Tasmania Medicare Local wishes you safe, happy and healthy holidays

All TML offices will be closed for the Christmas break from 5.00pm, Friday 21 December 2012; reopening 9.00am on Wednesday 2 January 2013.

Thank you for your patience and good humour during what has been a year of considerable change for our organisation. We look forward to working with you across a range of new health initiatives in 2013!

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Check

The Closing the Gap Team have a new suite of resources available for your practice. These include posters and information cards promoting MBS item 715 ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health check’. Please contact TML’s Aboriginal Health Program Officers on 1300 653 169 for practice ‘Closing the Gap’ resources.

MBS Resource Update

TML still has a small supply of MBS flipcharts available for practices wishing to order more, or if your practice has not yet received your copies.

Recent changes to the MBS include the fees increase on 1 November (1.9%) and, from 1 December, closure of the Medicare Chronic Disease Dental Scheme. Updated MBS flipchart pages are available from our website www.tasmedicarelocal.com.au under Resources.

A notice explaining the Dental Scheme changes to patients can be found at www.tinyurl.com/5kjdzk

Updated Aged Care Medication Guidelines

An updated edition of the *Guiding principles for medication management in residential aged care facilities* has been released by the Department of Health and Ageing. An accompanying guide for residents and carers was also released. Both documents can be accessed at www.tinyurl.com/agejr67

Referring to allied Mental Health providers

A reminder that GPs should indicate the number of consultations required on their referrals to allied Mental Health Providers. Failure to do so can result in Medicare choosing not to pay the provider rebate.

The MBS schedule specifies ‘For the purposes of the Medicare rebateable allied mental health items, a course of treatment will consist of the number of services stated on the patient’s referral… The number of services that the patient is being referred for is at the discretion of the referring practitioner (eg GP).’

Telehealth Support

Andrew Connor is the new Telehealth Support Officer for Tasmania Medicare Local.

The telehealth initiative is about facilitating patient access to specialists. Medicare rebates are available for video consultations between specialists and patients in all areas of Tasmania (provided they are at least 15km apart), as well as eligible aged care facilities and Aboriginal medical services.

Rebates are also available for clinical services provided by a health professional located with the patient during the video consultation. Additionally, registration incentives are available for initial use of these services.

Andrew is available to provide assistance with telehealth solutions on 1300 653 169 or telehealth@tasmedicarelocal.com.au

More information on telehealth can be found at www.tasmedicarelocal.com.au/telehealth/

Australian Practice Nurse Association (APNA) Continuing Professional Development Survey

This survey is an easy way for primary health care nurses to advise what education they have previously undertaken, and how they currently plan and access education. APNA want to know the barriers to education and what clinical and non-clinical topics individuals would like in the future.

The information obtained from this survey will be used to shape APNA professional development in 2013 and beyond.

Please visit the following link to access the survey: www.surveymonkey.com/s/565B8ZD

The survey will be open to midnight Sunday 16 December. It takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

After hours program update

An update on TML’s after hours program is available on the TML website: www.tasmedicarelocal.com.au

The update outlines developments in areas including after hours support for the general practice workforce; after hours funding under the Practice Incentive Program (PIP); rural loading; and community awareness. It formed the basis of a recent letter to all Tasmanian general practices from TML CEO Phil Edmondson and Chair Dr Judith Watson.

For more information about the after hours program, contact Meghan Mann-Leonard or Steve Cooper on 1300 653 169 or meghan.mann-leonard@tasmedicarelocal.com.au; scooper@tasmedicarelocal.com.au
Anglicare Taz Kids Clubs and Champs Camps
Support is available to young Tasmanians who have a parent with a mental illness through Taz Kids Clubs and Champs Camps run by Anglicare. GPs are encouraged to let families know about the service which is designed for young people aged 7-17.

The camps provide opportunities for children and teenagers to ask questions, get clear answers, participate in a range of fun activities and make new friends. Connecting young people with Taz Kids is an effective way for GPs to respond to the needs of the entire family when supporting a parent’s recovery from mental ill health.


Need information about Aged Care Services?
A typical scenario might be:

Mrs Smith informs her GP she is feeling tired and she is struggling to look after her 80 year old husband who has dementia. The GP informs Mrs Smith she can call 1800 052 222, a national free call number funded by the Australian Government, to access support options.

Mrs Smith rings the service and discusses her own health and feelings of tiredness, as well as difficulties she is encountering with her husband’s resistance to her showering him.

Mrs Smith mentions that due to her current stress levels she has stopped meeting friends for coffee weekly and is no longer driving.

