



# Primary Source Nursing in General Practice

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## Principal Network Advisor, Nursing – Lynne Walker

Once again practice nurses have the opportunity to apply for CPD scholarships through the RCNA and I would encourage all who are eligible to apply. This is a great opportunity to further your education and develop skills that will expand your scope of practice and your ability to contribute to patient care and the practice. Good luck with your applications.

The evaluations of our Orientation program for nurses new to general practice, has demonstrated the value of this program. The update of the online version is now completed and I would encourage all those entering into the world of general practice nursing to complete this module as a way of familiarising yourself to general practice.

At the time of this newsletter AGPN is still in negotiation with the Department of Health and Ageing for its 2011-2012 funding. We hope to be able to bring you the outcome of this process very shortly.

You can now follow **AGPN on twitter:** [www.twitter.com/agpn\\_ceo](http://www.twitter.com/agpn_ceo)

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## Practice Nurse Incentive Program (PNIP)

[Practice Nurse Incentive Guidelines](#) are now available and outline the requirements which will allow all accredited practices to access the incentive payments. A Practice Nurse Incentive Payment Calculator or [Ready Reckoner](#) is also available and will assist practices to calculate their expected payment based on location, SWPE value and nursing hours and qualifications.

Further information can be obtained from 1800 222 032, [pnip@medicareaustralia.gov.au](mailto:pnip@medicareaustralia.gov.au) or [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/pnip](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/pnip)



[AGPN National Forum 2011](#)

[Click here to view the events calendar.](#)

Over the next few months AGPN will be disseminating information and resources produced by the Department of Health and Ageing and the [Australian Practice Nurses Association](#) which will provide information about the PNIP.

## National Primary Health Care Awards – nominations close August 14

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for their contribution to primary health care in your area? Do you know of a team of colleagues who have progressed primary health care for patients, the system or for the local community? With a little under a fortnight to go until nominations close, AGPN and HESTA are keen to know who these people are through the inaugural [HESTA Primary Health Care Awards](#).

HESTA in conjunction with AGPN created these awards to mark excellence in primary health care.

**ME Bank has provided \$30,000 in prize money** for the awards which will culminate in a **HESTA Primary Health Care awards dinner at AGPN's National Forum on Wednesday 16 November**, to which finalists will be flown.

There are three categories for nominations:

**Young leader**

**Individual distinction**

**Team excellence**

**Nominations can be made online at <http://www.phcawards.com.au/>**



## Health Service Development/Models of Care Master Class – registrations now open

[Wednesday 17 August and Thursday 18 August](#)  
[Citigate King George Square, Brisbane](#)

AGPN is pleased to offer Network members a [Master Class](#) focusing on developing the skills on how to collect, measure and analyse the evidence to inform health service design and how to take the systematic steps needed to re-design a service to meet specific needs.

A key function of Medicare Locals is to take responsibility and provide for the health needs of respective populations. This requires that population needs must be understood – but what do you measure? How do you analyse the information? What's the priority going to be? As part of this responsibility, Medicare Locals will plan, purchase and, in some circumstances, provide direct services. Ultimately this requires an evidence-based understanding of how to design and develop services in a primary health care environment that responds to the needs of the local population.

The program will be available in the week commencing 11 July and will include topics such as:

- Population health planning frameworks including needs assessments, service and provider mapping and consultation
- Techniques for ensuring service redesign is informed by the patient voice
- The role of clinical networks in service redesign and how to support and strengthen clinical leadership
- Changing service cultures
- Funder purchase provider models

## Scholarships

[Aged Care Nursing Scholarships](#) are now available for Undergraduate, Post Graduate, Nurse Practitioner and Continuing Professional Development. Applications close September 1 2011.

### **Continuing Professional Development Scholarships**

Further scholarships to the value of \$1500 will be available from July 25 and will be awarded toward the cost of accessing short courses, workshops and conferences/seminars. Courses must be provided by Australian universities, TAFE's or registered training organisations.

Further information can be obtained from the [RCNA](#) on 1800 112 240.

## **Coordinated Veterans' Care Program**

The Coordinated Veterans' Care Program provides ongoing, planned and coordinated primary and community care, led by a general practitioner [GP] with a nurse coordinator, to eligible Gold Card holders who have chronic conditions, complex care needs and are at risk of an unplanned hospitalisation.

As part of the program:

- the GP ensures that any changes to the practice are carried out before enrolling a participant on the program
- potential participants are proactively identified
- potential participants are assessed by the GP for eligibility to participate in the program
- if eligible, the GP explains the program and the person provides informed consent to being enrolled on the program
- a comprehensive assessment of the person is carried out by the practice nurse or the GP if no practice nurse is available
- a personal Care Plan for the individual is prepared
- the Care Plan is agreed with the person and a patient friendly copy provided to the person and any carer or family member as agreed

- consideration is also given to the need for social assistance services
- the general practice nurse, a community nurse or the GP coordinates treatment services set out in the Care Plan.
- the nurse coordinator provides regular feedback to the GP who is responsible for the overall provision of care to a person under the program
- the Care Plan is regularly reviewed, updated and renewed.

For GPs and nursing providers:

[A Guide for General Practice can be downloaded here](#) and provides further information on the CVC Program, including 'Setting Up Your Practice', 'Eligibility' and 'How to Claim'.

