

Network Link

April 2019

Culture provides context for Federal MP briefing

A centuries-old stone fish trap near Sandstone Point was the perfect location for a yarn with Federal Member for Longman Susan Lamb MP in February about the National Suicide Prevention Trial.



Yarning about the National Suicide Prevention Trial were (L-R) Brisbane North PHN Chief Executive Officer Abbe Anderson, Federal Member for Longman Susan Lamb MP and the PHN's Executive Manager for Mental Health, Alcohol and other Drugs programs Paul Martin.

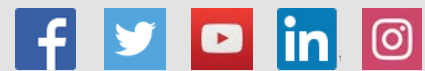
The 'walk on country' was the idea of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers involved in Brisbane North PHN's local implementation of the trial.

Anthropological research indicates the fish trap could date back to the 11th Century AD.

Brisbane North PHN Chief Executive Officer Abbe Anderson, who joined Ms Lamb and the service providers on the walk, said the Brisbane North trial had been designed to be culturally responsive.

"The importance of cultural governance was a key learning from the collaborative co-design process we undertook to guide our implementation of the trial," Ms Anderson said.

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phn
BRISBANE NORTH

An Australian Government Initiative

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“So engaging in a culturally responsive activity to brief one of our local Federal MPs about the trial just made sense in this case, and it is consistent with PHN protocol,” she said.

Aunty Leisha Krause, an Elder of the Joondoburrie people from Bribie Island, and members of her family, escorted the visitors on site and told stories about its early Aboriginal inhabitants.

Present at the meeting were members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Implementation team who are delivering the National Suicide Prevention trial. The Implementation team is made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agencies and community groups who steer the delivery of the programs for the Trial.

Rich conversations took place covering aspects of the trial from the co-design stage where cultural safety was embedded into the process through to the implementation strategies that are taking place. Susan Lamb was able to hear first hand experiences from those present who have been directly impacted by suicide amongst family and community.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are identified as a priority population under the trial, along with LGBTIQ+ communities and young adult to middle aged men aged 25 to 55 years.

For more information about the National Suicide Prevention Trial phone Brisbane North PHN on 07 3630 7300 or email info@brisbanenorthphn.org.au.



ABOUT NETWORK LINK

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Improving the health of children in out of home care in Caboolture

Brisbane North PHN is working with primary care providers across the Caboolture child safety service centre catchment to strengthen health assessment responses for children and young people in out of home care.

Funded by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, the Out of Home Care Project is a two-year statewide project led by PHNs that commenced in 2019.

Children in out of home care are likely to have complex health needs such as poorer physical, mental and developmental health than their peers. These children may also not be accessing the full range of options within the health service system, in part, due to placement instability combined with limited coordination and information sharing between service providers.

To date, the PHN's Project Coordinator has been consulting with key stakeholders across the Caboolture region and conducting a survey into local service needs.

GPs and practice nurses from the local area will be invited to a training day on Saturday 18 May 2019 to learn about working with children in out of home care. They will also be invited to join a Community of Practice to share, learn, collaborate and advocate ways to improve clinical case coordination, integration and knowledge of working with children in out-of-home care.

As part of the project, the PHN will also be developing a localised pathway for children in out of home care, published via HealthPathways.

For more information about the Out of Home Care Project, or to be involved, contact Brisbane North PHN Project Coordinator, Rachael McCall on 07 3490 3440 or email rachael.mccall@brisbanenorthphn.org.au.

Education increases confidence in chronic wound care

Brisbane North PHN has partnered with Wound Innovations to provide education in chronic wound management to aged and community care staff in the Moreton Bay North region.

The project, which commenced in September 2018, aims to provide better support for people with chronic and complex wounds. To date, over 40 nurses from residential aged care facilities in the Moreton Bay North region have attended face-to-face workshops to increase their knowledge and confidence in wound care.

In addition to attending workshops, participants attend clinical placements at Wound Innovations, working as part of a multidisciplinary wound management team that includes a vascular surgeon, general practitioner, nurse practitioner candidate, podiatrist and occupational therapist.

