



eNews

Email Bulletin of Health Issues Centre

10 October 2008

Level 5, Health Sciences 2
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY VIC 3086

Ph: (03) 9479 5827

Fax: (03) 9479 5977

info@healthissuescentre.org.au

www.healthissuescentre.org.au

URGENT DEADLINE: 14 October 2008

Australian Medical Council (AMC): National Code Of Conduct

On behalf of all state and territory medical boards, the Australian Medical Council (AMC) is developing a national code of professional conduct for medicine called *Good Medical Practice*. The code aims to define clear, nationally consistent standards of medical practice, and a consistent code of professional conduct that is understood by the profession and the community. A national consultation process is now underway to support the development of the code. The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing has provided funding to support the consultation process. Feedback on the code is open until **28 November 2008**.

The AMC is looking for interested members of the community and the medical profession to come to the meeting and share their views about what the community expects of doctors. A copy of the draft code, information about its purpose and ideas about how you can join in the consultation can be found at www.goodmedicalpractice.org.au

A public meeting to provide feedback on the draft code is being held in Melbourne:

Date: Thursday, 15 October 2008

Time: 5.30 – 7.30pm

Venue: Level 17, 150 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Please register your interest in attending the consultation session by **14 October 2008** at <http://goodmedicalpractice.org.au/bookings>

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HEALTH ISSUES CENTRE

Two New Projects for Health Issues Centre

Health Issues Centre has recently been funded by the Victorian Department of Human Services to conduct two new projects:

The first project aims to develop a comprehensive suite of consumer, carer and community performance indicators for Victorian health services. The approach to develop the indicators will involve a consumer consultation, a literature review, a mapping exercise and a workshop with stakeholders to gain consensus on the final suite of indicators. The Lincoln Centre for Research and Ageing and the Centre for Quality Improvement Research and Practice will collaborate with Health Issues Centre to implement the project.

The second project involves the development of a Consumer and Carer Consultation Strategy for the Home and Community Care Program (HACC) Active Service Model Project. The project will seek information from consumers and carers to input into the development of the implementation plan for the HACC Active Service Model initiative. It will also seek consumer and carer input to determine appropriate and feasible strategies for consumer and carer contribution for the ongoing development and implementation of the model.

For information on the projects, contact Lauren Cordwell or Tere Dawson on (03) 9479 5827.

JOURNAL NEWS

The next edition of the Journal which has a focus on primary health care will be available at the end of October. The Chronic Illness edition will be available before Christmas.

CONSUMER PARTICIPATION

Report on Victorian Quality Council (VQC) meeting

(From Ivan Kayne, Community member for the Victorian Quality Council (VQC)/Consumer member for the Victorian Quality and Safety Committee/Deputy Chair of HIC)

The 3rd Victorian Quality Council (2008-2012) met for the first time on 5 September 2008. The new Chair of the Council, Dr Sherene Devanesen, welcomed the Minister for Health and Council members to the meeting. After a short address by the Minister, the Council adopted new 'Terms of Reference', set out in the VQC November 2007 Evaluation Report by the Nous Group. If you wish to learn more about the VQC, its goals, activities, membership details or read the details valuation by the Nous Group, please visit the VQC website: www.health.vic.gov.au/qualitycouncil/

POLICY NEWS

Health Reform Discussion Papers now Available on the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC) Website

To assist in its work to develop a long-term health reform plan for Australia, the NHHRC invited discussion papers from authorities, primarily academics, in the key areas of Primary and Community Care, Prevention, Governance, and Public-Private Mix. These papers are now available from the NHHRC website: www.nhhrc.org.au

OTHER NEWS

Understanding Lymphoedema

The National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) undertook a program of work to improve the knowledge and management of secondary lymphoedema following treatment for all cancers. The NBOCC evidence-based suite of resources has been translated into five key languages (other than English) spoken in Australia, and includes:

- The management of secondary lymphoedema - a guide for health care professionals
- Lymphoedema - what you need to know (consumer booklet)
- Understanding lymphoedema (consumer leaflet)
- Lymphoedema (Indigenous consumer brochure)

An online workshop module for health professionals and Indigenous health workers is also available. Copies can be ordered at www.nbocc.org.au or by calling 1800 624 973.

New Disclosure System to Raise Standards and Protect Patients

In an Australian first, the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery (ACCS) has announced a new mandatory patient disclosure system as part of its campaign to raise industry standards and ensure better patient protection.

