

North East Valley DGP eNews

No 1312: May 1, 2013

eNews is a weekly electronic newsletter sent to all GP practices (with email addresses) within the NEV catchment. The aim is to provide up to date information relevant to GPs and to disseminate the latest activities and resources from the division. All feedback and enquiries welcome and should be addressed to [Patty Marshall](mailto:patty.marshall@nevdp.org.au). You can also visit our website at: <http://www.nevdgp.org.au/>. To subscribe to eNews click on [subscribe](#). To be removed from the **eNews** distribution list click on [Unsubscribe](#)

In this issue:

[Editorial](#)

NMML AH Guidelines causing confusion

[Aboriginal Health](#)

Interpretive Guide to the RACGP Standards 4th Edition, National Indigenous Health Conference

[Australian Doctor Articles](#)

Cloud Computing

[Professional Development](#)

CPD events

[Immunisation](#)

Immunisation reminders the modern way!

[Information Management](#)

Could a smartphone be the future of medicine? Thanks for the Assistance in installing NASH PKI Certificates, Medical Director Tips

[Items of interest](#)

Austin Health Specialist Clinics: Patient Choice Booking, Accreditation news, NMML News, GP Network News

[News for Practice Staff](#)

Infection Control Update, APNA newsletter, General Practice Nurse Representatives, UNE Nurse Leadership

[Positions vacant/wanted](#)

[Fun stuff](#)

A Word from the Editor

[NMML AH Guidelines causing confusion](#)

The After-Hours Grants applications were distributed by email last week, and we have been contacted by a number of practices expressing frustration at the lack of clarity contained in these.

With a closing date of May 10th and only electronic versions distributed, it is essential that all practices providing AFTER HOURS CARE respond in a timely fashion.

Of particular concern is the NMML decision to exclude Sunday mornings, 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon, as an after-hours period. This decision is in discordance with the national guidelines definition for AH periods, MBS definitions, and current PIP funding criteria for AH care.

Also seemingly at odds with MBS, PIP and NHR are the NMML's guidelines on public holidays and doctors "on call" (for PIP tiers 2 or 3)

We recommend that you contact the NMML (details below) to clarify this very important issue.

Causing particular concern is the Page 8 grant funding table on of the NMML Incentive Grant Guidelines for calculating grant amounts to a practice, e.g. a simple example where a clinic is open 4 hours on a Saturday afternoon after 12 noon. Is the stated 'Hourly incentive' of '\$1000 per hour' meant to imply the Grant will be:

1. \$4,000 per week (that would be capped at \$80,000 per year), or
2. \$4,000 per quarter, or
3. \$4,000 per year

We believe from conversations with practice managers that it is most likely to be \$4,000 per quarter; a figure that we hope would attract any practices that are not currently offering after hours services. The Commonwealth had previously indicated that there would be a pool of funding available at least equal to the PIP in any given area, and we would assume that all practices currently providing either tier 1,2, or 3 services will be funded to continue. Any significant change or denial of After Hours grant funding would not only disadvantage patients, but add considerable strain to the already fractured Emergency Care system, particularly at Austin & Northern Health.

A further curiosity is that practices have to mark a box to say whether they are a NMML member or not. As the number of practices admitted to membership is currently less than 20% of those eligible, this seems a curious question. The NMML is supposed to provide equal support to all practices within the NMML catchment, members or not. Some practices on seeing this, and not being members, might be "scared off" from applying: And presumably the NMML knows who its members are!

The fact that we have been contacted by so many practices suggests that clarity is clearly lacking in the initial communication. If any of you wish to clarify the terms upon which NMML AH Grants apply to your practice, we suggest that you contact NATASHA KRAJCAR, Manager Development & Integration at NMML, on **9490 2700** or mobile **0458 028 734**.

[Back to top](#)

Aboriginal Health

Interpretive Guide to the RACGP Standards 4th Edition

Now available on this [link](#) is an Interpretive Guide to the RACGP Standards for Aboriginal community controlled services.

This is definitely worth a look as many of the Criterion have case studies and handy hints on meeting the Standards

National Indigenous Health Conference

To be held in Cairns on the **25th – 27th November**. To register or for further details, please visit the event's website: www.indigenoushealth.net or email us at admin@indigenoushealth.net.

[Back to top](#)

Australian Doctor Articles

Cloud Computing

On February 25, 2011, Noel Stewart with assistance from Carlo Richetti from Cititec Systems wrote about how "cloud computing was set to revolutionise computing as we know it. To help explain what "cloud computing" is an analogy is used: before households were connected to mains electricity they each used their own generator. Today we can simply plug an appliance into a wall socket. Some example of present cloud computing were given: Hot Mail, Facebook, programs that you don't install on your individual PCs but can be accessed from anywhere in the world that has internet access. The article concludes that the arrival of the National Broadband Network will springboard cloud computing into the mainstream.

