

Get behind Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

It's Bowel Cancer Awareness Month – this annual initiative of Bowel Cancer Australia, aims to raise awareness of Australia's second deadliest cancer which claims the lives of over 80 people every week.

If found early, bowel cancer is one of the most treatable types of cancer. Saving lives through early detection is the key message of the campaign.

The 'Never Too Young Awareness Week' is a dedicated week during the month raises awareness that being young doesn't make you immune to the disease. Regardless of age, everyone needs to be aware of bowel cancer symptoms and the need for a prompt diagnosis.

GPs can access a range of resources for patients on the Bowel Cancer Australia website to increase understanding of bowel cancer, treatments available and how to adjust to the 'new' normal for people living with bowel cancer.

The National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) suggests that a recommendation from a primary health care provider is an important motivator for participation in bowel cancer screening and have created a GP resource to help support patients. The program aims to continue to reduce deaths from bowel cancer through early detection of the disease and earlier this year they introduced a new NBCSP Home Test Kit, allowing patients to screen at home.

A bowel cancer screening pathway is available in HealthPathways. Access this and other bowel related pathways using the below login details:

Username: healthPassword: w3stern



Events

NDSS: Diabetes education

Tuesday 12th June 2018

9:00am - 4:30pm

Identification, treatment and support for pharmaceutical opioid dependence

Tuesday 19th June 2018

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Identification, treatment and support for pharmaceutical opioid dependence

Wednesday 20th June 2018

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Practice Nurse education: Adult asthma action plans

Monday 2nd July 2018

6:30pm - 9:00pm

Other News

Flu vaccinations during pregnancy

Despite the influenza vaccine being free for pregnant women under the National Immunisation Program, vaccination rates remain low in this group.

The Department of Health (DoH) have released educational videos for health professionals and patients to highlight the risks associated with influenza during pregnancy and the benefits of receiving an influenza vaccine.

Patients can access the videos on the DoH Immunisation for pregnancy webpage.

Bug Bulletin online

An edition of the WSLHD Bug Bulletin is available online.

Topics that are covered include: What's new in seasonal influenza vaccinations in 2018, NSW school-based vaccination program (Gardasil9®, Boostrix and Menactra) and Managing the flu this winter - advice for your patients.

National cervical screening program

A reminder that on 1 December 2017 the National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP) was renewed. The Pap test was replaced by the human papillomavirus Cervical Screening Test and routine cervical screening is now

recommended for people aged 25 to 74 years.

To order pathology tests under the NCSP, including the Cervical Screening Test, naming conventions are detailed in the Pathology Test Guide for Cervical and Vaginal Testing resource.

GP Association meetings

The below GP Association meetings are coming up in western Sydney:

Blacktown: ACTT asthma control today and tomorrow, Wednesday 20th June.

Westmead: Thyroid disorders GP updates, Wednesday 27th June.

Mount Druitt: Imaging in knee pathology, Friday 29th June.

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