

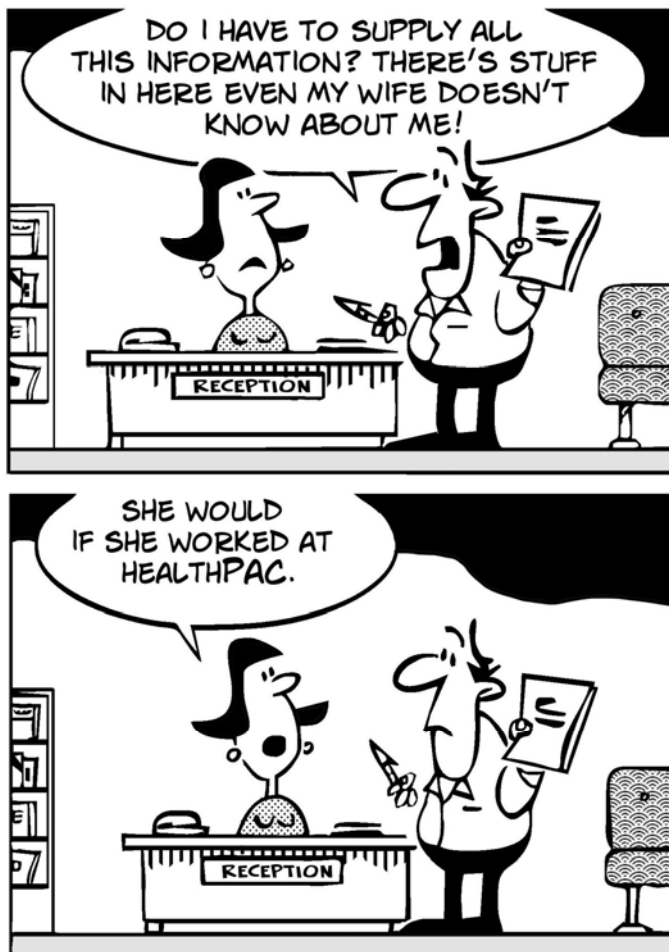
GENERAL PRACTICE LINK - MAY 2008

WELCOME TO THE MAY GENERAL PRACTICE LINK

May has been a sobering month internationally with the devastating cyclone in Myanmar, Burma on May 2/3 and the massive earthquake in the Sichuan Province of China on May 12. Events like these make you stop and think about the value of life. Back home announcements this month show the costs of living are getting increasingly higher with food staples and petrol prices sky-rocketing. Events like these make you stop and think about the value of money. How often do you stop and think about the value of things? How do you decide what's important to you? What does it take to change the value of something in your eyes? Take a moment to reflect.

On a lighter note...

GENERAL PRACTICE GIGGLES



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

IPAC08 – CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PHOTOS ONLINE

This is just a reminder that if you want copies of the speakers' presentations from IPAC08, they are available under the 'Presentations' page on the conference website - www.ipac.org.nz/conference2008. You can also check out a selection of pictures from IPAC08 on the 'Photos' page.

Once again, for those of you who attended IPAC08 – thank you! And for those of you who didn't – hopefully the wonderful comments from colleagues and friends and the information you can gain from the conference website will inspire you to join us next time.

BEFORE SCHOOL CHECKS (B4SC) PROGRAMME

The B4SC replaces the eighth Well Child Check and is a comprehensive check for all four year olds. The programme is to be delivered by registered nurses, supported by vision and hearing technicians, and covers components of hearing, vision, height, weight, general health (including oral health), development and behaviour. The implementation is phased, starting with four DHBs delivering the checks from 1 June 2008 and the next 17 DHBs delivering the checks from 31 August 2008.

IPAC supports the philosophy and intent of the B4SC programme. However, once again the consultation, communication and implementation strategies have detracted from the intent.

The B4SC programme has been designed as a national programme with a strong care coordination focus. It has been devolved to the 21 DHBs for local implementation. On the surface this appears to be sound, but the reality is that there are now 21 different implementation plans with not all programmes being delivered through PHOs.

IPAC believes that the programme is a national programme delivered in the community, so by definition is a primary care programme and should be delivered through PHOs. PHOs are ready and capable of coordinating a range of providers (including non-PHO aligned providers such as Plunket and Public Health Nurses) to deliver the various components of the B4SC programme. When DHBs exclude PHOs from the programme coordination role they deny them the opportunity to realise the full potential of the Primary Health Care Strategy which clearly states PHOs are the vehicle for primary care service delivery with coordination of care a pivotal role.

The B4SC Information System was delivered recently with poor consultation with PHOs and general practice. IPAC understood the Information System was to be PHO based so we were surprised to find the solution is another national database. National databases are not supported by PHOs and general practice (NIR is an example) and the preference is for local/regional solutions where the level of ownership and commitment is the greatest. This position is supported by the Health Information Strategy Action Committee.

Another significant issue is the assumption by DHBs that there will be a "bulk upload" of four year patient data into the B4SC database from other sources. Proposed sources

are PHO enrolled database, NIR or NHI. This would completely circumvent established enrolment and patient consent processes and gives rise to major concerns within IPAC membership around appropriate use of patient information. The IPAC CEO Group has taken up the appropriate use of patient information issue with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner and IPAC PSAAP Negotiating Team will discuss PHO service delivery at the next PSAAP meeting.