For further information, contact Andrew Bradley:

Phone: (02) 8001 8888

Email: abradley@wilkinsonmedia.com.au

Website: <http://www.accs.org.au/index.php?h=home>

Update on the Enhanced Primary Care (EPC) Dental Scheme

The following updated summary of the EPC Dental Scheme is copied from the Australian Council of Operating Room Nurses website (ACORN) website and made available by the AIDS Council of NSW. It is based on an email sent on 17 September 2008, from Jo-Anne Tamlyn, Project Coordinator, Chronic Illness Alliance (CIA).

Who is eligible for the EPC Dental Care scheme?

Anyone working or on a pension, with a chronic medical condition (including HIV) and complex care needs (i.e. receiving care from a GP and two other health care providers- psychologist, chiroprapist, dietician) and whose oral health is impacting on their general health, can access this scheme. GPs will assess eligibility and for most people, will be able to prepare a 'GP Management Plan' and 'Team Care Arrangements'. The EPC scheme covers up to \$4,250 of dental work including; assessments, extractions, fillings, restorative work (bridges, crowns and implants), dentures, orthodontic services and preventative services.

Will there be any cost?

Some private dentists are bulk billing on this scheme, but many will set their own fees and charge you the difference between that and the Medicare rebate. Any out-of-pocket expenses count towards the Extended Medicare Safety Net (EMSN), which is \$519.50 for concession card holders and \$1,039 for others and families (April 2008).

How do I access the EPC Dental Care scheme?

Make an appointment to see your GP as soon as possible. You might need a longer appointment than usual to enable the GP to prepare a 'GP Management Plan' and 'Team Care Arrangements' - check with your GP and/or clinic. Ask your doctor if you are eligible (most people with HIV are). Your GP will give a referral to a private dentist. Ask if they know one that bulk bills - or you can suggest a dentist if you know one. Your GP will send all necessary paperwork to Medicare. You cannot start dental work until the 'Care Plan' is completed and Medicare has processed your information. It is advised that you call Medicare on 132 011 to check whether all the paperwork has been processed.

For more information speak to your GP, contact Medicare on **132 011** or visit the Medicare website at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED

Join the Health Issues Centre (HIC) Consumer Register

HIC encourages all Victorians to have their say on health issues and to contribute their experience, knowledge and ideas to improving health care in Victoria. As a consumer on the HIC consumer register, you will receive information about:

- Consumer positions on committees, consultations and focus groups
- Consumer events and training
- Useful resources relating to consumer participation
- Opportunities to comment on important issues relating to health issues, policies, services
- HIC eNews

People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, young people and people with a disability, are encouraged to apply. To join download a registration form from our website:

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/documents/items/2008/09/230604-upload-00001.doc> and send to Assunta Morrone at a.morrone@healthissuescentre.org.au

Consumer Vacancies

See our website <http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/participate/>

Notice from National Prescribing Service (NPS)

National Prescribing Service Limited (NPS) is an independent, non-profit organisation for Quality Use of Medicines. NPS provides accurate, balanced, evidence-based information and services to help people choose if, when and how to use medicines to improve their health and wellbeing.

Medicines Update is a consumer newsletter published three times a year and consumer input sought prior to publication. The December issue will feature Tramadol (an analgesic) and zoledronic acid (Aclasta) for osteoporosis. NPS is seeking expressions of interest from consumer organisations who are interested in reviewing the December article prior to publication. The draft article will be available for distribution from the 7 October and the review completed by the end of October.

If you are able to assist with feedback, please contact Rosanne McMaster at NPS:

Phone: (02) 8217 8772

Email: rmcmaster@nps.org.au

Website: http://www.nps.org.au/consumers/publications/medicine_update or
www.nps.org.au/consumers

Chronic Illness Alliance (CIA): WorkWelfareWills Project

The Chronic Illness Alliance is finalising new workplace discrimination content for the WorkWelfareWills site. In plain English, the material explains how people with a health condition can be helped by disability discrimination laws when they are discriminated against in their workplace. Hopefully, it will be a great resource for all members. As well as explaining the current law, it provides contact details for specialist discrimination lawyers who provide a free legal advice service and personalised advice about their situation. At this stage, CIA is seeking real-life case studies from people who have been discriminated against through their illness. All stories used will be non-identifying. If you have a story you are prepared to share, please contact Jo-Anne Tamlyn, Project Coordinator:

Phone: (03) 9882 4654 (Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday)