The project also supports participating residential aged care facilities to access telehealth consultations with the team at Wound Innovations.

Emma White, Sector Collaboration Lead at the Brisbane North PHN said that the issues associated with chronic wounds are well recognised within the Brisbane North region.

"There is an estimated 18,000 people in our region living with a chronic wound, at a cost of around \$112 million to the local health system," Ms White said.

Feedback from the training has been overwhelmingly positive, with all participants stating their knowledge and confidence in the provision of chronic wound care has improved.

"Nursing staff in residential aged care and the community do a fantastic job in providing wound care and keeping people with chronic wounds out of hospital. However sometimes they need some extra support and advice and this is what this project provides," Ms White said.

From May, the project will extend to include community service staff working for organisations in the Moreton Bay North region. For more information please contact Susan Cook, Project Officer - Care Coordination via susan.cook@brisbanenorthphn.org.au.

Coming soon - Practice Incentives Program quality improvement payment



The implementation date of the Practice Incentives Program Quality Improvement Incentive (PIP QI) has been revised and will now be rolled out in August 2019.

It will combine multiple incentives into a single Quality Improvement Incentive and support practices to improve record keeping for patient information, and to use the information to drive quality in patient care.

The QI Incentive aims to recognise and support those practices that commit to improving the care they provide to their patients. Participating practices will be supported to utilise the information they have about their own communities and their knowledge of the particular needs of their own patients to develop innovative strategies to drive improvement..

Accredited practices can access the PIP QI if they are undertaking continuous quality improvement activities through the collection and review of practice data or information.

This data may be used to inform regional planning and health policy development at a national level. Importantly, there will be a feedback loop to provide practices with timely information about improvements in care, with the opportunity to benchmark and progress their own quality improvement.

In readiness for the PIP QI, your Primary Care Liaison Officer can support you with Pen Clinical Audit Tool (Pen CAT) installation and training, which allows practices to analyse data, improve patient care and report on quality improvement activities.

The Pen CAT auditing tool aims to impact the day to day operations of general practice from both an administrative and clinical perspective.

General practices using using MD3, Best Practice, Zedmed, Genie Solutions, Medtech, Stat Health and Medinet clinical software systems are able to use Pen CAT.

Resources

The following resources from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners may assist GPs in preparing for the PIP QI:

Improving health record quality in general practice – this guide outlines what constitutes a high-quality health record and how practices can put systems in place to ensure they produce health records that are fit for purpose.

 <http://bit.ly/racgp-healthrecordquality>

Guidelines for the implementation of prevention in the general practice setting – the Green Book brings together prevention and implementation activities

 <http://bit.ly/racgp-greenbook>

For more information on PIP QI or Pen CAT contact your Primary Care Liaison Officer or visit <http://bit.ly/PHN-PCLOs>.



Palliative care scholarships upskill local nursing workforce

Two local nurses will complete the Master of Nurse Practitioner program, specialising in palliative care, under a new Brisbane North PHN scholarship initiative.

Kathryn Hooper from St Vincent's Private Hospital and Lynn Knowles from Mercy Community will undertake their studies via Queensland University of Technology and expect to graduate at the end of 2020.

In awarding the scholarships, the PHN's Executive Manager for Aged and Community Care programs Michele Smith congratulated the recipients and said there was increasing pressure for connected palliative care services across acute, community and primary care sectors.

"Our needs assessment has shown there is a high level of fragmentation in the delivery of palliative care services in the North Brisbane and Moreton Bay region," Ms Smith said.

"We are pleased to support the workforce to respond to these challenges through the Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner (PCNP) Scholarship Program," she said.

"The need to upskill nurses in palliative care service delivery was also highlighted by the Brisbane North Palliative Care Collaborative, leading to the establishment of the PCNP Scholarship Program.

"We recognise that the health system currently does not support people to die well at home, and there is also a lack of local data related to palliative care," Ms Smith said.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has revealed the number of palliative care-related hospitalisations increased

by 28 per cent between 2011-12 and 2015-16, highlighting an increased need for palliative care services at a national level.

