

## Affordable alternative care for musculoskeletal injuries

With a significant number of minor fractures and musculoskeletal injuries resulting in presentation to hospital emergency departments in western Sydney, the demand for alternative access to treatment of non-urgent injuries is high.

In a bid to close this service gap, Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WSPHN) has commissioned the Injury Centre Blacktown to deliver a community-based service for physical assessment and treatment of minor fractures and other musculoskeletal injuries. The team of experienced emergency clinicians comprises of emergency medicine specialists, nurse practitioners and physiotherapists, who offer patients an affordable alternative to assessment and treatment that is easily accessible. As appointments are required, lengthy waiting times are significantly reduced.

The Injury Centre Blacktown opened its doors in January and offers:

- ☑ Bulk-billed consultations with minimal out-of-pocket expenses to patients who require crutches, waterproof casts, splints, braces and other mobility aids
- ☑ Physical assessment of new and existing injuries
- ☑ Access to fast-tracked referrals for X-rays and ultrasound
- ☑ Application of casts (plaster, fibreglass or waterproof), splints and other methods of immobilisation
- ☑ Investigation of chronic pain/injury and relevant investigation including referral for advanced imaging such as MRI

The Centre is open between 10:00am and 8:00pm, Monday to Friday and 12:00pm to 8:00pm, Saturdays. General practitioners can refer patients via the referral form on the Injury Centre Blacktown's website.

For more information about this service go to [www.theinjurycentre.com.au](http://www.theinjurycentre.com.au) or call 9671 7272.



## Events

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### Better Teeth, Better Health: A symposium on diabetes and oral health

Thursday 22nd February 2018

5:30pm - 8:00pm

### HealthPathways working group: Palliative care

Thursday 22nd February 2018

6:00pm - 9:00pm

### Mental health professional network

Monday 26th February 2018

6:00pm - 8:30pm

### My Health Record: Get Connected - Opt out is coming

Tuesday 27th February 2018

6:30pm - 9:30pm

### Safe Children Conference: Making the future safer for our children

Friday 2nd March 2018

8:00am - 5:30pm

## Other News

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### Opportunity to enhance chronic disease management

WSPHN is seeking proposals from providers to enhance chronic disease management and prevention services in western Sydney.

Proposals need to address at least one of the five specific key needs that have been identified within the region. These are listed on the Tenderlink portal.

Applications close on Tuesday 6th March. For further information please visit [tenderlink.com.au/wentwest](http://tenderlink.com.au/wentwest)

### Changes to the Australian Immunisation Register

On 16 August 2017, changes were made to the Australian Immunisation Register and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 to allow additional doctors to notify a medical exemption to vaccination via the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). This list now includes general practitioners, paediatricians, public health physicians, infectious diseases physicians and clinical immunologists.

The medical basis for vaccination exemption is based on guidance in the Australian Immunisation Handbook

10th edition. For more information visit [humanservices.gov.au/hpair](http://humanservices.gov.au/hpair) or call 1800 653 809.

## Zostavax vaccine for 70 to 79 year-olds now available

Under the Government's National Immunisation Program (NIP) a free shingles vaccination program for 70 to 79 year-olds was introduced in November 2016. Early shortages have been addressed and the vaccine is readily available to immunisation providers nationally.

Further information, clinical advice and promotional materials for the National Shingles Vaccination Program are available on the Department of Health's immunisation website.

## GP Association meetings

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

Mount Druitt: Sleep disorders - Friday 16th February

Westmead: Emergency procedures GP updates - Wednesday 21st February

Blacktown: Chronic pain management post-codeine rescheduling - Wednesday 21st February

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Level 1, 85 Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148

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