

GENERAL PRACTICE LINK - November 2008

WELCOME TO THE NOVEMBER GENERAL PRACTICE LINK

It's less than a month to Christmas – shock horror! Some of you are probably in a mad panic thinking about the holidays and the pressure of selecting those “perfect” Christmas gifts! With so much going on this time of year, it's hard to think about taking a break but we urge that you do spend the time with your family or loved ones. After a full-on year within the primary health care sector, which isn't showing signs of slowing down, you deserve to.

This time last year, we were given a new health minister to build a relationship with and, with the newly elected National government; the same is the case this year where we welcome Minister of Health, Tony Ryall. This is certainly an exciting time for General Practice and we look forward to seeing what the next year will bring.

If you have any feedback, please email us at ipacnews@ipac.org.nz.

GPLF MEET WITH NEW MINISTER OF HEALTH

The General Practice Leaders Forum had the distinction of being the first sector group to meet with the new Minister of Health, Hon Tony Ryall.

The meeting took place on 27 November. Tony Ryall expressed keen interest in meeting with the group on a monthly basis to keep up to date with current health sector issues and initiatives. The main topics discussed with the Minister included:

- Workforce issues
- Clinical Leadership and Networks
- Integrated models of care
- Sustainability and viability of general practice
- After hours
- Maternity Care
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The next meeting with the Minister will take place early in 2009.

The GPLF comprises representatives from IPAC, the General Practice Nurses' Alliance, New Zealand Medical Association, General Practitioner Council, the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners and the New Zealand Rural General Practitioner Network.

CURRENT ISSUES

Our October newsletter detailed three key issues on IPAC's agenda – those issues are **PHO Performance Programme, Immunisation Fees, and First Contact Care Funding** (for this detail please go to www.ipac.org.nz and go to newsletters).

Other issues currently being dealt with include:

- **After hours** – the previous Government announced that a sum of \$9 million would be made available to help address urban after hours services. This sum is in addition to the \$5 million announced for rural after hours. We are working with the NZMA to provide advice to the Ministry of Health about the allocation of this funding.
- **B4SC** (before school checks) – feedback from within our networks about the B4SC programme has been very critical about many aspects of its implementation. We are soon meeting with the Ministry of Health to detail these concerns and engage with them to try address them.

Most of these issues are also on the agenda for discussion at the next PSAAP Facilitators on Wednesday, 3rd December.

IPAC NETWORK SEMINARS

The IPAC Executive has approved a pilot network seminar on “Service Delivery and Business Models for General Practice”. This will be a first of what we hope will become a series of seminars, and we see this as bridging the gap before the next IPAC Annual Conference in early 2010.

This will be a great opportunity to meet and share knowledge, experience and develop the opportunities for General Practice as networks. The pilot seminar is likely to be held in either Auckland or Wellington in April 2009. Further information will be available early in the New Year.

HEALTH INFORMATION PRIVACY POLICY

There is increasing demand for health information from health agencies for purposes such as public health accountability, health service planning and population health analysis. Secure networks now exist and health information can be instantly transferred between health providers and agencies. The proposed extraction of identifiable patient CVD and Diabetes information from general practice PMS has highlighted a lack of clarity around the appropriateness of transfer and sharing of health information. General practice clearly has obligations around the protection of patient health information and we believe we must establish our position with some urgency to prevent the implementation of any inappropriate health information transfer processes.

The IPAC Executive and Council have approved an interim IPAC Privacy Position pending the completion of an IPAC Health Information Privacy Policy. A draft Policy has been agreed at Executive level pending endorsement from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner and feedback from our members. The Executive has delegated the task of developing an IPAC Privacy Toolkit to the IPAC CEO Group. The Toolkit will include practical advice around requirements and sample templates for use by members and will be available in the first quarter of 2009.

SAFE MEDICATION MANAGEMENT (SMM) WORKSTREAM

The principal objective of the SMM programme is to ***improve patient safety by reducing the incidence of medication error***. Sub-projects within the SMM programme include:

- Standard Medication Chart
- Medicine reconciliation
- Medicine management systems
- E-prescribing
- Unit dose barcoding
- Bedside verification

The Primary Care Working Group of the SMM programme (facilitated by IPAC Project Manager, Fiona Thomson) provides a good opportunity to engage clinical leadership at a primary care level and address a number of primary/secondary transition issues as components of the SMM programme.

The group has completed their first workshop around the scope of their work. The Primary Care group will be closely aligned to the Medicines Reconciliation group and will focus their work around transitional medication issues. It is acknowledged transition involves a range of health and community support providers but the initial scope will be limited to transfer between general practice, community pharmacy, residential care facilities and secondary care.

The group will be working on establishing the needs of each party involved in the transfer process (including our patients) and identifying early process enhancements that will improve medicines management. Alongside any short term enhancements, the group will also be considering implications of the mid to long term environment including national implementation of e-pharmacy and of e-transfer of care.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...



Alan Mangan is a full time General Practitioner at Aramoho Health Centre Wanganui. He's been a general practitioner in Wanganui for 29 years. He is a Clinical Director (Business) Whanganui Regional PHO, is a Board Trustee on the Whanganui PHO and has been a chairman of the local IPA Progressive Health [NZ]Inc. for 6 years, and has been on the IPAC Executive for the past 3 years.

1. What is the best piece of advice your parents ever gave you? *"The harder you work the luckier you'll beI'm not sure its worked."*

2. What is your most embarrassing moment? *My most embarrassing moment was when I was awarded my QSM. It was awarded for services to Medicine and Health Administration. I guess my embarrassment was related to the thought 'why me' as opposed to the many others who are worthy of such recognition. My second most embarrassing moment was watching my 26 year old son participate as a pro wrestler in Kiwi Pro Wrestling in New Plymouth in October this year...he lost.*
3. What is your favourite movie/tv series? *Anything I watch with my wife...usually Chic Flicks ...sometimes less than memorable...but I do remember laughing alot at 'Death at a Funeral'.*

We go to lots of shows, Church Road Jazz, Eric Clapton at the Mission and have already booked for Starlight Express and Leonard Cohen. Really enjoyed new Rolling Stones DVD and hope one day to see my sons band 'The Have' in lights. They are on a short concert tour with the Datsuns in Germany at present.

4. What is the best dining experience you've ever had? *Dinner at C'est La Vie Akaroa. The food in this outstanding French restaurant was superb and authentic. The atmosphere was truly French and one always enjoys a dining experience when on holiday with not a care in the world. I would recommend it to anyone visiting Akaroa. It's incredibly popular so make sure you book.*
5. What is the most expensive item of clothing you've ever bought? *My Gant bomber jacket. It cost me \$300.....reduced from \$600.....an absolute steal I reckon....no I would not pay \$600 for it...but I love it.*
6. Where is your favourite place in the world? *Wanganuibelieve it or not. There is no place like home. The absolute boring truth. I know it's not paradise but it's a pretty good place to live. If I have to 'give way' driving to work I get grumpy.*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

College of GPs Quality Symposium

13 & 14 February 2009, Wellington
Quality and Information

Ministry of Health Primary Focus 3 Conference

24 – 26 February 2009, Wellington
New Zealand Made Primary Health Care

Rural General Practice Network

27-29 March, Wellington
"Rural Health, rural Life – look what we've got!"
pamm@rgpn.org.nz

NZMA GP CME Conference

11-14 June, Rotorua
General Practice Conference & Medical Exhibition
www.gpcme.co.nz

If you have a conference, workshop or other initiative running in 2008/09 and would like it mentioned in the General Practice Link email ipacnews@ipac.org.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.