

Playing a vital role in eliminating viral hepatitis

Hepatitis Awareness Week started on Monday and will end on World Hepatitis Day, Saturday 28th July. With the aim to raise awareness of hepatitis and encourage prevention, diagnosis and treatment, the national theme for World Hepatitis Day is 'Why Miss Out', encouraging Australians living with hepatitis B or hepatitis C to speak to their doctor about treatment options. Despite having access to testing, vaccinations and treatment many people in Australia are still missing out on the care they need.

With effective treatments available to help manage hepatitis B and cure hepatitis C, Australia is leading the way for a future without viral hepatitis. It is essential for primary care providers to know the risk factors, test, diagnose and allow early treatment.

Western Sydney has the fourth highest prevalence of hepatitis B in the country with an estimated 13,089 people living with chronic hepatitis B. Only 19% of people living with hepatitis C have initiated treatment, making the region the second lowest in NSW.

The Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WSPHN) and the Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) are working collaboratively to address the burden of viral hepatitis by supporting consumers and health professionals across western Sydney.

Events

My Health Record - Be My Health Record ready

Wednesday 15th August 2018

6:30pm - 9:30pm

Cardiac health series: Hypertension

Monday 20th August 2018

6:30pm - 9:00pm

Medico-legal workshop: privacy, confidentiality and data breaches

Wednesday 22nd August 2018

6:30pm - 9:30pm

Antenatal shared care education

Saturday 25th August 2018

12:30pm - 5:00pm

Other News

Release of NSW clinical Guidelines: Treatment of Opioid Dependence

The new NSW Clinical Guidelines: Treatment of Opioid Dependence (the Guidelines) are now available on the NSW Health website.

The Guidelines provide clinical guidance and strategic policy direction to the provision of opioid treatment in NSW and aim to:

- ☑Improve access to opioid treatment
- ☑Personalise patient care
- ☑Support effective coordination of care

Among the many updates in the new Guidelines is an enhanced focus on the issue of 'Fitness to Drive' and the assessment of patients on the OTP in this regard.

National cervical screening program newsletter

The latest edition of the National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP) e-newsletter is now available, helping health professionals keep up-to-date with the latest news and procedures on the NCSP.

Action plan for lung conditions

Lung Foundation Australia is developing the first National Strategic Action Plan for Lung Conditions through funding from the Australian Government Department of Health.

To begin the consultation process, complete the online survey.

Gout Self-Management App

Researchers at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) are evaluating the usefulness of a mobile app to achieve target serum urate concentrations in people with gout. GPs who have seen patients with gout in the last year are invited to participate in this research project along with their patients. RACGP and ACCRM accredited professional development points are available for participating GPs.

Contact Jacob Bechara on 1800 931 54 or email med.gout.app@unsw.edu.au

GP Association meetings

The following GP association meetings are coming up in western Sydney:

The Hills: Palliative care challenges in general practice, Wednesday 15 August.

Blacktown: Walking into good health: Community initiative to promote smoking cessation, Wednesday 22 August.

Westmead: GP Update- Fertility & IVF, Wednesday 22 August.

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