PSAAP NATIONAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

The national contract negotiations take place on 19 June. Almost all the items for the negotiations have been confirmed. Below are some of the key issues that will be up for negotiation.

- PHO Performance Management Programme – consideration of these papers is subject to the PMP governance group signing them off on 30 May. If approved PSAAP will be asked to approve the introduction of the CVD and Diabetes indicators effective from 1 July.
- PHO Management Funding – we are seeking support for a review of PHO management funding. Approval is being sought for proposed terms of reference for a review working party.
- VLCA/Under 6s Consistency – we want a change to the PHO Agreement that cements in the **voluntary nature** of the Very Low Cost Access funding arrangement.
- Unlinking PHO Performance Programme – currently the under 6's and VLCA funding arrangements require that PHOs and practices participate in PMP. We have proposed that the linking of the funding to participation in PMP be removed.
- Diabetes Annual Review (DAR) – the proposal is that DAR is included as part of the PHO Agreement and that pricing is standardised across the country. Currently prices range from \$45 to \$75.
- Future Funding Track (FFT) Adjustment (all PHO Services) – the proposal is that there is a built in annual increase (based on FFT) to all PHO funding lines from DHBs.
- Health Services for People Exposed to Dioxin – The Ministry of Health (MoH) are proposing this new service be added to the PHO Agreement. We have submitted a paper proposing an alternative pricing structure as we feel the pricing proposed is low.
- Use of Contract Information – this paper seeks to tighten up the wording in the contract to limit the use of information by DHBs.
- PSAAP Integrity – we believe the MoH and DHBs have used the Compulsory Variation contract mechanism in ways never intended by the contract. We are seeking an assurance from the Ministry of Health that they will adhere to the contract requirements regarding use of Compulsory Variations, including the need to consult appropriately.

- Before School Checks Programme (B4SC) – PHOs and general practice are advocating for the B4SC programme to be a PHO coordinated service and included in the PHO Agreement.

We will provide a full report following the negotiations on 19 June.

IPAC STAFFING CHANGES

We would like to introduce Dominique Sutherland and Fiona Thomson (whom many of you will already know) to the IPAC Management Office in Wellington.

Dominique will be taking over from Vanessa Johnson as Communications Advisor in a part-time capacity. Vanessa Johnson leaves IPAC on Friday 30 May. To contact Dominique, email dominiquesutherland@ipac.org.nz or ring her on (04) 473 9170.

Fiona (former CEO of Rotorua General Practice Group) comes on board as a full-time Project Manager, in particular for the QI4GP project. She will also be Acting CEO whilst Victor Klap is away on leave.

Victor will be away from 16 June to 25 July, returning to the office on Monday 28 July. In his absence please continue to contact Jennie Mills (EA to the CEO) if you wish to make an appointment to see Fiona Thomson, in her role as acting CEO.

GENERAL PRACTICE NURSING ALLIANCE (GPNA)

Annual Leadership Day

One of the core goals of the GPNA is the support and mentoring of established and emerging leaders within primary health care. One of the ways we do this is to have an annual Leadership Day (23 May) where we come together to talk and learn not only from the presenters, but also from each other.

On 23 May, we were once again, lucky to have Richard Joseph facilitating. The day was entitled: *You are the Instrument of your own Performance; Take this Time to Focus on yourself.* For many of us, as nurses, parents and partners, spending time on ourselves is the last thing we do; however, we were led gently and steadily through the process of not only discovering our personality types, but also how to deal with others.

We would like to thank Pegasus Health who hosted the day for us, and IPAC, who helped fund the day. Evaluations were very positive.

GPNA AGM

The GPNA AGM followed the Leadership Day, with reports from the Chair, Treasurer, and all Executive members that represent the GPNA on different sector groups. These groups are IPAC, PCIM, PHO Workforce Taskforce, ACC General Practice Liaison Group and the General Practice Leaders Forum.

We would like it noted that Jane Lane a founding member of the GPNA and original Secretary/Treasurer tendered her resignation from the Executive. This was reluctantly accepted. Jane is a very strong advocate for nurses and she will be missed.

Executive members elected:

Ros Rowarth, Chair/Treasurer
Shelley Frost, Deputy Chair
Michelle Day, Secretary/Treasurer
Caroline Forbes
Rachel Lloyd

Executive members co-opted:

Nardia Brooke
Linda Dubbeldam

We are very pleased to welcome Rachel Lloyd. She is the Clinical Services Manager at Harbour Health, with responsibility for developing and implementing nursing policies.

For information about the GPNA or to sign up to the quarterly GPNA Report please contact Michelle Day at michelle.day@ropata.net.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.

NZMA GP CME Conference

19-22 June, Rotorua
General Practice Conference and Medical Exhibition
www.gpcme.co.nz

Youth and Development Conference

2-4 July, Wellington Convention Centre, Wellington
"Involve 08"
www.involve.org.nz

RNZCGP

16-19 July, Queenstown
Annual Scientific Conference
www.conference.co.nz/rnzcgp2008

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.

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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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.