NEW ZEALAND RURAL GENERAL PRACTICE NETWORK

RuralNetworker

October 2010 | Promoting the networking, support and advocacy of the rural general practice workforce

Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 8 October 2010.

In this issue • Four GPs on high-powered council • Funding for feasibility studies • Great Southern PHO begins and much more...

Four GPs on high-powered council

Four well-known GPs are on the Hawke's Bay DHB Clinical Council, the most empowered such council in the country. (NZDoctor)

Taradale GP and NZMA GP Council chair Mark Peterson, Hastings GP David Tipene-Leach and Wairoa GP Ron Janes join Napier GP and NZMA chair Peter Foley on the council.

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Funding for feasibility studies

The New Zealand Government is providing funding to support general practice consolidation feasibility studies.

A maximum of $20,000 for general practice consolidation and $30,000 for integrated family health centre proposals on a dollar for dollar basis will be made available for successful practices and health professionals. If you are considering taking advantage of the Government's funding support, you need to have confidence the outputs from your study equip you with everything you need to make the right choices for your practice and your enrolled population.

Read more

Rural Women NZ offers support following Southland snowstorms

Rural Women New Zealand members are offering support to farming families in Southland and Otago following the recent snowstorms and atrocious weather conditions.

"Farming families are feeling shocked and vulnerable, and our members will do what they can to offer support and assistance, just as they have following the Canterbury earthquake" says RWNZ National President, Liz Evans.

Rural Women New Zealand has received a further $3000 from MAF to run a programme of adverse events meetings and organise community get-togethers in the region, once the weather clears. "This comes on top of $5000 we have received to run similar events in Canterbury following the earthquake," says Ms Evans.

Up to $200 will be available for each community event, and people wishing to apply for funding should contact RWNZ Executive Officer, Noeline Holt on (04) 473 5524 or email Noeline.holt@ruralwomen.org.nz

Great Southern PHO begins

All but one of nine Otago and Southland PHOs will merge to form a single Southern PHO with the ninth due to join next July.

Hokonui, Takitimu, Invercargill-Te Ara a Kewa, Wakatipu, Rural Otago, Taieri & Strath Taieri, Otago Southern Region and Well Dunedin PHOs' legal "deed of assignment" is effective now and Mornington PHO will join the amalgamation 1 July 2011.

Read more

Destroy old medical certs now

GPs are being asked to destroy the old Work and Income certificates for sickness and invalid beneficiaries and use the revised version. (NZDoctor)

Now called the "Work Capacity Medical Certificate", the certificate has been revised for a second time following two reforms, first from the Labour government and now from the National government.

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More Maori needed in health

An extra 150 Maori need to enter medical education every year for the next decade just to keep up with increasing population and health service demands, according to a new Ministry of Health report. (NZDoctor)

The report, *Shifting Maori Health Needs: Maori population trends, health service needs, and medical workforce requirements - issues arising*, discusses future demands on the Maori medical workforce in light of projections of a five per cent population increase in Maori over-65 year olds, together with a six per cent drop in the number of under-25s, by 2026.

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Doctors' pay gap 'really chasm'

The pay "gap" attracting senior doctors to Australia is more like a chasm, calculations by their New Zealand union indicate. (NZ Herald)

An analysis by the Association of Salaried Medical Specialists shows that Australian public hospital staff specialists in their first year are on average paid a base salary plus universal allowances of A$196,200 ($256,085).

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Emergency Care Coordination Team (ECCT) overview

In 1999 the Government released Roadside to Bedside, A 24-Hour Clinically Integrated Acute Management System for New Zealand. In this publication the Ministry of Health outlined a number of key strategies to ensure the best outcomes for people involved in trauma, medical or surgical emergencies, and complicated births. In essence this means that 'people get the right care, at the right time, in the right place, from the right person.'

As part of the overall strategy to enhance regional coordination of all emergency care providers Regional Emergency Care Coordinating Teams (ECCT) were established. There are five ECCT regions across New Zealand with variable levels of effectiveness. Canterbury/Westcoast, Midlands and Southern Region ECCTs are well established while Central and Northern regions have had inconsistent support. The well established ECCTs have now become a clinical network group across all pre-hospital and in-hospital emergency services, including emergency planning.

The aim of the ECCT is to facilitate an integrated and effective regional emergency care system. The ECCT is tasked with using appropriate information and available regional resources to identify problems and seek to implement solutions in conjunction with DHBs, the Ministry of Health, ACC and other appropriate organisations to create an integrated emergency care system.

Read more about ECCT (MoH)

Golden Bay oldies gain a reprieve

The elderly residents of Golden Bay's only rest home won't have to move after all thanks to a rescue package from the Ministry of Health and Nelson-Marlborough DHB. (NZDoctor)

Last month, NZDoctor reported, The Joan Whiting Rest Home was set to close in November, forcing the 14 elderly residents to move to other parts of the district.

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New Code of Practice for prescription medicine marketing

A new Code of Practice to guide the marketing of prescription medicines in New Zealand has been released. Published and administered by industry organisation Medicines New Zealand, this important self regulation reflects the high level of ethics and integrity expected of pharmaceutical companies worldwide.

The 15th edition of the Medicines New Zealand Code of Practice follows a review by industry experts, which included wide consultation with government agencies, healthcare professionals' associations and patient groups.

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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

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Need a break? Looking for a locum?

Don't forget to submit your application for locum cover to the NZLocums team. The team are currently busy working with doctors who are due to arrive in New Zealand from November onwards.

If you're hoping for a break before the Christmas rush or looking forward to taking a well earned rest in the summer, contact us now by completing an application FORM and send it through to the recruitment team (usual term and conditions for applications apply).

NZNO encourages members to vote for nurses

The New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) is encouraging its members to vote for nurses who are standing for election to district health boards (DHB). (Scoop)

President Nano Tunnicliff says nurses are the frontline health professionals with the greatest knowledge of patients' needs and with the best understanding of health services and how they are provided.

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Two more deaths but Swine Flu cases fall

Twenty deaths this year have been swine flu-related but health authorities say the total number of flu-like infections has been lower than previous years - and has fallen well below average levels.(NZ Herald)

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GPs regularly confront alcohol abuse

Every day some New Zealand GPs see patients whose health has been affected by alcohol abuse, a survey shows. (The Press)

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners survey found 42 per cent of respondents daily saw patients with health problems caused or increased by heavy drinking.

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ACC changes hit older people

Changes to ACC laws are having an "horrendous" impact on older New Zealanders with hearing loss, advocates say. (Stuff)

From July, the ACC has denied cover to people with less than 6 per cent injury-related hearing loss.

Read more

Conference 2011

The Network's annual conference will be held at the Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington from March 17-20, 2011. The theme is "Family Matters".

For more information visit the official website: click here

Getting the best from the end of life

A programme aimed at helping dying people and their families through the last days of life is in Marlborough. (Marlborough Express)

Hospice Marlborough is rolling out a programme of care for the dying in Marlborough's rest homes.

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