



Weekly News
Wednesday 28th April, 2010

Please distribute to GPs and staff in your practice

ABORIGINAL HEALTH

- Does your practice see any Aboriginal patients? How often do you update/check patient information?
- Many GPs and practices aren't aware that they see Aboriginal patients. Sometimes this is due to the patient choosing not to identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; sometimes there is a reluctance and nervousness surrounding asking a person the question about their cultural identity
- GPNN have a number of resources and information available to support GPs and practices with this important issue
- To improve the health outcomes of the Aboriginal population we are working towards increasing the number of Indigenous Australians regularly accessing mainstream primary care services
- If you would like information please contact **Kimberley** on **9477 8700**

ANNUAL PIP CONFIRMATION STATEMENT

- Each PIP practice will receive this statement in May each year beginning this year
- The authorised contact is required to check, complete and sign the statement and return to Medicare Australia by 31st July 2010 to ensure your practice quarterly payment for August 2010 is not withheld
- If any of the information is incorrect the authorised contact is required to phone the PIP enquiry line and they will send out the appropriate paperwork to update the information
- Pip can be contacted on **1800 222 032** or email pip@medicareaustralia.gov.au

ACCESS TO ALLIED PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (ATAPS) - REMINDER TO ALL GPs

- GPNN has received additional funding under the Access to Allied Psychological Services (ATAPS) initiative. As a result, all GPs are currently eligible to refer their patients to the ATAPS program
- This includes your patients who might be suffering from perinatal depression
- To access ATAPS GPs are required to complete a GP Mental Health Treatment Plan (Item 2710 or 2702), and the ATAPS referral form which can be downloaded from our website www.gpnn.org.au or by phoning **9477 8700**
- If you would like more information please contact **Kimberley** on **9477 8700**

BEYONDBLUE DRAFT CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR DEPRESSION AND RELATED DISORDERS IN THE PERINATAL PERIOD

- Just a reminder that the draft clinical practice guidelines are available to view on the Beyondblue website www.beyondblue.org.au/index.aspx?link_id=6.1246
- The Sydney consultation workshop has already been held, however Beyondblue are continuing to take comments and feedback until 12th May 2010
- For more information, visit the above weblink or contact **Cynthia** on **9477 8700** or email Cynthia@gpnn.org.au

INFLUENZA RESOURCES

- With Flu season almost upon us, practices will soon be receiving a letter from the Chief Medical Officer, with the DoHA seasonal influenza vaccine brochure, poster and factsheet
- DoHA advises that the brochure, poster and factsheet are being translated into 14 community languages and will be available for download from their website www.immunise.health.gov.au
- The NSW Health influenza pandemic website redesign has been completed and is now live www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/index.asp

KENTHURST PRACTICE AVAILABLE

- Perfect opportunity to set up your own practice or establish a branch practice
- Shop front (96m²), next to pharmacy in busy local shopping centre
- 2 primary schools, 2 high schools and retirement village, promoting opportunity to develop a successful mix billing practice,
- Very reasonable rental/lease and full support given by local pharmacy
- Further details call **Chris Babich** at Australian Babich Medicos **9918 6888** or **0416 132 366**