



Special Edition

This special edition of Practice eLink brings you some highlights from our recent GPNZ/RNZCGP Conference for General Practice in Auckland.

At the conference, Health Minister Tony Ryall [launched](#) the GP2GP electronic tool - a significant milestone for our joint flagship Patients First programme with the RNZCGP. Minister Ryall also watched a demonstration of the ePrescription tool. Our congratulations to Andre Bredenkamp from GPNZ who has brought these two projects to fruition.

Thank you to all the speakers, delegates, sponsors, exhibitors and organisers who made this conference such a successful event. For those speakers who have provided permission, their presentations are now available on our website.

Please share these highlights with your practices.

Dr Bev O'Keefe

Chair

For copies of the presentations please [click here](#).

GP2GP and ePrescription

The electronic transfer of notes between MedTech and MyPractice was demonstrated to many people at the conference, using the GP2GP tool. We are pleased to advise that GP2GP will now be available with the next PMS updates.

The ePrescription tool was also demonstrated. Using an IT solution developed by Simpl, a prescription containing a barcode was generated by MyPractice and scanned into a demonstration pharmacy using LOTS software. This automatically populated the patient's personal and medication details. The tool is currently in pilot stage and planned for national release during 2012.

For further information please contact your PMS vendor, or andre.bredenkamp@patientsfirst.org.nz

We're Doing Well Internationally

The Director-General of Health, Dr Kevin Woods, stated that New Zealand is performing at the top end of OECD countries for key metrics such as increase in life expectancy at birth, adults reporting to be in good health, patients' view of General Practice and physician satisfaction with practising medicine. Building on this success within a complex health system requires sustainability, quality, efficiency, care coordination and integration.

For copies of the presentations please [click here](#).

The Art and Science of General Practice

The balance between the art (clinician and patient relationship) and science (evidence-based medicine) of general practice was one of the main themes. Associate Professor Dee Mangin (University of Otago) as well as Canadians, Professor James McCormack and Associate Professor Mike Allan, challenged GPs to consider the impact of treating each diagnosis with multiple medications over a long time. Dr Mangin stated that sometimes 'what is measurably better care [could] result in meaningfully worse care for the patient'.

For copies of the presentations please [click here](#).

Policy Solutions

Professor Tony Dowell stated big policy opportunities exist in long-term condition management and children's health. This includes enhanced referral systems, evolving primary care team roles (eg physician assistants), and lining up policy drivers in lifestyle and child health (including well child and midwifery). Ensuring resources are allocated as risk factors are developing in childhood will achieve greater health outcomes compared to when risk factors or diseases are established.

For copies of the presentations please [click here](#).

Study Tour Begins

Nine GPs, Clinical Leaders, CEOs and Nurse Leaders from member organisations, along with Andrew Stenson (RNZCGP), and Andrew Terris and Fiona Thomson (GPNZ) recently departed on the 2011 GPNZ Study Tour to the United States and Canada. The group will visit a range of primary health care providers, quality improvement organisations and health policy makers. Highlights are participating in the Kings Fund Study Tour in Seattle, and visits to Kaiser Permanente, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and The Commonwealth Fund. In addition, Fiona and Andrew Terris will deliver a keynote address at the Canada Health Infoway conference in Montreal on 'Quality Powered by Information'. We will keep members regularly updated through our members' only section of our website.

For further information please [click here](#), or contact sheryl.crase@gpnz.org.nz for access to the members section.

bpac Consortium Wins Bid to Develop NZ National Formulary

A consortium of bpac Inc, bpac^{nz} (GPNZ is a shareholder) and UK Royal Pharmaceutical Society have won a bid to develop a national NZ medicines formulary. In his announcement last week, Associate Minister of Health, Hon Peter Dunne, said "It will be a true one-stop-shop covering clinical information as well as classification and subsidy status".

Upcoming Events

- GPNZ Council Meeting and AGM 29 October (Wellington)
- Australian General Practice Network National Forum, 16-19 November (Melbourne)