

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 1 July 2011.

In this issue • Caution urged over contractual variation in BOP • New GPLF chair • First aid kits for buses mooted and much more...

## Caution urged over contractual variation in BOP

Members in Katikati and Murupara have drawn to the attention of the NZRGPN a change in the contractual arrangements associated with the rural premium funding that the BOP DHB have included in their latest round of contractual changes with PHOs.

This change effectively links the payment of rural premium funding and after hours funding to the achievement of certain health targets, and imposes a "clawback" should the targets not be reached.

There is apparently some pressure being put upon practices to sign provider agreements that include these changes by July 1st.

The Network is in the process of exploring this unilateral and apparently unique change by the BOP DHB with the MOH, and whilst we are awaiting their response we would suggest that providers do not sign up to these clauses in any contract that they are presented with.

In the meantime our view is that if a DHB believes there are accountability and performance issues within its region we believe the best approach is for the DHB, PHO and providers to sit down in a clinical governance capacity to talk through the issues and come up with ways for solving. It is not appropriate for one group to have a contract variation imposed which may result in financial loss, particularly when the funding streams in question are ring fenced for the purposes of rural primary health care workforce recruitment and retention and rural after hours service provision.

We would encourage you to respond to your PHO and DHB along these lines. We will keep you informed as soon as we have any further information about this issue.

## New GPLF chair

Wellsford GP Dr Tim Malloy has been appointed chairperson of the General Practice Leaders Forum (GPLF).

The GPLF is an informal body of chairs, deputy chairs and CEOs from five national groups: the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network, the New Zealand Medical Association, General Practice New Zealand, the Royal New Zealand College of GPs and the New Zealand Nurses Organisation.

Dr Malloy replaces Dr Mark Peterson as GPLF chair.

## First aid kits for buses mooted

The Southland coroner wants the tour bus industry to consider carrying first aid kits and radios on buses when travelling in remote locations following the death of an Australian tourist near Milford Sound. (Southland Times)

Coroner David Crerar has released his findings regarding the death of New South Wales bus tourist Margaret Mary Fleming at The Divide near Milford Sound on March 19, 2009, saying she died of chronic asthma complicated by aspiration of stomach contents.

[Read more.](#)

## GPs - trustworthy but not as much as specialists

GPs are in the top 10 list of most trusted professionals, but only just. Paramedics, nurses, specialists and pharmacists all rate higher, according to the latest Reader's Digest trust poll. (NZ Doctor)

In past years medical specialists and GPs have been bundled together as "doctors" and generally rank around fifth most trusted out of a list of 39 professions.

[Read more.](#)

## Epilepsy in general practice

Epilepsy New Zealand and Epilepsy Australia want to know about epilepsy in general practice. Complete the one minute survey and go into the draw to win one of three 3M™ Littmann® Electronic Stethoscopes Model 3200.

[Click here](#) to start the survey

The survey will run until July 22, 2011.

## Outstanding research recognised by Value of Medicines Award

Professor Ian Reid of The University of Auckland has received the inaugural Medicines New Zealand Value of Medicines Award. (Scoop)

"Professor Reid's work over the past 25 years has contributed substantially to the understanding, effectiveness and safety of the use of medicines in osteoporosis and Paget's disease," Medicines New Zealand General Manager Kevin Sheehy says.

[Read more.](#)

## GPs push for alcohol reform

Nelson GPs are joining a push by a national group of doctors to lobby Prime Minister John Key and other National MPs to ensure the Alcohol Reform Bill is tightened, following delays in pushing the bill through Parliament. (Nelson Mail)

The Alcohol Reform Bill gives communities more power to veto new liquor licences, reduces opening hours, limits the alcohol content of ready-to-drink beverages (RTDs) and proposes splitting the alcohol buying age to 18 for bars and 20 for off-licences.

[Read more.](#)

## Health board set for insurance bill hike

Insurance premiums for the South Canterbury District Health Board could almost quadruple. (Timaru Herald)

Premiums for insurance cover for the year to June 30 were \$64,513. Early indications are the premiums could increase to \$250,000 for the coming year.

[Read more.](#)

## NZ Medicines formulary/MIMS update

In July 2010 UBM Medica NZ Ltd (publishers of MIMS) advised general practice prescribers and Practice Managers that pharmaceutical companies would no longer be advertising within MIMS and MIMS would move to a subscription business model as of August 1, 2010.

GPNZ negotiated a special price for an 11-month subscription for member networks based on enrolled patients in anticipation of the development of the NZ Medicines Formulary (NZMF) which will be made available to all prescribers and be publically funded.

The GPNZ negotiated price was also offered to Network members.

[Read more.](#)

## New guidelines for medicines management in aged care

A new set of guidelines to help residential aged care providers manage medicines as safely as possible, has been launched by National MP Jo Goodhew in Timaru.

Mrs Goodhew is a former nurse, and launched the Ministry of Health guidelines at a meeting of GreyPower recently.

[Read more.](#)

For NZRGPN conference 2011 photos [click here](#)

Not a member? Join the Network!

The Network is the only nationwide membership-based organisation in New Zealand representing the interests of rural general practice.

Visit our [website](#) for additional information and an online application form or contact Rob Olsen on 04 495 5887.

## Network on Twitter

You can follow the Network and associated rural health sector news, views and events on Twitter or sign up and give us your news and views - just click on the Twitter icon below or visit our website [www.rgpn.org.nz](http://www.rgpn.org.nz)



## Employment agreements - a must for everyone

From July 1, 2011 all employers must keep a copy of their employees signed employment agreements or current terms and conditions of employment or they may face a penalty action for a breach of the law. This applies to employers who may have hired employees on a verbal agreement or who do not have current up to date agreements in place.

[Read more.](#)

## Million dollar health centre opens doors

The new Amuri Community Health Centre has officially opened its doors to patients. (Scoop)

It has taken 10 months to construct the 489 m2 facility, including a locum cottage, at a cost of around one million dollars - one of the largest investments of public money in the area in a number of years.

[Read more.](#)

## Submissions on Buller IFHC focus on staff not buildings

Having access to a stable workforce of doctors and nurses in Westport seems to be more of a priority for locals than development of an integrated family health centre. (NZ Doctor)

This was a common theme among the 42 submissions to the West Coast DHB's proposal for an IFHC in Buller (New Zealand Doctor, June 1).

[Read more.](#)

## Pukekohe nurses front child abuse screening

Pukekohe nurses alarmed by child abuse and neglect have been acknowledged for putting the issue firmly in the lap of their primary care colleagues. (NZ Doctor)

"We don't want these children turning up in secondary care," says practice nurse Erin Meads.

[Read more.](#)

## Conferences

GPNZ/RNZCGP joint conference, Langham Hotel, Auckland, September 1-4, 2011. [Click here](#) for more information

## Publications of interest

Health Improvement and Innovation Resource Centre [click here](#).

Division of Rural Hospital medicine newsletter [click here](#).

## Your views please...

Remember, your feedback on issues or information in this newsletter is welcome.

Feedback to: [rob@rgpn.org.nz](mailto:rob@rgpn.org.nz)

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