Today we can see all this coming true - in the health sector we need to look no further than the development of the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record which is cloud-based but with additional stringent security measures. The electronic health record can be downloaded from anywhere by those health practitioners and patients who have the authority to do so.

For the full article click [here](#).

[Back to top](#)

Continuing Professional Development

Upcoming CPR training

The Benchmark Group with support from NEVDGP have organised to run 2 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation evenings on **Wednesday 8th May** and **Tuesday 18th June 6.30-8.30pm** (dinner and registration from 6pm) at John Scott Meeting House, La Trobe Uni. Cost: \$55 – full payment is required on Registration. Please return

this [registration form](#) by mail (with cheque), fax (9496 4349) or email (nevdgp@nevdgp.org.au) and pay on the night by cash or cheque. Credit card facilities are NOT available. Postal address is North East Valley Division of General Practice, C/- Repatriation Hospital, Locked Bag 1, Heidelberg West, VIC 3081

Infection Control Update

Wednesday June 12th 7-9 pm (dinner and Registration from 6.30pm) at John Scott Meeting House, Latrobe Uni, Bundoora. Presenter: Ms Margaret Jennings – Microbiologist and Infection Control educator. See [flyer](#) for more information

Clinical Vaccinology Update

Monday 3rd June at Monash Medical Centre, Clayton. This is an opportunity for immunisation providers and interested health care professionals to meet and discuss new vaccines, vaccine preventable disease epidemiology and vaccine safety. Registration and Program available [here](#). Enquires: Email: cvu@southernhealth.org.au, Phone: **03 9594 6320**.

Allies for better primary health care

Primary Health Care Research Conference **10–12 July** at the Hilton, Sydney. See [flyer](#) for registration and more information.

[Back to top](#)

Immunisation

Immunisation reminders the modern way!

There are a number of Apps available to remind parents that their child is due for immunisation or to prompt those planning to travel overseas to get any necessary immunisations before they go.

To help navigate the myriad of Apps available, the Australian Medicare Local Alliance has a list of Immunisation Apps available on their website which can be viewed [here](#).

All Apps listed are relevant to the Australian National Immunisation Program.

[Back to top](#)

Information Management

Could a smartphone be the future of medicine?

Take a look at this extraordinary YouTube video where a top US physician is saying how smart phones may change his profession and personal medical care in ways none of us saw coming. Click: [iDoctor](#) (forward home as clip is 8 minutes 51 seconds long)

Thanks for the assistance in installing NASH PKI Certificates

In our editorial of 2 weeks ago we wrote on the hoops and hurdles of applying and complying with the PIP eHealth and recommended those practices requiring assistance to contact Juan at Cititec on **9020 2888** or mobile **0422 781 433** (service costs apply). We reprint a thank you email from a practice manager (with permission).

Dear Noel

I just wanted to thank you for providing the details of Juan from Cititec. I was struggling with the last part - installation of the Nash certificate, and however many times I tried to get the answers, I was failing.

Juan visited [Name of Practice] this morning and very quickly installed the certificate. I do feel that what was required was beyond the capabilities of most practice managers - with poor support from Medicare and NMML. So thank you for pointing me in the right direction. Stress over.

Best regards

[Practice Manager – name supplied]

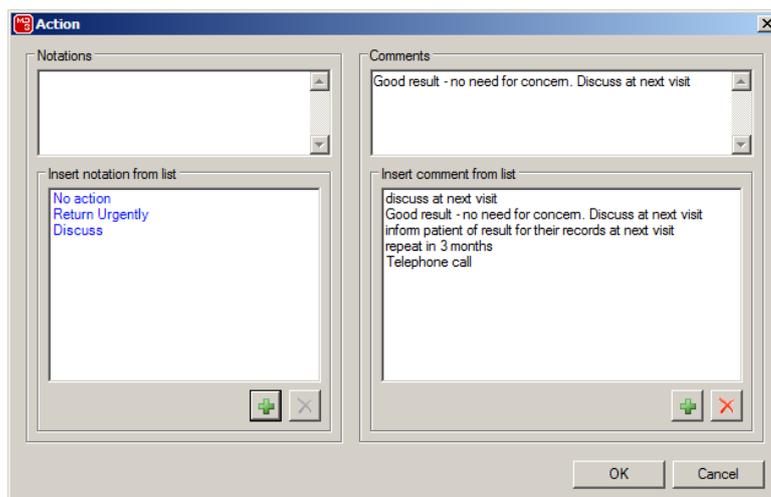
Medical Director Tip - Adding Results Comments

1. From the **Correspondence** menu select **Check Holding File...**

OR

Click on the **Correspondence** tab in a patient record

2. Click on the "Action" button at the bottom of the screen
3. Under the "Comments" panel type in your new "Comment" (e.g. "Good result - no need for concern. Discuss at next visit") and then click on the green + sign in the "Insert comment from list" panel and then click **OK**.



