

March
2006

General Practice Newsletter

COUNTIES MANUKAU DISTRICT
HEALTH BOARD
A Community Partnership

Counties Manukau Primary Care

General Practice Newsletter from Counties Manukau DHB and Middlemore Hospital.

News from the GP Liaison desk

Welcome to another year of news and updates.

We are looking at ways and means of improving the newsletter and would welcome any suggestions from our readers. Suggestions re presentation, frequency and content would be most welcome. There will be a mystery prize for the best suggestion. Forward to Tom Bracken (see back page for contact details).

Just a few reminders

Have you checked out our internet services directory yet? www.healthpoint.co.nz

All patient clinic appointment notices have a reference to Healthpoint as a further source of information about Middlemore and DHB Services.

There is patient information about 40 services provided by the DHB and in a password protected area the information is more detailed. This area has instructions re referral guidelines and service contact details for General Practice use.

The patient information can be downloaded and handed to a patient at the time of a consultation. This includes maps detailing how to get to Middlemore and the Super-Clinic, where to park etc and where various departments are located.

To access the referral information GPs need to apply on-line, get a password and then all this information is at your finger tips from your desktop.

Avian Flu update

Counties has a community based group developing high level district recommendations which will become part of the overall district plans.

This is linked into the Auckland District Primary Care planning Group which reports to the Regional Group. Primary Care is being represented and has a strong voice in all planning levels.

Basically the Counties plan is that in the event of a pandemic being declared practices should continue to provide care for their patients as long as staffing allows. There will still be lots of "business as usual" as patients with chronic conditions need managing and acute non-flu illnesses occur. These are best to be dealt with by their usual practitioner who has access to notes etc.

Managing a mixed load of flu/non flu patients needs to be planned for. This makes being prepared in the use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) (and having supplies) extremely important. Planning to manage how and where will triage occur, e.g. by phone or at the door, where to examine likely flu patients and cleaning down the area afterwards should all be considered in your plan.

There are resources on the [cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or moh@govt.co.nz or <http://www.cm-dhb.org.nz/Counties/Primary-Care/General-Practice/influenza.htm> which will give up to date information and planning help.

Each practice will soon receive a CD demonstrating using PPE which was made here in Auckland.

I am happy to help in any way possible and you will get details of various meetings which are being organised to provide information and advice.

Tom Bracken, GP Liaison, Acute Care, Medicine & Clinical Support

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GP Help Desk:

Ph 270 4723

Fax 277 1600

Management of Skin & Soft Tissue Infections

Referral Cellulitis Guidelines

Cellulitis and Infections of the head and neck	Will all go to Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Cellulitis and infections of the hand	Will go to the Orthopaedic Hand Surgery team on call that particular day OR alternatively, the Plastic Surgical team on call
Infections or cellulitis overlying joints	Will go to Orthopaedic Surgery

Where there are uncontrolled co-morbidities, such as severe diabetes or severe renal failure, treatment should be discussed between Surgical Registrar and Medical Registrar as to the best and safest area to treat this patient.

CMDHB influenza incentive program 06

This year we are paying an incentive to help practices achieve a greater uptake in the 65 and over age group of registered patients.

The literature is clear that this is the group of patients who gain the most benefit from influenza vaccination in terms of reduced morbidity and even reduced mortality.

The following payments are being offered for those practices that reach the nominated percentages (below) of patients registered to the practice in the HealthPAC database as determined by claims data submitted by the practice.

The following is paid to the PHO per patient **over and above the \$18 usual fee** paid to the practice.

70% @ \$5

Please note that the percentage can be calculated from practice records recording vaccination events in the relevant immunisation module and then submitting reports to your PHO. This data will be validated using claims data from HealthPAC. The percentage achieved will include only those patients that have actually received a vaccine i.e. decliners are not counted toward the target.

An important point is that all 65+ patients should be recorded as 65+ and not in the chronic illness categories. For those patients in CCM you will need to tick the Influenza box as a separate action.

Work and Income Disability Allowance

Disability Allowance: is available to help people who have ongoing additional expenses because of a disability.

The person can apply for themselves, their partner, or for their **dependent child or children**.

To be able to receive a Disability allowance the person must:

- Meet an income test
- Have a disability which is likely to last at least six months

- Have ongoing, additional costs arising from that disability
 - Be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident and
 - Generally be ordinarily resident in New Zealand
- A Disability Allowance can be paid on it's own or with a main type of income support (like an Invalids Benefit or Domestic Purposes Benefit)

Disability Allowance can be paid to cover the portion of costs that is not met by health, ACC or other accident insurer.

The maximum Disability Allowance: is \$48.18 a week (as at 1 April 2004)

The amount paid will depend on the extra costs that the person has because of their disability.

Disability Certificate: In order to qualify the Medical Practitioner or Specialist must complete a Disability Certificate confirming the applicant, partner or child has:

- An ongoing disability that is likely to last at least six months and
- Needs on-going help with normal living tasks or
- Ongoing supervision or treatment from a registered health professional

Avian Influenza Education Seminars Being Planned

Planning is underway for a series of education sessions aimed at providing information for those working in primary care about avian influenza. The seminars are aimed at those working across the primary health sector aimed at practice staff, nurses, general practitioners, community pharmacies, as well as community health workers. It is intended that a number will be held across the Counties Manukau region and will be chance to listen to specialists in this area discuss why health authorities are concerned about avian influenza and chance to discuss how this could impact on our communities.

Watch out for further notice for dates once speakers and venues are confirmed.