Meanwhile, one in every 90 employed nurses in 2016 were palliative care nurses, equating to 3457 nurses nationally.

Australian College of Nurse Practitioners Queensland Chapter Chair Melanie Proper acknowledged the PHN's innovative model and congratulated the scholarship recipients.

"Palliative care is such a huge area of need and also a perfect place to position the nurse practitioner model. There is a lot of evidence to show it makes a huge impact on improving outcomes and increasing access," Ms Proper said.

To support the broader palliative care workforce, Michele Smith said the PHN had also offered a number of scholarships for graduate certificate level qualifications to eligible nurses.

"The longer term goal of the scholarship program is to build a network of palliative care nurse practitioners across acute, community, aged and primary care with more effective and accessible services," Ms Smith said.

The program also aims to improve communication between services and provide better support to patients navigating the system.

Pictured above at the scholarship presentation (L-R): Emma White, Sharon Gavioli, Michele Smith, Kathryn Hooper, Melanie Proper, Lynn Knowles, Suzanne Williams, Susan Cook and Matt Lancaster.

Clinical leadership underpins Alliance activities

The Health Alliance recently welcomed local health professionals, GP Dr Kristen Riley and Geriatrician Dr Lucy Dakin to the team supporting the Ageing Well Initiative.



Health Alliance General Manager Professor Don Matheson said the combined expertise of Dr Riley and Dr Dakin will ensure that the improvements being developed within the Ageing Well Initiative are well-grounded in insights from the front line of healthcare delivery.

“We welcome Drs Riley and Dakin to the Health Alliance and we anticipate their valuable insights and local knowledge,” Professor Matheson said.

With many years’ experience as a GP, Dr Riley has spent the last three years delivering medical services specifically to residential aged care facilities across North Brisbane. As a General Practice Liaison Officer (GLPO), Dr Riley will provide clinical advice and leadership to support the Ageing Well Initiative to improve the way the health system responds to older people.

Also joining the team is Dr Lucy Dakin, a Geriatrician from The Prince Charles Hospital who brings a hospital-specialist lens to Ageing Well Initiative activities. Dr Dakin sees in her daily practice the negative consequences of poorly coordinated care, particularly for frail older people, and is keen to work more closely with general practice to improve the clinical management of this vulnerable group.

“Together, Dr Riley and Dr Dakin, along with the support of other local GPs and specialists, will assist the Health Alliance with co-designing an improved interface between hospital, primary and community services.”

For more information about the Health Alliance’s activities, visit www.healthalliance.org.au.



Pictured from left to right: General Practice Liaison Officer Dr Kristen Riley and Geriatrician Dr Lucy Dakin from The Prince Charles Hospital.

We are looking for a nurse network coordinator



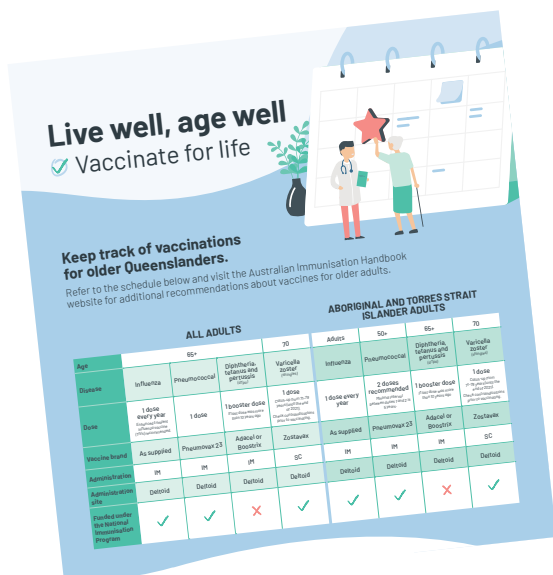
Brisbane North PHN is looking for a nurse to join the existing nurse network coordinator team, which meet locally in the Brisbane North region.

The Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) supports local nurse networks, which allow primary healthcare nurses to build relationships and share knowledge and resources.

