

# 2/52 update



The fortnightly update of the ACT Medicare Local for all members and their staff

Volume 10 | 18 January 2012

*Connecting health to meet local needs*

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## Making News

### ACTML on Twitter

ACT Medicare Local is now on Twitter. Click on <http://twitter.com/#!/ACTML> and start following to keep up to date with all the ACT Medicare Local news.

### ACTML Position Available

ACTML is recruiting a part-time Project Officer for our Nursing in General Practice (NiGP) Program. This position will work closely with and be supported by a Program Director and the Practice Support Team to maintain the well established NiGP program that aims to build the capacity of the nursing workforce within general practice. For more information go to [www.actml.com.au](http://www.actml.com.au) or email [j.permezel@actml.com.au](mailto:j.permezel@actml.com.au)

### Holiday Sessions with GPADS

GP Aged Day Service (GPADS) would like to thank all the GPs that have used our service over the holiday season. Our wonderful team of GPs saw 120 referrals in December and January looks like it will be a busy month as well! If we can support your practice and your residents whilst your medical staff are away or during the sessions when your practice is really busy, please call GPADS on 6287 8050.

### Pneumovax 23 Revaccination Update

ATAGI has revised the revaccination recommendations for 23vPPV. A dose of 23vPPV should be given to adults at 65 years of age and those aged >65 who have not previously received a dose. For non-Indigenous adults > 65, a second dose of 23vPPV, to be given > 5 years after the first dose, is recommended for those who have a condition predisposing them to IPD. A second dose is no longer recommended for those without a predisposing condition. Recommendations for those <65 years including Indigenous adolescents and adults, are unchanged from the 9th edition of the handbook. For more information visit [www.actml.com.au/resources/clinical](http://www.actml.com.au/resources/clinical)

### Advertise your Allied Health vacancy

Did you know that our new website has an employment section for Allied Health Professionals? If you are looking for a professional to join your team, then why not advertise their vacancy on our website. Advertising is free and easy through our online form. Visit [www.actml.com.au/employment/allied-health](http://www.actml.com.au/employment/allied-health)

### Breastfeeding, Working It Out

Free registration for a limited number of places to attend the Australian Breastfeeding Association health professionals seminar series on Tuesday 6 March 2012 are on offer thanks to the ACT Health Directorate Breastfeeding Initiative.

The program can be viewed at [www.breastfeedingseminars.asn.au](http://www.breastfeedingseminars.asn.au) Expressions of interest should be sent to [j.permezel@actml.com.au](mailto:j.permezel@actml.com.au) by 23 January 2012.

### Clinical Software Training

Would GPs and staff from your practice benefit from training on your specific Clinical software? ACTML is investigating options to provide Clinical Software training in May 2012. We are negotiating with the software vendor to provide the training to you at minimal or no cost and anticipate sessions targeting beginner, intermediate and advanced users. For more information contact Eleonor on 6287 8099 or email [e.geoghegan@actml.com.au](mailto:e.geoghegan@actml.com.au)

### Calvary eHealth GP Engagement

Marion Meloni has joined the team at ACTML as the Calvary eHealth GP Engagement Officer and will be visiting practices from the end of January to offer assistance with eHealth initiatives. For more information contact Marion directly on 0438 056 727 or email [marion.meloni@calvary-act.com.au](mailto:marion.meloni@calvary-act.com.au)

### Breastfeeding Positioning and Attachment DVD

A short animated DVD on positioning and attachment is available on the ACT Health Directorate website at [www.health.act.gov.au/breastfeeding](http://www.health.act.gov.au/breastfeeding). The 51 second DVD could be played in the surgery, or women could log on from home.