Information available to her may include:
- Transport Concessions,
- community transport options,
- in home and residential respite options,
- day centres,
- training options for carers of people with dementia,
- counselling support and
- referral for personal care support for her husband.

If you would like any information regarding aged care please call 1800 052 222.

GP anaesthetist urgently needed to continue service
Specialist Gynaecology Centres (SGC) have been providing early pregnancy termination (less than 14 weeks) since abortion law reform in 2001. Their mission is to provide an easily accessible, non-judgemental service which is affordable to all patients irrespective of means.

SGC operate from two locations at Hobart and Launceston (once a week at alternative locations for patient convenience), now both registered as licensed day procedure centres with accreditation to be achieved by the end of 2013. Providing an ongoing service over the years has become increasingly difficult due to a shortage of appropriately trained surgeons and anaesthetists. For the service to continue, SGC needs to be self-supportive and have local proficient practitioners trained in line with the Australian College of Anaesthetists’ guidelines on Sedation for Surgical Procedures.

SGC are seeking a qualified GP anaesthetist to provide IV sedation services one day per week, alternating between Hobart and Launceston. The position would command between $1500 and $2000 a day. Interested parties should call Dr Paul Hyland on 0408 238 202 or 6224 5888, or email dr.paul.hyland@bigpond.com

Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit (CDPU) Clinical Nurse Consultant (Immunisation)
Many practice staff will have met Lynne Andrewartha, who retired from this role recently.

Karen Henders is the new CNC (Immunisation).

A little about myself ….
I am from Brisbane originally, recently moved to Hobart late September 2012.

I completed my nursing degree at UCQ Rockhampton and my postgraduate studies in Midwifery and Immunisation at ACU in Brisbane. For the past 5 years, I have worked at the Gallipoli Barracks Military Health centre, Enoggera Qld, most recently as Nurse Unit Manager of Outpatient Services. This health facility caters for all 3 services (Army, Navy & RAAF) and has a patient dependency of approximately 6000.

The majority of my work consisted of Occupational & Primary Health care, Emergency, sports medicine, mental health and midwifery related nursing.

What are you passionate about?
Maternal and child health encompassing immunisation; raising awareness within the community about the importance of immunisations. In addition, supporting military members, their families and the wider community to increase awareness and support of mental health issues.

Where are you based?
I am currently working at the Communicable Diseases Prevention Unit in the BUPA building in Argyle Street.

What are your latest projects?
Raising immunisation levels particularly within the Adolescent age group in Tasmania through:
- School –based Immunisation Project
- Nurse Immuniser Authorisation project

What is the most important message for general practice?
To make the most of immunisation opportunities; attempting to make it a positive experience.

I am happy to be contacted if anyone has any queries. Phone: 6222 7709, Fax: 6222 7668 Email: karen.henders@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Pain management ALM now available to GPs
The RACGP has recently launched an Active Learning Module on pain management which is the result of collaboration between the RACGP, Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Australian & New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) and Bupa Health Foundation.

The RACGP accredited online learning program provides primary healthcare professionals with access to the latest evidence-based research and practical skills to deliver effective pain management to their patients. The program comprises six structured and interactive learning activities and offers a holistic approach to pain management and an important educational tool supporting best practice in pain management.

The ALM is delivered by the RACGP’s gplearning online learning platform, allowing access to the program to metropolitan and rural GPs, registrars and medical students.

Source: RACGP Friday Facts 9/11/12
New Templates
New templates now available from the TML templates page at www.tinyurl.com/ch258c5 include:

- MAIB Medical Certificate – (This one has been much requested)
- Closing the Gap – Assistance Request
- Closing the Gap – Care Co-Ordination Referral
- Calvary Clinic (Northern) referral

As always, if using MD, remember to reduce the margins under Page Setup when the template has been imported.

MD Upgrade
The recent MD upgrade, version 3.14a, has caused slowdown in some systems. In the last week in November a 3.14c software “patch” was released which is reported to fix many of these speed issues. Practices should liaise with their IT support staff on this issue.

Best Practice: Pen Clinical Audit Pap Smears Issue
Previously there was an issue whereby, for Best Practice clinics, the Pen Clinical Audit Tool was not recognising Pap Smear results performed by Hobart Pathology. This issue has been rectified in the recent update to the Pen tool.

PEN Clinical Audit Update
The latest update of the PEN Clinical Audit tool, contains the following enhancements.