Website: <http://www.chf.org.au> or
<http://www.chronicillness.org.au/workwelfarewills/>

Consumer Vacancies - Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF)

A number of consumer representative vacancies are currently being advertised by the CHF. If you are a member of CHF, the nomination form can be downloaded from the Members' Area of <http://www.chf.org.au>

If you are not a CHF member, please contact CHF Committee Liaison Officer, Debbie Smith, who can also provide further information about most committees:

Phone: (02) 6273 5444

Email: d.smith@chf.org.au

Website: <http://www.chf.org.au>

Public Consultations on a National Compact

The Government has requested the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) to consult not-for-profit organisations and the people who use them about a proposed National Compact. It is expected that a compact would facilitate a stronger relationship between the not-for-profit sector and the Commonwealth Government; one based on partnership and respect. A series of public forums have been arranged around Australia to gauge what people think about the proposal. The results will help the sector and Government decide how best to move ahead on the development of a compact.

For more information on the public forums and to see the discussion papers and download a registration form, visit:

<http://www.acoss.org.au/Events.aspx?displayID=99&articleID=4696>

EVENTS OF INTEREST

VCOSS Clearinghouse: *Financial Literacy for Not-For-Profit Organisations*

This seminar will help you understand your financial statements. Using straight forward techniques learn how to interpret your income statement and your balance sheet. These skills will enable you to ask the right questions and provide you with information that will help in decision making. Details below:

Date: 14 November 2008
Time: 10am - 3pm
Venue: Berry Street Gippsland, 37 Elgin Street, Morwell VIC
Cost: \$20 for VCOSS Members or \$40 for non-members

CONFERENCES

National Rural Health Alliance: 10th National Rural Health Conference

Rural Health: The Place To Be

If you are interested in the health and wellbeing of the 32 per cent of Australians who live in rural and remote Australia, Cairns is the place to be from 17-20 May 2009.

Dates: 17 - 20 May 2009
Location: Cairns, Far North Queensland

For further information, please contact Lyn Eiszele AMM, Conference Manager, National Rural Health Alliance:

Phone: (02) 6285 4660
Email: lyn@ruralhealth.org.au
Website: www.ruralhealth.org.au

NEW ON OUR WEBSITE

What do Consumers say about Consultations?

We recently asked consumers to reflect on their experience of being consulted. Read what they had to say:

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/documents/items/2008/09/230561-upload-00001.pdf>

Hot Topic: Can all Consumers Self-manage their Chronic Illness?

Tell us what you think? Join our online forum

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/group/phorum/read.php?1,11>

The Needs of Victorian Rural Consumers who Travel to Melbourne Hospitals

This discussion paper was developed following concerns expressed by several metropolitan hospitals' Community Advisory Committees (CAC) about the range of issues faced by rural consumers when using city hospitals. Health Issues Centre (HIC) proposed developing a discussion paper and the work was funded by the Statewide Quality Branch of the Victorian Department of Human Services (DHS):

<http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/documents/items/2008/10/233648-upload-00001.pdf>

NEW RESOURCES

Resources

Manuals for Community Organisations

<http://www.vcooss.org.au/what-we-do/community-sector/manuals.htm>

Royal College of Physicians (UK), Patient and Carer Network member: Role Description
[/documents/items/2008/10/233714-upload-00001.doc](http://www.healthissuescentre.org.au/documents/items/2008/10/233714-upload-00001.doc)

Practice Examples

Examining the role of context in the implementation of a deliberative public participation experiment: results from a Canadian comparative study

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6VBF-4NBY8VR-1&_user=545344&_rdoc=1&_fmt=&_orig=search&_sort=d&_view=c&_acct=C000027898&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=545344&md5=c91be9bce08acd0ef48e5a5cf7a80af3

Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC): Community Participation Program Guidelines

</documents/items/2008/10/233722-upload-00001.pdf>

Websites

QQUIP: the Quest for Quality and Improved Performance

<http://qquip.health.org.uk/QQUIP/index.aspx?ChapterID=1075>

Engaging Consumers in Discussion about Australian health policy, written by the Australian Institute of Health Policy Studies and available for download at

<http://healthpolicystudies.org.au/>

New Hypertension Guidelines from the Heart Foundation

The Heart Foundation's updated *Guide to Management of Hypertension* has been published for health professionals. Access the Guide at:

http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/document/NHF/A_Hypert_Guidelines2008_Guideline_FINAL.pdf or visit <http://www.heartfoundation.org.au>

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