The network coordinator role is voluntary and responsible for the planning and implementation of the network, promoting best practice, education and mentoring opportunities.

If you are an APNA member with a professional interest in primary healthcare nursing and skills in leadership, group work or meeting facilitation, APNA and Brisbane North PHN would like to hear from you.

To find out more information about becoming a nurse network coordinator in the North Brisbane or Moreton Bay region, please email Amanda Queen at amanda.queen@brisbanenorthphn.org.au.



General practice staff upskill with medical assisting studies

Enrolments are now open for the next intake of medical assistants, with studies commencing this month for students throughout Queensland.



Recent graduate of the program, Katrina Pyle from Bundaberg undertook the nationally accredited Certificate IV in Medical Practice Assisting looking to build her clinical skills as a practice manager.

“After five years as a practice manager within general practice, there was a gap in my clinical knowledge. I came across the certificate in Medical Assisting and was excited that I could learn skills that could be useful to improve our practice benchmarking, as well as provide support to the clinical team,” Ms Pyle said.

“With a better understanding of the practice nurse’s individual day-to-day responsibilities, I could contribute more efficiently to the scheduling that I had to do as a practice manager,” she said.

“I was lucky to work with a supportive clinical team that saw the benefits of having a multi skilled medical receptionist who was enthusiastic to improve quality care and be a qualified member of the clinical team.

“Our medical assistants complete our nursing team. The nurses appreciate having an extra person to assist with infection control, ECG, spirometry, handling medical specimens, cold chain management, assisting in surgical procedures and taking clinical measurements.

“This allows our practice nurses to focus more on their higher level skills such as complex patient care, health promotions and chronic disease management,” Ms Pyle said.

For more information on completing a Certificate IV in Medical Practice Assisting call Annette Dunlop on 07 3630 7371 or email medicalassistant@brisbanenorthphn.org.au.

New campaign targets vaccination for older people

Low rates of vaccination for adults aged 65 years and over has prompted a new campaign from Brisbane North PHN, which calls on general practices to keep track of all adult immunisations—not just the flu vaccination.

The Australian Immunisation Register shows the largest unvaccinated group of people are adults 65 years and over.

In addition to low rates of vaccinations for this population group, adult immunisations are under reported to the register, affecting the ability to monitor coverage levels and identify regions at risk during disease outbreaks.

The campaign is a reminder that vaccination is an important part of healthy ageing. For older at-risk populations, vaccines can do more than stop infections—they also prevent and lessen the impact of severe consequences that may arise from infections.

The campaign resources prompt health professionals to check in with older patients and start the immunisation conversation; ensuring older adults are vaccinated for influenza, pneumococcal, dTpa and varicella zoster.

Campaign resources include a poster with dose and administration information, which can be hung in the treatment room for easy reference as well as a factsheet detailing how immunisation providers can report adult vaccinations to the Australian Immunisation Register.

These resources will be distributed to general practices from April 2019 via your Primary Care Liaison Officers.

Visit the Australian Immunisations Handbook website at immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au for additional recommendations about vaccines for older adults.

My Health Record now available for nine out of ten of your patients

Following the conclusion of the opt-out period, records are now available with nine out of ten patients now having a record, according to the Australian Digital Health Agency.

Helpful information is available on the My Health Record website to assist people to access and use their My Health Record for the first time including setting extra privacy controls and personal preferences.

For healthcare professionals, access to clinical documents via My Health Record supports continuity of care, giving a more detailed picture with which to make decisions, diagnose and provide treatment.

For more information on creating, accessing or using My Health Record visit www.myhealthrecord.gov.au.



Service profile

Help for mothers experiencing postnatal challenges

The Sunshine Parenting Program is a six week group for mothers who have infants aged up to 12 months, who are experiencing mild postnatal depression or anxiety symptoms.

The program is delivered by Peach Tree Perinatal Wellness in a safe environment and supported by perinatal peer workers. The program focuses on building resilience through understanding postnatal depression and anxiety, managing relationship changes, building parenting skills and confidence and exploring self-esteem and identity.

