

GENERAL PRACTICE LINK - August 2008

WELCOME TO THE AUGUST GENERAL PRACTICE LINK

Wow, we have finally reached spring – phew! It may not feel quite like it yet, with the weather still unsettled around the country. On the bright side, if you're a skier, its good news as this could be our longest (and best) season yet! And if you're not prepared to brave the cold, why don't you take some time out with a hot cuppa and catch up on what we've been working on during August.

August has been a busy month as we've continued working towards improved service delivery and business models for general practice (a united single voice), writing the IPAC Manifesto and making good headway in progressing stage 2 of the QI4GP project. Read on to find out more.

What do you think? Let us know...email ipacnews@ipac.org.nz.

GETTING OUT AND ABOUT

IPAC Chair Bev O'Keefe, Deputy Chair Shelley Frost, and CEO Victor Klap, are getting out and about to get a better feel from grassroots general practice about the issues that need national advocacy and support. The visits to members, and some non members, also present an opportunity to test the findings of our survey which showed that 90% of general practice respondents want a single voice and 80% want a single national organisation.

Visits have so far been held in Palmerston North, Wellington and Christchurch. Over the month of September we have scheduled visits with our Auckland, Wanganui, Rotorua, Hutt Valley, and Western Bay of Plenty members and associated organisations. These visits include meetings with the Boards of our members and also with GPs, Practice Nurses and Practice Managers. Keep an eye out for these meetings and make the effort to attend as we are keen to hear from as many of you as we can.

QI4GP UPDATE

The QI4GP project team is pleased to report that this important GPLF strategic project is progressing, slowly but surely. A Stage 2 Project Scoping workshop was held in Wellington on the 30th July. Key influencers including Pat Snedden (QIC), Paul Cressey (HISAC), Chai Chuah (DHBs Info Group), Alan Hesketh (DGG MoH) and Graeme Osborne (ACC) were invited to participate in a section of this workshop and their overall feedback and support was very positive.

The project team has been very successful in selling the concept of a general practice led quality and patient safety agenda and this fits well with the agenda of the national Quality Improvement Committee (QIC). QIC has been predominantly secondary care focussed to date but there is a growing realisation that the primary care component needs to be included sooner rather than later.

The QI4GP project team has been invited to participate in a primary care quality workshop hosted by QIC on the 8th September. Both QIC and the QI4GP project team believe components of QI4GP can contribute to QIC work streams, specifically the Safe Medication Management and Optimising the Patient Journey work streams.

Following the QIC meeting the QI4GP Steering Group will set about to clarify what QI4GP will deliver for general practice, patients and the wider health sector and to design the Stage 2 project in detail. This will include a comprehensive engagement plan and communication package for general practice.

For a reminder of what the QI4GP philosophy is please refer to the QI4GP website www.qi4gp.org.nz.

IPAC MANIFESTO

With the upcoming election, IPAC will shortly be releasing a political manifesto. The manifesto will be used to advocate to all political parties, and will serve to form a basis for advocacy with the post election government. The manifesto will put forward a clear position on key issues faced by General Practice such as after hours care, the current workforce shortage and much more.

A copy of the manifesto is expected to be available from the IPAC website late September.

PSAAP NATIONAL CONTRACT DISCUSSIONS

A meeting of the lead PSAAP negotiators (referred to as the PSAAP facilitators group) was held on 27 August. The primary role of this group is to sort out which issues need to go to a full PSAAP negotiation meeting. Below is an update of some of the issues discussed in August.

- Next full PSAAP meeting – due to the timing of the election it was agreed to defer the next PSAAP meeting from December 2008 to March 2009.
- Immunisation Framework – some time ago MoH commissioned a report on the provision of immunisation services. This report has been presented to MoH but is not yet available to the sector. The report includes recommendations on pricing of services. The Ministry undertook to report back to the PSAAP facilitators on the timing for the release of the report, and their implementation plan.
- Crown Funding Agreements (CFAs) – MoH and DHBs annually agree their CFAs and indicators of performance. These are negotiated without input from PHOs or general practice. Often these plans and indicators have implications for PHO reporting. It was agreed that this MoH/DHB process be added to the annual PSAAP agenda on a timely basis (say February each year) to ensure PHOs and general practice can influence the content of the CFAs.
- Enrolment review – as advised previously, the working group convened to address a number of outstanding issues was unable to reach agreement on them. The PSAAP facilitators expressed their frustration about this and are exploring alternative

processes to try to address what have been long standing irritations to PHOs and general practice.

- PHO Management Funding – the working party set up to review the adequacy of this funding has been put on ice. At the meeting it was agreed that MoH provide PSAAP with a detailed understanding of the joint DHB/MoH work programme to ascertain if there is any work already underway that can simplify the task of the working party. If not, it was felt the task of the working party was too complex, unlikely to get any support from the bureaucracy, and hence should not proceed.
- Other items discussed included the PHO Performance Programme and provision and uses of data.
- National Contract update – the latest version of the PHO Agreement: Contract version 18 is now available on the IPAC website (www.ipac.org.nz) on the 'National Contracts' page.

The next meeting is scheduled for 23 October 2008.

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.

Blood Pressure Awareness Campaign, 6 – 13 September

This year 8000 people in New Zealand will suffer a stroke and 30% of those strokes will be a result of high blood pressure. Stroke is also the leading cause of adult disability in NZ. For these reasons, the Stroke Foundation of New Zealand has chosen to focus on blood pressure as a key issue in reducing the incidence and consequences of stroke through a public health campaign.

This year will be the first of a 3-year public health awareness campaign to let people know about the relationship between high blood pressure and stroke. It will have an emphasis on education, and on getting people to understand that they can take action to reduce the risks high blood pressure, and consequently the risk of stroke.

The campaign will operate on the two Saturday mornings, either side of Stroke Awareness Week, i.e. 6th and 13th of September. Most campaign sites will be in local Amcal and Unichem pharmacies, malls, and in some cases related to local events. Trained volunteers from Lions will run the sites, and education material will be provided as will the opportunity for participants to test their blood pressure with a home blood pressure device supplied by Omron. Any concerned individuals will be referred to their GP for further follow up.

We have sent information about the campaign to DHBs and PHOs nationwide. If you have any questions about this campaign, please contact the project manager: Adrienne Transom on (04) 389 1121 or 027 275 1121. Alternatively you can email adrienne.transom@stroke.org.nz

Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) Forum

29 October – 1 November, Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin, Australia

Real Health Solutions

www.gpnetworkforum.com.au or Trisha Wong at twong@agpn.com.au.

Innov'08

3 – 5 November, Wellington Town Hall, Wellington

Weaving Innovation into Health

For more information and to register please visit www.innov08.org.nz

Southlink Health Members Only

22-23 November, St David Lecture Theatre Complex, University of Otago, Dunedin

Southlink Health AGM & Conference

claire_ashley@southlink.co.nz

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