Punch Biopsy: Opportunity to Update Skills

GPs who would like to have some training in PUNCH BIOPSIES should contact Dr Russell Smart who is organising sessions for GPs Ph 2760044 Ext 4743 Or rsmart@middlemore.co.nz.

Personal development courses now available for primary care

The Learning & Development team at Counties Manukau DHB have extended a limited number of places on their courses to PHOs to support the personal and professional development of primary health care workers. The courses are fully funded by CMDHB so there is no cost for primary care to attend (with the exception of Defensive Driving where you will receive the CMDHB discounted rate).

You will find a course calendar on the following website: <http://www.cmdhb.org.nz/Counties/PrimaryCare/PHO/Learning/calendar.htm>

Please contact your PHO if you are interested in attending any of these courses. All course registrations must be received directly from a PHO.

For any further questions please send an email to bronwyn.anderson@cmdhb.org.nz

Primary Health Care Nurses

Are you undertaking postgraduate education in 2006?

Would you like some support with assignment writing?

Do you need some help with planning which papers you could take to achieve your qualification?

Are you interested in forming a support group with others completing the same paper?

IF YOU ANSWER YES TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS PLEASE email MEGoodman@middlemore.co.nz

The Primary Health Care Nursing Team will support you in what ever way we can

Opening Celebration worth waiting for

The long awaited new neonatal Unit at Middlemore Hospital was opened on the 1st of February 2006. This provides up to date facilities for the management of neonatal patients who need special care.

InFLUenza Update:

Subsidised influenza vaccine

Two brands of influenza vaccine are being used for patients eligible for the Government-subsidised programme this year. They are:

- Fluvax® (CSL)
- VAXIGRIP® (Sanofi Pasteur, managed in New Zealand by Merck Sharp and Dohme)

The subsidised season is from early March until 30 June. **Please do not organise any vaccination clinics until you have a definite date for vaccine to be in your surgery.**

The Influenza Kit, as produced by the National Influenza Strategy Group, will be sent to all surgeries (and other providers who have requested a kit) later in February. This kit will provide promotional material for surgeries and providers, the eligibility criteria for subsidised vaccination and information on the two subsidised brands.

Clinical Director Primary Care/CCM Appointment

Allan Moffitt, Director Primary Care Development wishes to announce a key addition to the Primary Care team at Counties Manukau DHB. Dr Gary Sinclair will take up the position of Clinical Director Primary Care and CCM in March 2006. This position replaces John Wellingham as Medical Director CCM with the added responsibility for assisting PHOs with the PHO Performance Management Programme and clinical quality improvement generally. John has left CMDHB to focus on his Clinical Advisor Role for Waitemata DHB and return to general practice part time.

Many will know Gary from his work to date in CCM and as a clinical champion of quality improvement in primary care, as well as his work with The Doctors System. Gary will be working 7 tenths for the DHB and continuing in his practice at Mangere for one day per week. He will be resigning his position as Clinical Director to The Doctors Systems. The DHB is fortunate to have such an experienced and respected GP join the team and heartily welcomes Gary to his new role.

Allan Moffitt, Director Primary Care Development, CMDHB

CME

March 21st Diagnosis and Management of Infectious Diseases

April 18th Managing Winter

May 18th Sexual Health Guidelines

June 20th Accessing Hospital Services Referrals and all that.

Tom Bracken, GP Liaison

Innovations in Care Delivery for Women's Health

The Early Pregnancy Assessment Clinic Process has commenced on January 10th 2006.

A letter, describing the process for referral, has been sent out to you via Tom Bracken in late December 2005.

What should you do?

If your patient is experiencing early pregnancy (first 14 weeks gestation) complications and is haemodynamically stable you can refer her to EPAC from January 10th 2006 if she has:

- a completed ultrasound scan
- antenatal bloods and BHCG

The EPAC service operates Mon-Thurs 0830-1600. It is co-located with the Gynaecology Care Unit (Ward 6) at Middlemore Hospital.

Please **phone** Sally (the clinic administrator) at 276 0044 Ext 8355 and **fax** her at (09) 2503811 together with a referral letter.

What happens at the clinic?

Women are assessed by a dedicated clinic registrar and then offered appropriate management and follow-up options. A discharge summary will be sent to you on completion of the episode of care.

Further information to assist you

You can obtain a way-finding-map, for your patient from www.healthpoint.co.nz

NB: If patients are in pain or bleeding heavily you should refer them directly to their local Emergency Department.

The Women's Health Service will be presenting the EPAC Process at your GP forum in March 2006.

GP Help Desk:
Ph 270 4723
Fax 277 1600

Newsletter contacts:

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PATHS Providing Access to Health Solutions

PATHS is a joint programme undertaken by Counties Manukau District Health Board, Ministry of Social Development and Work and Income with the aim of assisting people who are in receipt of either the Sickness or Invalids Benefit to return to the work force.

PATHS is now able to offer an additional service for your patients who are in receipt of either the Sickness or Invalids Benefit due to low to moderate stress/ depression and anxiety disorders.

The PATHS programme provides a case management model to facilitate and coordinate access to health services for Sickness and Invalid beneficiaries who:

- Want to work and
- Need additional health services to manage their condition to become ready for work

PATHS supports participants to navigate through the Work and Income and health and disability systems to ensure they are able to access appropriate health interventions and employment assistance so that they may return to work

We acknowledge that General Practice is the most appropriate source of referrals for the PATHS programme, due to your knowledge of your patients and barriers preventing them return to work.

We are seeking your support and cooperation in referring patients likely to benefit from such an initiative. Please note: participation in PATHS is voluntary and all referrals will need to be made in consultation with your patient.

Jude Woolston