

GENERAL PRACTICE LINK - JANUARY 2008

WELCOME TO THE JANUARY GENERAL PRACTICE LINK

Welcome to two thousand and great (aka 2008). It's going to be a goodie! We hope you found some time to rest, relax and rejuvenate yourself for the year ahead.

Now that Xmas has been and gone, *2007* has been and gone, and for most of us holidays have been and gone, it's time to look ahead.

As I'm sure you're all aware 2008 is an important year for IPAC with the election scheduled in the later half. We will be working hard, nothing's changed there, to ensure the voice of general practice is both heard and heeded, whoever the political powers may be. Below you will see how IPAC intends to actively work on behalf of general practice in this *2000&great* year.

Happy reading and Happy New Year!

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to 2008, a huge year for IPAC with the forthcoming election, the 2008 conference, and some potentially exciting developments for us. General practice unity is more important than ever at this time, and I urge you, our member organisations, to keep close to your practice teams and to ensure everyone is well informed at all times. We look forward to working closely with you all to protect, promote and further develop high quality organised general practice through this critical period. Our Wellington office, under Victor's excellent leadership, is geared up as never before to meet the challenges ahead. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at IPAC08 in Wellington, April 17-19; it promises to be the best IPAC conference yet.

BUSY BUSY BUSY

So a busy, *but great*, year lies ahead of us. Here's a taste of the many activities IPAC will be involved in on behalf of General Practice.

1. IPAC's consultation process with GPs, Practice Nurses and Practice Managers nationwide continues with the research process currently being finalised. This survey is an important source of information to help IPAC to better represent the interests of general practice.
2. IPAC will continue to act as a strong advocate for general practice.
3. The 2008 IPAC conference is fast approaching. See below for exciting news.
4. The qi4gp project remains a work in progress with scoping for Phase II due to be completed by the end of January. IPAC's continued involvement in this project depends upon outcomes of the scoping project.

5. The next full PSAAP negotiation meeting is scheduled for May 28. IPAC will continue to represent general practice's and PHOs' interests at these negotiations.

CONFERENCE 2008 - REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN!

The moment you've all been waiting for has arrived...

Don't delay; all you have to do is log onto www.ipac.org.nz/conference2008. With just a few clicks of your mouse it's as easy as 1-2-3.

If you have any questions please contact our Conference Liaison Arna Wahl-Davies on (03) 379 0390 or arna@conference.co.nz.

PSAAP – NATIONAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

On December 17, 2007 negotiations were held on the national DHB, PHO agreement. IPAC continues its role as agent for general practice and PHOs. Very few contractual changes were agreed. Key issues covered were:

PHO Performance Management Programme (PMP)

All PMP papers were withdrawn because decisions going forward are dependent upon DHB, PHOs and general practice agreeing a new governance structure for the programme. The process is progressing, but an agreement has not yet been reached. This means that the new indicator weightings for 2007/2008 are still on hold at this time and will remain so until an agreement over a governance structure is reached.

Enrolment

It was agreed that a working group be established to undertake a comprehensive review of enrolment rules. The purpose of the project is to consider the various enrolment and payment related issues and propose a series of recommendations that provide fairness and clarity as well as strengthen the alignment of enrolment processes with current primary health environment needs and the intent of the Primary Health Care Strategy. Issues to be addressed include:

1. Enrolment stand down period
2. Casual Deductions and the Community Services Card
3. Fee for service deduction anomaly
4. Three year enrolment
5. Other outstanding issues

The first meeting of the working party was held in Wellington on 24 January, 2008.

DHB Papers

A large number of DHB papers were either deferred or withdrawn including several PHO Performance Management Programme proposals, several Fee Review Committee papers, a Care Plus schedule, a new Child Health schedule, and a Health Emergency Planning schedule

The next full PSAAP meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2008.

GENERAL PRACTICE NURSING ALLIANCE (GPNA)

For information about the GPNA or to sign up to the quarterly GPNA Report please contact Ros Rowarth on ros.rowarth@rgpg.co.nz

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

If you have a conference, workshop or other initiative running in 2008 and would like it mentioned in the General Practice Link email ipacnews@ipac.org.nz.

Rural General Practice Network

28-30 March, Christchurch

"Working together, doing it better"

pamm@rgpn.org.nz

NZMA GP CME Conference

19-22 June, Rotorua

RNZCGP

16-19 July, Queenstown

Annual scientific conference

www.conference.co.nz/rnzcgp2008

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The General Practice Link is designed to keep general practitioners, practice managers and practice nurses up-to-date on national issues affecting them. To receive this monthly newsletter directly, you can subscribe by emailing ipacnews@ipac.org.nz.

We welcome your feedback on the Link and ideas for future issues. To have your say please contact ipacnews@ipac.org.nz.