### AMA Rates for Health Professionals

The Australian Government Comcare website has published the AMA Rates for Health Professionals, including General Practitioners, as of 1 November 2011. To view these rates, please visit [www.comcare.gov.au/claims/benefits\\_and\\_entitlements/medical\\_expenses/medical\\_service\\_rates/health\\_professional\\_rates](http://www.comcare.gov.au/claims/benefits_and_entitlements/medical_expenses/medical_service_rates/health_professional_rates)

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## Making News

### Closing or relocating a practice

Legislative changes to the *Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997* that came into effect on 1 October 2010 prescribe requirements for health practice closure and relocation. To access the legislation please visit [www.health.act.gov.au/professionals/practice-closure-merger-or-relocation/](http://www.health.act.gov.au/professionals/practice-closure-merger-or-relocation/)

### Sexual & Reproductive Health Course

Sexual Health & Family Planning ACT will be running their Certificate in Sexual and Reproductive Health for General Practitioners course again this year from April until June. This nationally accredited qualification will expand your knowledge of sexual and reproductive health, develop clinical skills in sexual and reproductive health, and enhance communication skills.

A copy of the training enrolment form is available from [www.shfpact.org.au](http://www.shfpact.org.au). For more information, please contact Ann Breed on 6247 3077 or email [shfpact@shfpact.org.au](mailto:shfpact@shfpact.org.au)

### Public consultation: Lung cancer guide for GPs

Cancer Australia is calling on GPs to participate in the public consultation process for *Investigating symptoms in lung cancer: A guide for general practitioners*. The GP guide is designed to be a concise evidence-based tool for GPs to support the effective assessment of symptoms, and timely referral to a multi-disciplinary team.

The GP guide is available for comment until Saturday 18 February 2012. For more information, please visit the Cancer Australia website [canceraustralia.gov.au/Health\\_professionals/Lung\\_cancer\\_and\\_health\\_professionals/Lung\\_cancer\\_symptom\\_guide\\_for\\_GPs](http://canceraustralia.gov.au/Health_professionals/Lung_cancer_and_health_professionals/Lung_cancer_symptom_guide_for_GPs)

### ACT Health Net website - Support for GPs

This dedicated GP website [www.acthealthnet.com.au](http://www.acthealthnet.com.au) includes an Online Outpatient Wait List where GPs can access information about outpatient clinics, clinicians, their special interest areas and approximate clinic waiting times.

Soon it will incorporate referral guidelines and recommendations for each Specialty across the Health Directorate to assist GPs when referring a patient to a particular Outpatient clinic.

Please note the recent letter sent by the ACT Government Health Directorate to GPs inadvertently referred to an incorrect web address.

### Participate in new Advisory Committees

ACTML is seeking expressions of interest from members to participate in our new advisory committees beginning early this year.

#### Clinical Governance Committee

The Clinical Governance Committee is a sub-committee of the ACT Medicare Local Board. It aims to facilitate improved patient health outcomes by ensuring that effective mechanisms are in place for monitoring and managing the quality of clinical care and services provided by ACTML and for meeting identified targets for quality. The objectives of the committee include providing leadership for clinical governance and quality improvement, and to influence clinical practices and culture to provide excellent quality care, programs and services.

#### GP Advisory Committee

The role of the GP Advisory Committee is to assist the Board to perform its duties and to fulfil its responsibilities in relation to GP engagement and support through reviewing, advising and making recommendations to the Board regarding issues affecting GPs.

The objectives of the committee include assisting the Board with its communication with GPs, and advising on strategies to enhance and promote GP engagement and participation.

#### Community Advisory Committee

The role of the Community Advisory Committee is to assist the Board to perform its duties and to fulfil its responsibilities in relation to consumer engagement by reviewing, advising and making recommendations to the Board regarding consumer engagement and other consumer issues.

The objectives of the committee include advising the Board on strategies to enhance and promote consumer and community participation at all levels within health services, and on matters of community interest or concern, including those of concern to culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse communities and vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community.

If you are interested in participating in these new committees, please register your interest with Steve Sant, CEO by email [ceo@actml.com.au](mailto:ceo@actml.com.au) or phone 6287 8099.