The program, designed by two Brisbane mums with first-hand experience of perinatal challenges, was first funded by Brisbane North PHN in 2017 to assess its value as a low-intensity intervention for perinatal mental health. The program has been delivered in Caboolture and Wavell Heights and independently evaluated by researchers from Queensland University of Technology, with the results due in mid 2019.

Early results look promising, with parents reporting increased feelings of connection, improved emotional wellness, and feeling less alone.

In 2019 the program will be hosted in both Geebung and Morayfield, with the next workshops starting in late April and early May. For further information on these dates visit <http://peachtree.org.au/sunshine-parenting-program>.



News in brief

▶ Changes to MBS - services for patients in residential aged care facilities

Among several changes in effect from 1 March 2019, a new single call out fee can be claimed to help ensure that GPs have appropriate incentives to provide care in aged care facilities.

This single callout fee recognises the important role of GPs in supporting the health and care of patients in residential aged care. The call out fee is \$55 for GPs (item 90001) and \$40 (item 90002) for other medical practitioners working in general practice. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/MBSchanges>.

For ongoing updates on MBS changes you can subscribe to MBS online at www9.health.gov.au/mbs/subscribe.cfm

▶ Diversity plan for older LGBTI people

The federal government has released the Aged Care Diversity LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Gender Diverse, and Intersex) Action Plan to help address barriers and challenges members of these communities face in accessing aged care services.

The plan helps guide providers to ensure their services are inclusive and safe for all consumers in their care and aims to help senior LGBTI people express their needs when speaking with providers.

For more information visit <http://bit.ly/agedcareplan-LGBTI>.

▶ palliAGED practice tips for careworkers and nurses in aged care

Nurses and personal careworkers provide direct care to millions of older Australians. To support them in caring for older people approaching the end of life, palliAGED has developed a series of practical tip sheets focusing on commonly encountered issues.

palliAGED is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and managed by CareSearch, Flinders University.

For more information or to access the tip sheets, visit www.palliaged.com.au/tabid/5544/Default.aspx.

▶ Drugs of dependence - enquiry service for clinicians

Queensland Health operates a confidential telephone service for clinicians and medical practitioners about regulatory requirements and treatment involving drugs of dependence.

Currently available 8.00 am to 8.00 pm, seven days a week, the enquiry service can provide confidential information to doctors/medical practitioners regarding:

- schedule 8 medicines a person has obtained (e.g. oxycodone, morphine)
- whether a person is on the Queensland Opioid Treatment Program for treatment of their drug dependence
- whether a person is known to be drug dependent
- whether there is a current drug treatment report or drug treatment approval
- regulatory requirements under the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996
- treatment involving drugs of dependence (known as a Report to the Chief executive)
- Queensland Opioid Treatment Program.

To access this service call 13 78 46, or for more information visit <http://bit.ly/drugs-of-dependence>.

▶ Free flu vaccines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

Following a submission from the Chief Medical Officer, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has recommended the listing of a free seasonal influenza vaccine for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 5-14 years.

This recommendation will close the gap in eligibility and will mean that from this 2019 influenza season, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged 6 months and older will be eligible for a free seasonal influenza vaccine through the National Immunisation Program.

For more information visit <http://bit.ly/eligibility-fluvaccine>.

Noticeboard

Please contact the relevant organisation for more information about the items below.

Dementia resources for Australia's multicultural communities

Moving Pictures is a project by the National Ageing Research Institute aiming to raise awareness about dementia for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Many people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities face linguistic and cultural barriers to the timely detection and diagnosis of dementia. To address this, a suite of short films with people from Hindi, Tamil, Mandarin, Cantonese and Arabic-speaking communities has been produced.

Download the resources from movingpictures.org.au.

Nominate community members for new advisory group

Caboolture Hospital is calling for nominations from community members to join a new advisory group designed to improve the health of our community.

The Caring Together Community Advisory Council will provide strategic advice, feedback and guidance to the hospital on behalf of the local community.