**Please note:** *There is no CVC Enrolment form or specific Care Plan template.*

Templates based on the Chronic Disease Self Management Program of Flinders University (CDSM) describing the six principles of good self-management which are:

- Knowledge of disease
- Active involvement in decisions
- Compliance with treatment
- Monitoring of symptoms
- Use of an action plan
- Healthy lifestyle

*Examples of care plans are now available on the [www.cvcprogram.net.au](http://www.cvcprogram.net.au).*

The training and resources for GPs, Practice Nurses and Community Nurses will progressively made available at [www.cvcprogram.net.au](http://www.cvcprogram.net.au)

Further details about the program are provided in the Guide for General Practice

### **CVC Provider Helpline**

Phone 1300 550 597

or email [info@cvchelpline.net.au](mailto:info@cvchelpline.net.au)

The helpline is open from 9am - 5pm, Monday - Friday (AEST), not including Victorian public holidays

### **Survey on unmet health promotional material – for online resources**

The Australian National Preventive Health Agency [ANPHA] is conducting a [survey](#) to determine unmet health promotion online resource needs.

Network members are encouraged to complete the survey which will take around ten minutes. ANPHA will produce an overview report and publish the findings on its website. The survey is open until Friday 22 July.

## Education

**E learning** is now available thru CRAN*plus*. They include Basic Life Support, Cultural Awareness, Managing Difficult Behaviours, Medico Legal Documentation and more.

A five hour training module **[E-learning for health professionals Supporting Chronic Disease Self-Management](#)** is available from the Heart Research Centre.

Further information from [training@heartresearchcentre.org](mailto:training@heartresearchcentre.org)

## APNA

An updated on line education program is now available from [APNA Online Learning](#). *Diabetes Management in the Primary Care Setting* covers topics from pathophysiology, prevention and detection of diabetes to practical information to assist practice nurses to help patients understand the role of nutrition, physical activity and exercise in diabetes management and care.

## Nursing & Allied Health Rural Locum Scheme (NAHRLS)

The NAHRLS supports rural and remote nurses, midwives and eligible allied health professionals to take leave for CPD activities and training by providing their employers with access to locums to back fill positions. The NAHRLS will pay the locum a daily incentive allowance, a daily meal allowance, manage all payroll requirements for the locum and invoice your health organisation on completion of the placement. There are no other fees or charges incurred to the organisation.

For more information contact 1300 NAHRLS or go to [www.nahrls.com.au](http://www.nahrls.com.au)

## Mind the Gap

AGPN has received funding from the Australian Government Department of Veterans' Affairs to develop and implement a physical and mental health co-morbidities education package. The face to face delivery of the six hour ALM workshop is to be rolled out nationally through Divisions of General Practice /Medicare Locals commencing late August 2011 and completed by 31 March 2012.

The six hour workshop will involve an interactive, structured learning format with predisposing and reinforcing activities. It will be structured in a flexible delivery format which can be facilitated over three sessions, or in a single day. The target audience for the package includes general practitioners, practice nurses, and other primary health care professionals involved in the multidisciplinary team managing patients with mental and physical health

co-morbidities. The ALM will also be available on-line via the AGPN training portal.

AGPN will be seeking Expressions of Interest [EOI] from up to 50 Divisions / Medicare Locals to deliver this workshop through the Network. EOI guidelines are being finalised and will be available via the AGPN website from the end of July.

For additional information please contact Carol Vickers on (02) 6228 0823 or via email [cvickers@agpn.com.au](mailto:cvickers@agpn.com.au)

## **National conference for Practice Managers**

The Australian Association of Practice Managers [AAPM] is hosting its 2011 [National Conference](#) for the first time in Perth 18-21 October.

AAPM's conference program has been designed to test your opinions, increase your knowledge and gain an insight into many diverse areas in the health care industry.

AGPN's Principal Adviser, Nursing in General Practice, Lynn Walker is one of the invited speakers along with University of Western Australia's Carmen Lawrence and former Australian Test Cricketer, Justin Langer OA

The Australian Association of Practice Managers [AAPM] represents Practice Managers and the profession of Practice Management. Founded in 1979, AAPM is a non-profit, national association recognised as the professional body dedicated to supporting effective Practice Management in the healthcare profession.

AAPM represents and unites practice managers and the profession of Practice Management throughout the healthcare industry and promotes professional development and the code of ethics through leadership and education.

## **Stroke foundation seeking 'Stroke Champions'**

Nominations are wanted for Australians working in the field of stroke or supporting stroke survivors and carers to be recognised as Stroke Champions. The National Stroke Foundation and the Stroke Society of Australasia want to recognise health professionals and non-professionals for their achievements. The [Stroke Care Champion Award](#) is open to health and social care professionals who have demonstrated a commitment of five or more years in the field of stroke and who have gone beyond their professional duties to improve stroke care and outcomes for stroke patients.

## **Primary Source: subscription**

AGPN produces a number of e-bulletins under the banner of Primary Source. If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving Primary Source send them to [AGPN's subscription page](#) for:

- Medicare Locals – Transition
- Immunisation
- eHealth
- Nursing in General Practice
- Close the Gap
- Chronic Disease Management
- Mental Health
- Quality Use of Medicines

Visitors can also subscribe to AGPN’s media releases and its quarterly magazine, [Network Connect](#)

**NiGP Project contact:** [lwalker@agpn.com.au](mailto:lwalker@agpn.com.au)

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