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## Upcoming Events

Thurs 19 Jan 6:30 - 9pm	<b>CPR training for GPs, PNs, Practice Staff and Allied Health Professionals</b> This course is nationally recognised and conforms to Australian Resuscitation Council Policy Statement 9.1.1. It is recommended that this course be updated annually, and GPs must complete a basic CPR course this 2011- 2013 triennium as a RACGP program requirement. 5 Cat 2 CPD points apply. ACRRM Basic Life support points apply. \$75 per person. Associate Members pay \$65. Boardroom, ACT Medicare Local, Unit 20, 41 Liardet Street, Weston. Register <a href="#">online</a> or by email to <a href="mailto:events@actml.com.au">events@actml.com.au</a> <b>Full - wait list applies.</b>
Tues 7 Feb 6 for 6:30pm	<b>General Practice Owners &amp; Principals (POP) Network Meeting</b> Topics to be discussed include Health Services Directory and clinical software training. Boardroom, ACT Medicare Local, Unit 20, 41 Liardet Street, Weston. Register <a href="#">online</a> or by email to <a href="mailto:events@actml.com.au">events@actml.com.au</a>
Wed 8 Feb 12:30 to 2.30pm	<b>General Practice Managers Network Meeting</b> Topics to be discussed include secure messaging, clinical software training, OH&S requirements, and the mental health program. Boardroom, ACT Medicare Local, Unit 20, 41 Liardet Street, Weston. Register <a href="#">online</a> or by email to <a href="mailto:events@actml.com.au">events@actml.com.au</a>
Wed 8 Feb 6:30 for 7pm	<b>Multidisciplinary management of Inflammatory Rheumatic Diseases: a look into the future</b> Guest speakers - Dr Chandi Perera, Head of Rheumatology Unit, TCH and Dr Walter Abhayaratna Consultant Cardiologist, TCH and Assoc Prof of Medicine, ANU. Meeting kindly sponsored by Abbott. The Glebe, Crowne Plaza Canberra, 1 Binara Street. Register <a href="#">online</a> or by email to <a href="mailto:events@actml.com.au">events@actml.com.au</a>
Option 1 Sun 19 and 26 Feb 12:30 - 5:30pm  Option 2 Tues 21 and 28 Feb 12:30 - 5:30pm	<b>Breastfeeding Workshops for Practice Nurses</b> The ACT Medicare Local in conjunction with the ACT Government Health Directorate invites Practice Nurses to participate in a fully funded training opportunity to increase their knowledge and awareness of the role they can play to promote and protect breastfeeding with patients in their practice. This workshop will cover ways of communicating with mothers, motivational interviewing, the importance of breastfeeding, the anatomy and physiology of the breast, management of common problems and ACT focussed referral pathways and community resources. Ann Harding Conference Centre, Building 24, University Drive, South Bruce, Canberra University. Register <a href="#">online</a> or by email to <a href="mailto:events@actml.com.au">events@actml.com.au</a>
Wed 15 Feb 6 - 8pm	<b>General Practice Nurse Network Meeting</b> At the meeting a speaker will provide information about the role of the practice nurse in chlamydia contact tracing. In addition, and as requested in the survey undertaken in August to identify what YOU want in the way of education in the next 12 months, Christine Ashley will talk about AHPRA regulatory requirements for continuing professional development, and provide hints for developing a 'no frills' manageable professional portfolio. Boardroom, ACT Medicare Local, Unit 20, 41 Liardet Street, Weston. Register <a href="#">online</a> or by email to <a href="mailto:events@actml.com.au">events@actml.com.au</a>
Mon 19 March 6 for 6:30pm	<b>Winanggaay - Cultural Awareness Training</b> A workshop on cultural awareness training, meeting the requirements of the Indigenous Health Practice Incentive Program. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, 245 Lady Denman Drive, Yarramundi Reach, Yarralumla. Register <a href="#">online</a> or by email to <a href="mailto:events@actml.com.au">events@actml.com.au</a>

Please visit [www.actml.com.au/professional-development/event-policies](http://www.actml.com.au/professional-development/event-policies) for a copy of our event registration procedures.