To apply to join the Caring Together Community Advisory Council, you must be affiliated with a local organisation or a recognised community network.

For more information email caringtogether@health.qld.gov.au or phone 07 5433 8524.

Pulmonary arterial hypertension awareness for GPs

Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) is a rare condition with high rates of morbidity and mortality. Early diagnosis and treatment is crucial to improve outcomes in this disease.

PAH is asymptomatic in its early stages, and initial symptoms are typically induced by exertion. Symptoms at rest occur only in advanced cases and include:

- shortness of breath
- fatigue
- weakness
- angina.

It is important to consider the possibility of PAH when a patient presents with these symptoms. If test results indicate the probability of PAH it is vital the patient be referred to an approved specialist clinic. For more information visit the Lung Foundation website at <http://bit.ly/PAH-info>.

Experienced and flexible home nursing care across Brisbane

Whether your client requires short term support after a stay in hospital or long term help with a chronic health condition, our experienced team of Registered Nurses at Wesley Mission Queensland can meet simple and complex needs at home or at one of our many centres across Brisbane, Monday to Friday.



We offer:

- a comprehensive wound care service, including:
 - post-operative wound care and removal of drains, sutures and staples
 - simple and complex dressings
 - management and maintenance of stomas
- catheter care and full continence assessments and advice
- medication advice and support
- Diabetes assessments, reviews and support
- support and assistance for home oxygen therapy
- full general health assessments and reviews
- health monitoring
- symptom management for chronic pain
- support and advice for managing a range of chronic health conditions
- palliative and end-of-life care and support.

*Clients must be over 65 years of age and registered with My Aged Care. There is a \$0 co-payment for nursing services.

\$0*
CO-PAYMENT



For more information, including how to book or refer clients, find WMQ in Medical Objects.

1800 448 448 | contactus@wmq.org.au | wmq.org.au

What's on elsewhere

Please contact the relevant organisation for more information about these events. Note, these are not Brisbane North PHN events.

For more events, visit brisbanenorthphn.org.au/page/news-and-events/events.

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| <p>2 Apr Managing difficult behaviours webinar - Australian Health Industry Group
Webinar
training@ahig.com.au</p> <p>4 Apr Teaching and mentoring: practical skills for junior doctors - AMA Queensland
Herston, Qld
registrations@amaq.com.au</p> <p>4 Apr Dementia essentials: providing support to people living with dementia - Centre for Dementia Learning
Burrpengary, Qld
QLD.Education@dementia.org.au</p> <p>4 Apr APNA 2019 national conference - Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association
Adelaide, SA
conference@apna.asn.au</p> <p>4 Apr Connection in older age symposium – Bolton Clarke
Herston, Qld
www.boltonclarke.com.au/symposium</p> <p>5 Apr Kidney supportive care symposium - Metro North Hospital and Health Service
Herston, Qld
MetroNorth-events@health.qld.gov.au</p> | <p>9 Apr Stress management and introduction to mindfulness – Forever in Motion and New Life Perspectives
Morayfield, Qld
laurie@newlifeperspectives.net</p> <p>9 Apr Introduction To Simulation Methodology – Mater Education
Brisbane South, Qld
education@mater.org.au</p> <p>13 Apr Nutrition support program – Benchmark Group
North Lakes, Qld
1300 855 568</p> <p>16 Apr Companion training for seasons for growth – Good Grief
Fortitude Valley, Qld
louise.hall@goodgrief.org.au</p> <p>17 Apr NDIS access and psychosocial forum - NDIS
Kallangur, Qld
engagement.qldsouth@ndis.gov.au</p> <p>24 Apr Private practice seminar: Recruiting well – AMA Queensland
Chermside, Qld
registrations@amaq.com.au</p> <p>30 Apr Private practice seminar: Recruiting well – AMA Queensland
Indooroopilly, Qld
registrations@amaq.com.au</p> | <p>1 May Dementia essentials: providing support to people living with dementia – Centre for Dementia Learning
Merrimac, Qld
QLD.Education@dementia.org.au</p> <p>1 May Social aspects of palliative care – Palliative Care Qld and Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education
Herston, Qld
hello@palliativecareqld.org.au</p> <p>2 May Bipolar disorder: the essential psychological toolkit – Black Dog Institute
Brisbane, Qld
education@blackdog.org.au</p> <p>3 May Debriefing fundamentals workshop – Mater Education
South Brisbane, Qld
education@mater.org.au</p> |
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In the community

