their expiry date.

Schedule

A reminder that the latest immunisation Schedule is available to download at the GP Links website at: <http://www.gplinks.org.au/page/Programs/Immunisation/>

Prevenar 13

The TGA has approved Prevenar 13 for use in adults over the age of 50 years in addition to being indicated for use in infants and children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age.

Prevenar 13 now is indicated for Active immunisation for the prevention of pneumococcal disease caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* serotypes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6A,

6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F and 23F in adults aged 50 years and older. Prevenar 13 will be available on the private market only.

Updated TGA advice about Pneumovax 23 revaccination

The TGA is advising that revaccination with Pneumovax 23 can be undertaken in accordance with the approved Product Information (PI). In summary, revaccination:

- should not be given routinely to immunocompetent individuals (that is, those with a healthy immune system)
- should be considered for patients at a high risk of serious pneumococcal disease, provided that at least five years has passed since the previous dose of Pneumovax 23.

Full details on the Immunise Australia website or via the link below:

<http://www.tga.gov.au/safety/alerts-medicine-pneumovax-111223.htm>

Immunisation course dates for 2012

Date	Location	Workshop	Suitability	Comments
05/03/12	Bundaberg	Immunisation Update Workshop	RNs & ENs who do immunisation	May also be suitable for health workers in AMS involved in immunisation who have received previous training
06/03/12	Bundaberg	One Day Immunisation Information Workshop	GP Receptionists, Indigenous Health Workers, Admin staff, Environmental Health Staff, Those new to immunisation	Very good basic workshop for those new to immunisation
01/05/12 & 02/05/12	Maryborough	Advanced Nurse Practice Immunisation course	RNs	As above
07/08/12	Bundaberg	GP Practice Nurse Workshop	RNs & ENs	Specific for nurses working in GP surgery
30/10/12 & 31/10/12	Maryborough	Advanced Nurse Practice Immunisation Course	RNs	For those who wish to gain their authorisation to practice as an Immunisation Programs Nurse
01/11/12	Hervey Bay	Immunisation Update Workshop	RNs & ENs	May also be suitable for IHWs in AMS involved in Immunisation who have received previous training

Wide Bay Public Health Unit Contact Details

Go to GP Links website for updated Public Health / Immunisation contact details

<http://www.gplinks.org.au/page/Programs/Immunisation/#Contacts>



Health Industry Training Queensland

HITQ staff are relocating to Unit 7, Level 1 Signature Building, 19-21 Torquay Road, Hervey Bay. Phone numbers remain unchanged on 07 41248311.

GP Links Educational Events 2012

What's on in the Wide Bay and surrounds during 2012? Go to our website at <http://www.gplinks.org.au/page/Events/> for more details. All the short seminars / workshops listed below will attract RCNA CNE points.

Chronic Kidney Disease & Diabetes

For Practice Nurses Speaker: Barbara Harvie, Nurse Practitioner, CKD,

Date: Thursday 16 February 2012

Venue: GPLinks Wide Bay Bundaberg Office.

Contact: Vivien Clift at yclift@gplinks.org.au to register.

Closing the Gap Workshop

Date: Saturday, 18 February 2012

Time: 1.00 pm to 5.30 pm

Venue: Burnett Riverside Motel 7 Quay Street, Bundaberg

Contact: Janet Stajic at jstajic@gplinks.org.au to register.

Practice Nurse, Managers and GEMS E-mail Network

Practice Nurses and GEMS participants are encouraged to join their peer email network. Information about upcoming events, useful resources, industry changes and GP Links activities can be sent directly to you via the network. In addition, the opportunity to share information, seek ideas or find new resources is provided through this network. To register your details to join the Practice Nurses or GEMS Network please email; cwilson@gplinks.org.au

Practice Nurse Forum Bundaberg 2012

Dates: 1 March, 7 June, 30 August, 6 December.

Practice Manager Forum Bundaberg 2012

Dates: 23 February, 24 May, 23 August, 29 November

Practice Staff Vacancies

Remember we can list any staff vacancies in your practice on our website. Please contact Carolyn Wilson on 4151 0814 or email cwilson@gplinks.org.au.

Data Logger

Remember that GP Links has 2 Data Loggers available for you to use to monitor the effectiveness of your vaccine fridge. Just contact Carolyn at cwilson@gplinks.org.au.