

GPPARTNERS' BULLETIN

April 2013
Volume 2, Issue 4

From the Chair

It has been a quieter month so the newsletter will be short but we have some important information for you. In our busy lives as GPs we receive lots of information and letters which sometimes just hit the recycle bin but one letter recently has stirred up many comments on the AMLA GP group email and "Australian Doctor". This letter has come from the company IMS Health Australia Pty Ltd (IMS).



IMS collects information relating to medical practitioners and some of this information constitutes "personal information" as defined under the Australian Privacy Act 1988. The letter says that IMS is launching new products in Australia to collect data. The data collected includes the first and last name of the healthcare professional, practice phone number and address, area of speciality of health care professional and what medicines are prescribed, how often and in what quantities. The worrying part is this is not a document to consent to this happening but a document saying this is going to happen unless the GP decides to opt out.

If you haven't seen this letter or thrown it away the way to opt out is to send a letter stating that you don't want your data collected to

IMS Policy Officer, PO Box 940, Crows Nest. 2065
or email policyofficer@imshealth.com.au

We advertised in the last newsletter the Local Area Group meeting on "Diagnosis and Management of Children's Behaviour issues" for May but unfortunately will need to delay this meeting until the middle of June. We will send out the invitations once we know the date and venue.

GPpartners is here to listen to your concerns about issues in General Practice. We are hosting a Practice Owners email group which discusses issues relevant to Practice Owners. It is an opportunity for GPs to discuss concerns and work out solutions to problems. If you would like your email address added to the group please email contact@gppartners.com.au.

Feel free to contact us at any time with suggestions, tips, issues and concerns. Our data base is extensive covering most GPs and practices in the Metro North Area but if there is a GP you know who is interested in receiving the newsletter or invitations to our local education events and has missed out please ask them to email us at

contact@gppartners.com.au

Jayne Ingham

Date Claimers

"Diabetes"
28th May 2013
at
Mon Komo
Redcliffe

Invitations will be sent in the coming week



"Managing Behaviour Issues in Children"
June 2013

Our topic for discussion at our upcoming June LAG meeting.

Look out for further information and Registration forms in the coming weeks!



NOT YET A GPPARTNERS MEMBER?

Membership forms available on our website or email us direct to request an application form!

Issues from Practice Owners email discussion group

Significant concerns have been raised from the Practice Owners group about the contract that has been sent out from the Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local for practices claiming the PIP payment for provision of After Hours Services.

From the 1st of July the PIP payment to practices that provide their own after hours services or for practices that have an agreement with the deputising service will no longer be paid directly to practices from Medicare. The Medicare Local will be given the funds to distribute to eligible practices.

The Practice owners are concerned that the contract is a complex and lengthy document, difficult to understand and needs legal interpretation. The general feeling is more information is needed before the contract is signed. It was felt that legal and medical indemnity advice would be useful.

More specific details are available within the email group. To find out what your peers are thinking and doing please email contact@gppartners.com.au and we will add your email to the group email. The GPs in the group have consented to share their email addresses.



Meet Dr Glynn Kelly—GPpartners Board Director



Glynn has been a GP for 32 years. After moving from Canberra where he was actively involved in the ACT Division of General Practice Glynn joined a General Practice at Taigum. Glynn was elected to the board of GPpartners where he was a director for six years. With the transition of GPpartners to the Medicare Local Glynn felt it was very important to keep an organisation representing GPs and General practice so continued on as the Chair of the “new” GPpartners. It proved to be a challenging time with many changes happening in the Health System.

Glynn’s expertise is used on many committees of the RACGP as well as teaching as a Senior Lecturer in Medicine at UQ. He also organises the Local Area Group education sessions in the Northern part of Brisbane.

In his spare time Glynn has caught the “cruising bug” and ventures out on the high seas.

The Aged Care Maze

Access to Aged Care and services for the elderly is an area of great complexity. The following information may give you a better idea of finding out what is available.

For the frail aged the first step is often an Aged Care Assessment.

1. ACAT must approve residential respite, permanent residential placement and care packages in the home such as CACP and EACH packages. The numbers for enquiring of ACAT are:

- * RBWH (western suburbs to Ferny Grove) 3624 1203
- * Chermside (Chermside to Aspley) 3139 4365
- * Pine Rivers (Everton Hills to Samford) 3817 6333
- * Brighton (Brighton to Zillmere) 3631 7611

2. For information about respite support Commonwealth Carelink 1800 052 222 or 1800 059 059.

If patients need respite and do not have an ACAT they can access respite through AVEO and Centacare Cottages.

AVEO www.aveo.com.au/respite \$65/night at Bridgeman Downs AVEO

Centacare Cottages: Telephone: 3354 0999

3. Available places in aged care homes <http://www.agedcareguide.com.au/residential.asp>
4. For in home services for patients who need support to stay at home like cleaning, shopping, etc. Depends if a patient is < 65 yrs old or > 65 yrs old.

<http://www.serviceavailabilityregister.com.au> Community Access Point 1800 600 300

5. For support in navigating the services and getting information, phone Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local and speak with our Service Navigation Officer Anne Callum on 3630 7308.
6. For someone to coordinate a number of services and help them sort through the myriad of services etc, refer the patient to Anne King for Team Care Coordination on 3630 7300 at Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local.
The other options are to contact the local Nursing Services such as Bluecare, Spiritus, Ozcare, Southern Cross Care, RSL care and Silverchain. These services are able to assess the patients needs and implement services. (This is not a complete list of providers.)