- 1 – 30 Parkinson's awareness month
- 1 – 30 Blue for Autism
- 23 – 29 World Immunisation Week
- 11 World Parkinson's Day



#NEXTCARE

HEALTH CONFERENCE

CONNECTING, INSPIRING & TRANSFORMING HEALTH LEADERS

30-31 MAY 2019 BRISBANE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE

WWW.NEXTCAREHEALTHCONFERENCE.COM.AU

GP bulletin – April 2019

News from General Practice Liaison Officers at Brisbane North PHN and Metro North Hospital and Health Service.

Any feedback or suggestions please send to mngplo@health.qld.gov.au. Please share with your GP colleagues.

HealthPathways update

Newly released HealthPathways:

- refugee healthcare
- bariatric surgery
- menopause
- herpes zoster ophthalmicus
- abdominal aortic aneurysm
- bone mineral densitometry
- eating disorders in children and youth

To submit feedback about HealthPathways, please contact administration.integration@brisbanenorthphn.org.au.

Login at: brisbanenorth.communityhealthpathways.org or phone 07 3630 7300 for login details.

GP education

- **23 May** - Persistent Pain
The Prince Charles Hospital
- **29 May** - Paediatrics
The Prince Charles Hospital
- **18 June** - Respiratory
The Prince Charles Hospital

Visit bit.ly/phnevents for upcoming education events.

New GP Specialist Advice Phone Lines for GPs

Based on feedback from GPs, the GP Liaison Team have been working with the local public hospital specialists to set up GP advice lines. A number of advice lines are now available at each hospital site.

These have been set up to assist GPs with gaining brief advice from a specialist

rather than needing to refer a patient to outpatients for this advice.

To receive the current advice line flyer please contact the GP Liaison Team on mngplo@health.qld.gov.au with your name (as on AHPRA) and practice details.

The latest list will be coming to Health Pathways soon.

New GP to GP referrals

The new GP to GP referral resource contains details of GPs who are willing to provide procedural services for patients in the North Brisbane and Moreton Bay region. The GPs on the list include those who can provide:

- ear toilet or microsuction
- ferrinject iron infusion therapy
- vasectomy
- wedge resection and phenolisation
- implanon removal and insertion
- mirena removal and insertion.

If your clinic provides these services and would like to sign up please email healthpathways@brisbanenorthphn.org.au.

Metro North RADAR service increased hours of operation

The Metro North Hospital and Health Service Residential Aged Care District Assessment and Referral (RADAR) Nurse Navigator Service is now available seven days a week from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

The service help GPs and RACF staff navigate the hospital system and coordinate care for patients living in RACFs who are acutely unwell. Contact the RADAR service on 1300 072 327.

Changes to the pulmonary rehabilitation program inclusion criteria

Pulmonary rehabilitation is one of the most important interventions in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The Group Pulmonary Rehabilitation program is now available for patients at North Lakes, Herston and Chermside locations with new inclusion criteria for group based pulmonary rehabilitation.

Patients must:

- have COPD or other chronic respiratory condition
- be willing to participate (even if they are smokers)
- be independently mobile with or without aid.

High functioning clients will not be excluded from MNHHS Pulmonary Rehabilitation programs.

For more information visit the 'Refer your patient' page at <http://bit.ly/referyourpatient>.

Over 600 North Brisbane GPs on the Health Provider Portal / the Viewer

GPs love the ability to access their patient's reports via the Health Provider Portal (HPP) / the Viewer from any Queensland Hospital. The HPP now includes Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital outpatient letters.

To register go to <http://bit.ly/hppinfo> or for assistance with signing up, contact the HPP team via connectingqld@health.qld.gov.au.