This week's IM problem - Opening first patient is very slow

Question: When I open the first patient record of the day it is very slow to open (over 2 minutes!). Opening subsequent records is OK. How do I fix this?

Answer: I don't know. The same happens to me and to many other practitioners I ask the same question. My only advice is that once you arrive for your first session, turn on your computer and open a patient record immediately and then go and have your tea or coffee. When you see the first patient the record should open quickly.

Alternatively when you leave work for the day leave your computer on with MD open but turn off the screen. Those GPs who "remote in" do this anyway.

[Back to top](#)

Items of Interest

Austin Health Specialist Clinics: Patient Choice Booking (PCB) Commencing May 6th!

A new appointment scheduling system will be implemented in the Specialist Clinics from May 6th 2013. GP's can still use their present referral forms and fax them to 9496 2097 or email clinics@austin.org.au requesting an outpatient appointment for their patient. If a patient's condition has deteriorated and they need to be seen sooner, please contact the GP priority line on 9496 2900 or email clinics@austin.org.au. If you require further information visit our website www.austin.org.au/pcb or please contact Jacinta Opie, Project Manager, Patient Choice Booking project on 0481 002 251 or email jacinta.opie@austin.org.au.

Accreditation news

April 30 eNews from GPA ACCREDITATION *plus* [here](#).

NMML News

Appointment of new eHealth Program Officer

Cynthia Lee has recently commenced with the NMML as the eHealth Program Manager. Cynthia's last role was at IBM Australia where she worked as Solution Design Program Manager. She was responsible for contracts and bid management for IT services. Cynthia is also a registered pharmacist and has worked in community pharmacy for some years. email: clee@nmml.org.au.

Targeted Incentive Grants for after-hours – call for applications

The NMML has announced a call for applications from General Practice for after-hours targeted incentive grants. Funding is available for General Practice to open during after-hours period(s) and who meet eligibility requirements. Guidelines and application forms were emailed to General Practices across northern Melbourne. Further information on the NMML website or contact Natasha Krajcar on 9490 2707.

GP Network News

This week's [edition](#) includes: Cap on tax deductions for work-related self-education expenses; AMA raises concerns about doctor data collection via pharmacies; Changes to the Healthy Kids Check: will we get it right?; Influenza Vaccination Reminders; New Combined Vaccine to be added to the National Immunisation Program; Veteran's Mates.

[Back to top](#)

News for Practice Staff

Infection Control Update

See under [CPD](#).

APNA newsletter

The latest APNA newsletter is [here](#).

General Practice Nurse Representatives

Keen to have a greater say in the general practice community? Why not join the [AML Alliance's GP Forum](#) - it's not just for GPs, it's for the general practice community which includes general practice nurses.

UNE Nurse Leadership

UNE Partnerships in conjunction with AML Alliance has developed a [nurse leadership program](#). The course provides essential management skills for nurses engaged in primary health care services within private and general public practices. The program recognises the current substantial growth and development of the Australian nurses' workforce, and aims to develop their leadership skills, to enable a more effective delivery and coordination of healthcare services and projects.

[Back to top](#)

Positions vacant/wanted

Please note: only new ads or resubmitted ads will be posted here. All other ads can be found on the [website](#)

Positions vacant

Doctors

Doutta Galla Community Health Service, Kensington - Short term positions for GPs

As a few GPs are going on leave in the coming weeks, Doutta Galla Community Health Service welcomes enquiries from interested GPs for the period 9th May - 20th May. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9-1:00 pm. Contact Janina De Silva Tel: **03 8378 1647** Fax **03 9372 1558** Mobile **0409 436 930**

Thornbury - VR GP Required full time or part time for our busy, accredited, computerised & long established practice. We have a friendly & professional working environment with dedicated staff & excellent nurse support. For enquiries, please contact Dr Danny Lipson or Rose - Practice Manager on **9484 2007**.

Positions wanted

RN Div 1 Consultant available - specifically available for Chronic Disease Management ie: Care Plans, Aged Care Facility ie: Comprehensive Health Assessments, General Health Assessments and Accreditation. Contact Silvana on: **0403 994 299**

[Back to top](#)

Humour

Grandma's Birth Control Pills

A doctor that had been seeing an 80 year old woman for most of her life finally retired.

At her next check-up the new doctor asked her to bring a list of all the medicines that had been prescribed for her. As the young doctor was looking through these his eyes grew wide as he realised she had a prescription for birth control pills.

"Mrs Smith, do you realise these are BIRTH CONTROL pills?"

"Yes, they help me sleep at night"

"Mrs Smith, I assure you that there is absolutely NOTHING in these that could possibly help you sleep"

She reached out and patted the young doctor's knee.

"Yes dear, I know that. But every morning I grind one up and mix it in the glass of orange juice that my 16 year old granddaughter drinks. And believe me; it helps me sleep at night"

[Back to top](#)

And remember...

... A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.