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WellSouth Update

02 June 2022

Kia ora koutou -

WellSouth Update is a regular e-newsletter for general practice teams, community pharmacy, and other providers in Southland and Otago.

Our aim is to compile information we need to provide, along with information other agencies and organisation ask us to share.

Usually we provide the update fortnightly but at times - like these - we are providing our updates more regularly. Thanks for your understanding as there is a lot of activity (and communications) in the health sector at this time.

Please share this email with your colleagues.

To subscribe or to provide feedback or submissions, please email communications@wellsouth.org.nz Thank you.

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GP-referred MRI training - training dates and registration available on the WellSouth web site

Training schedule and registration is available on the WellSouth web site for the GP-referred MRI programme. First session is in Dunedin – next week Wednesday 08 June. <https://training.wellsouth.nz/events/643-acc-gpmri-referral-training/>

GP referred MRI programme in Southern

General practitioners in Southern will soon be able to make direct referrals for MRI scans for patients with knee, lumbar (LSpine) or neck (C-Spine) injuries. The new GP-referred MRI (GPMRI) service supports trained GPs, including GP registrars, and GP locums, to refer patients, via ERMS, for MRI scans. WellSouth Primary Health Network is funded by ACC to deliver and manage programme, with Habit Health providing training.

Recruiting - GP-Referred MRI Clinical Lead

WellSouth is recruiting a GP-Referred MRI Clinical Lead (0.2 FTE) to support the implementation and ongoing delivery of this programme. Application closing date Friday 10 June.

[More information and to apply.](#)

REMINDER - New GP direct access to CT Head pathway

A new CT Head pathway was launched this week will enable GPs to refer directly for

no-contrast CT head for headache in certain clinical situations.

The initiative aims to improve patient access to timely imaging to exclude serious causes in certain clinical situations.

Primary care providers can directly request outpatient CT Head scans for patients meeting the agreed criteria without the need for a referral to neurology.

Referrals don't need to be discussed with radiology prior to sending and will be triaged upon receipt.

The Headaches in Adults pathway is updated to assist with assessment, management of these patients including information about interpretation of abnormal CT head findings.

<https://southern.communityhealthpathways.org/15616.htm>

Covid-PCR testing for people arriving in New Zealand

All overseas passengers arriving in New Zealand are given RAT tests on arrival for self-testing on day 1 and day 6.

Travellers who test COVID positive via rapid antigen tests and are required to undergo PCR tests. **These tests are funded.**

The GP should use SURV-SELF so that the lab knows to genome sequence these swabs.

Specialist Addiction Service (Dunedin) update on services

Southern DHB has updated information about the temporary changes to the Specialist Addiction Service (SAS) in Dunedin due to increases in demand, workforce shortages, and COVID-19 requirements.

Please read [Letter from Specialist Addiction Services](#)

New payments for doctors' reports to the coroner

The Ministry of Justice is enabling payment for doctors' coroners' reports. \$200/hour, for up to four hours. Please see [this letter](#) for more detail and eligibility information.

This will come into effect from the 1st of July 2022.

Southern Nursing strategy and SDHB Workforce Action Plan - Education webinar series - 07 June

Southern DHB Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office
2022 Education Webinar Series

Southern Nursing Strategy and SDHB Workforce Action Plan

Presenter: Lorraine Ritchie, Nurse Consultant, SDHB

Tuesday 7 June 2022, 12.30 – 1.30 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/96913254014>

Passcode: 341718

Webinars scheduled first Tuesday of month at 12.30 pm
This session will be recorded.

Previous recordings

available <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLszjXaKhCDYBND0HrhbX4UfHPkjoquEu>

Vaccinator Bridging Courses - Dunedin and Invercargill

Registration is available on [IMAC's online Learning Management System](#) and enrol in a course.

Invercargill – 21st June (full day) – Awaarua (funded, pre-arranged candidates only).

Dunedin – 21st July (pm) – Edgar Centre, House of Travel lounge

Invercargill – 4th August (am) – Clinical Education rooms Southland Hospital

Dunedin – 13th September (pm) - Edgar Centre, House of Travel lounge

If they have any issues with finding it or registering, please contact our education office at imacadmin@auckland.ac.nz.

See <https://www.immune.org.nz/vaccinator-bridging-course> for more information.

Additional courses possible if there is demand. Alternatively, candidates can enrol in a flexi course or the 2 day foundation course in Invercargill end of August. Once the course is completed, candidates need to contact either an Immunisation Coordinator or karen.duncan@auckland.ac.nz or kate.marshall@auckland.ac.nz to do a full clinical assessment in their workplace before they're fully authorised.

Ministry of Health has also put up an info page [on recommended timing gaps between different COVID vaccines](#) that you might find handy to have bookmarked.

MSD Updates on designated doctor appointments and medical certificates

Message from MSD Health and Disability Team for general practices

We have simplified our process around how Designated Doctor reviews are undertaken. Currently people are required to be seen face to face and this has been very limiting in our COVID environment.

There are areas within Southern that our clients do not have a Designated Doctor option and we have had to ask your patients to travel for these reviews.

MSD Southern's changes mean that Designated Doctor reviews can now be completed by phone or virtually.

Phone or virtual-based appointments will allow your patients to access this option.

We will be offering your patients who are also our clients, a full list of the Designated Doctors as an option for a review utilising this phone or virtual based technology.

We also would be keen to hear of any new health practitioners wanting to join the Designated Doctor team. Just a reminder that a Nurse Practitioner can also do this role.

Medical Certificates

MSD no longer requires clients to supply medical certificates at mandatory review periods every four weeks for the first two months and then every 13 weeks after that. A client's review period is instead based on the recommendation of the client's health practitioner. This allows health practitioners to advise on a client's capacity to work and when they should next be reassessed

Any questions, please contact:

Karmine Mckinley
Health and Disability Coordinator
Karmine.McKinley005@msd.govt.nz

Mauri tau me te Maramatanga + Ketamine For Alcohol Disorder - Researchers seeking study participants

Study investigators are seeking referrals of people with Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD). Participation involves attending a six-week-long group mindfulness programme specifically designed for Aotearoa New Zealand, assisted by either ketamine or active control midazolam.

This research study aims to test whether ketamine-assisted mindfulness can help reduce relapse to alcohol use. Both ketamine and mindfulness have separately shown success in reducing relapse rates in people with AUD. More details below. Or email

audket@otago.ac.nz

[Ketamine and Mindfulness for Alcohol Use Disorder](#)

Free EpiPen - Allergy New Zealand FundaPen2 - UPDATE

There are 1,500 Free EpiPens® still available nationally from Allergy NZ's FundaPen2 initiative. Once prescriptions for 3,355 FundaPens have been received, normal prescription protocols will apply, and adrenaline auto injectors will once again need to be self-funded by patients and their families.

[Fundapen Letter](#)

[Fundapen Prescriber Protocol](#)



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