



From the Chair

Welcome to GPNZ's first electronic newsletter and to the launch of our new website at www.gpnz.org.nz.

Our special thanks go to the team at Island Bay Medical Centre in Wellington who feature in our branding photo.

GPNZ is the key national organisation supporting clinically led primary care networks and general practice teams. We are our members' eyes, ears and voice in many national forums which enables our members to focus on delivering quality patient care at a local level.

GPNZ members are networks of practices who are at the leading edge of "better, sooner, more convenient" developments. This requires an enhanced level of service coordination across the whole health system.

To support this, GPNZ is fostering national relationships with pharmacy, midwifery, physiotherapy, and other professional groups and our hospital based colleagues to support similar linkages and collaboration throughout our network members.

Please share our newsletter widely, particularly with your practices. We hope you enjoy reading this first edition of **Practice eLink**.

Dr Bev O'Keefe, Executive Chair

Introducing GPNZ

- GPNZ has 15 general practice and PHO network members serving around 800 General Practices and 2.3 million enrolled patients.
- Our Executive Board is a mix of GPs, Practice Nurses, Executive and Practice Managers. This reflects the composition of our general practice networks and teams.
- Our Executive is supported by a small team in our Wellington office (co-located with the RNZCGP).
- We are your eyes and ears in Wellington and we advocate on your behalf at Minister, Ministry, crown entity and national organisational level on a daily basis.
- We have members involved in the governance of many of the national organisations such as the National Health Board, National Health IT Board, Health Quality and Safety Commission, Health Workforce NZ, Patients First Programme and the eMedicines Programme.
- We represent the interests of general practice networks and teams within PSAAP (the forum for negotiation of the national PHO Agreement).
- We have established strategic relationships with national pharmacy, physiotherapy, midwifery, and practice managers' organisations which present opportunities for collaboration within expanding health care teams.

For further information please [click here](#)

2011 Conference for General Practice

- Registrations are still open for the joint GPNZ –RNZCGP in Auckland 1 - 4 September 2011.
- There is a stimulating programme of clinical, academia and policy topics with respected international and local speakers from the health sector, and also external to health.
- HINZ will be hosting a health informatics pre-conference day on September 1. An information technology theme that is relevant to General Practice will continue over the remaining days.

For further information please [click here](#)

GP2GP Electronic File Transfer

- After 10 years on the national “must do” list GPNZ has delivered the GP2GP Electronic File Transfer utility.
- This programme enables general practices to transfer and import electronic patient records between practices using any PMS in a structured format.
- The GP2GP utility is simple and easy to use and is being piloted in 65 practices across the country. Feedback to date has been very positive.
- General release is underway.

For further information please contact andrew.terris@patientsfirst.org.nz or visit us at <http://www.patientsfirst.org.nz/>

Christchurch Earthquake Response

- We thank our general practice team colleagues across the country who were so responsive and generous with offers of support for our Christchurch colleagues in the immediate aftermath of the September, February and June earthquakes.
- While the immediate emergency has passed, the June earthquake had a marked impact on morale. The friendship and collegial support extended by those practices who have ‘adopted’ a practice in Christchurch through the buddy system has been hugely positive.
- We have had some thoughtful offers of use of holiday homes to give Christchurch colleagues a break. If you would like to offer use of your holiday home please email Sheryl Crase at the below address.

For further information please contact sheryl.crase@gpnz.org.nz

Enrolment Rules and Privacy of Health Information

- New Enrolment Rules were implemented 01 May 2011. The majority of the changes in the new rules are positive for General Practice and PHOs. The enrolment form template is a guide – you are not required to use it in that form but you must include the mandatory fields in practice enrolment forms.
- The twelve month moratorium period we negotiated to get general practice enrolment processes in order has now passed. Signed enrolment forms are mandatory for valid enrolment and associated funding flow.
- We continue to seek DHBs’ commitment to resolve outstanding issues relating to how General Practice implements the Health Information Privacy statement and determines the eligibility/entitlement of patients.
- Our position on health information privacy is outlined in the IPAC Health Information Privacy Policy.

For further information please contact admin@gpnz.org.nz

Sector News

NZ Medicines Formulary

- The NZ Medicines Formulary (NZMF) is under development and will be made available to all prescribers and be publically funded. Implementation is planned for mid 2012.
- If you wish to retain the full functionality of MIMS until the NZMF is available, you need to renew your MIMS subscription.
- If you are happy to use the NZULM as a drug database and do not require the interactions and alerts that come with MIMS, you need to ask your PMS vendor to integrate NZULM into your PMS as soon as possible.

For further information please contact your PMS vendor.

Rheumatic Fever

- The Government has allocated \$12M over four years for a new rheumatic fever programme in Northland, South Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty/Lakes, Flaxmere and East Porirua.
- Initiatives in these areas will be based on what is likely to be most effective, and may use primary health care, school-based sore throat services, clinical facilitators and/or kaiawhina.
- The programme will be supported by the development of clinical and health promotion resources, and improving surveillance, monitoring, evaluation and research.

For further information please contact sarah_mcdonald@moh.govt.nz

New Member Profile

- Welcome to Auckland PHO, our newest member.
- Auckland PHO funds and co-ordinates services, provides resources and expertise for practices and delivers some specialised primary healthcare services.
- First level primary healthcare is provided by 21 General Practices with 57 GPs and 41 Practice Nurses who service just over 53,000 enrolled patients throughout central Auckland City, Avondale, Blockhouse Bay, Mt Roskill, Mt Albert, Morningside, Meadowbank, Grey Lynn and Waiheke Island.
- Auckland PHO is a partner organisation within the Greater Auckland Integrated Health Network (GAIHN) Business Case to implement Better, Sooner, More Convenient primary health care in Auckland.

Upcoming Events

- GPNZ and RNZCGP 2011 Conference, 1-4 September, Langham Hotel, Auckland
- GPNZ Executive meeting 1 September (Auckland)
- GPNZ CEO Group meeting 1 September (Auckland)
- GPNZ Study Tour 6 – 30 October (North America)
- GPNZ Council Meeting and AGM 29 October (Wellington)