- Maternal Health Care tab (includes sub tabs for Birth weight and Antenatal visits)
- Visits tab (includes sub tabs for Assigned provider and Last visit)
- MBS Heath Check now includes Item 10986 (HKC)
- Diagnosis - Post natal depression has been added
- BMI calculation now considers the timeframe in which the last height has been recorded
- ACR ranges have been updated to align with the Kidney Health Australia guidelines

Apart from being able to view pregnancy information across the practice, the biggest feature of this update is the increased ease of matching clinical information to assigned providers, and frequency of visit without having to adjust the filter settings.

For any assistance with this extremely useful Patient Management Tool, or if the practice would like it installed, contact Ian McKnight on 6270 6900.
The Link Youth Health Service - Information Sessions for Service Providers

Come and take a tour of The Link Youth Health Service in Liverpool St, Hobart. Information will be provided on the services, facilities and programs that are offered. There will also be an opportunity to meet the friendly staff. Bookings are essential.

When: Tours (approx. ½ hour duration) available weekly Tuesday – Thursday between 9 am and 1 pm.

Sessions can be arranged for groups or individuals from community service providers, and also for groups of young people. Jenny Lea, the Community Health Educator, is also available to present information sessions at your practice, if that is preferable. For bookings or information, please contact Jenny on ph 6231 2927 or email: jenny@thelink.org.au

Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Even though all referrals go through the Mental Health Helpline (1800 332 388), you can call Clare House directly during business hours to discuss referrals with two skilled clinicians, Robyn Tyson and Phil Brew on 6233 8612.

There is also a psychiatrist on call during business hours to provide support and advice to GPs and other clinicians (as appropriate after consultation with the Intake team). For more information and to get a copy of the referral and service guidelines, contact Anne Easther, CAMHS, on 6233 8612.

Validation of General Practice Sterilisers

Sterilisers used in general practice require annual validation to meet the standards, even for non-accredited practices. Between routine validations, the steriliser can only be run on the cycle/s for which it has been validated.

It is wise to have a service agent perform the validation on all the cycles that will be used within the practice, in the following year, including a complex load. The service agent will advise as to the load that is the most suitable for your specific steriliser.

The manual for the steriliser should be readily available to all staff responsible for the sterilisation processes and the care of the steriliser must be in accordance with the manufacturer’s requirements.

For infection control queries, please contact Provider Support at TML on 6270 6900.

Pathology South

The Royal Hobart Hospital’s Pathology South has opened a blood and specimen collection service at the Clarence Integrated Care Centre (Bayfield Street).

No appointments necessary; just call in anytime between 8.30am and 4.00pm. Bulk-billing offered to Medicare card holders and all pathology request forms are accepted. Contact 6214 3058 or www.pathologysouth.com.au

Breastfeeding Assistance

The Lactation Network provides consistent, thoughtful, contemporary breastfeeding advice, to achieve positive infant feeding outcomes.

Anne-Maree Wheller and Louise Klug specialise in all aspects of breastfeeding management and provide:

- Antenatal breastfeeding classes
- Antenatal and postnatal breastfeeding consultations
- Home Visits, Skype and Phone consultations also available.

Medicare rebates now available for antenatal and postnatal consultations up to six weeks. Private health fund rebates may apply after seven weeks.

Level 3, Hobart Private Hospital Corner Argyle & Collins Street Hobart Tasmania 7000
Phone: 6214 3476 Email: info@lactationnetwork.com.au
Web: www.lactationnetwork.com.au

PATIENT RESOURCES

‘Pituitary in Tassie’

Australian Pituitary Foundation, in association with the Royal Hobart Hospital, are holding a public education seminar on Sunday 9 December.

The seminar will address various aspects of treating, managing and living with a pituitary condition.

For more information, go to www.tinyurl.com/c7gvx7k

New Prostate Cancer Resource

The Tomorrow Counts website www.tomorrowcounts.com.au allows men, their families and loved ones to share their prostate cancer experience as a written story, video clip or series of photos. The site comprises user generated content and is linked to other social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

The site features stories from 10 well-known Australians who have experienced prostate cancer and these words serve as an open invitation for anyone touched by prostate cancer to share their story.

Online Directory for people affected by cancer

A new online directory providing greater support for Tasmanians with cancer, their families and the health professionals who care for them was launched on 17 October 2012.

The data shows the likelihood of Tasmanians surviving three of the four most commonly diagnosed cancers — prostate cancer, breast cancer and melanoma of the skin — for at least five years after diagnosis is 90 per cent or higher. This is better than the national average for these cancers.

The directory is available at www.directory.cancersupportcentre.org.au